

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA MAY 17, 1968

All Commissioners except Mr. Oliphant were present, along with Director Webb, Edward B. Latimer, Jefferson C. Fuller, Fred Ramage and Joe Whitlock, acting secretary for Eddie Finlay who was absent.

After a closed executive session, the Commission opened its monthly meeting by authorizing Chairman Eltzroth to go to Massachusetts in early June to study a fish lift and to also inspect laboratory facilities in that area. Mr. Eltzroth expressed hope that South Carolina could possibly install a fish lift in the Santee-Cooper Reservoir, as a part of the diversion of the lake discharge for transfer of herring into the lake.

Mr. Webb submitted a lengthy list of Commission re-appointments for the Commission's approval of Conservation Officers, and the list was passed without objection. Mr. Webb also recommended the appointment of Earl D. Driggers, as a salaried Conservation Officer with the Commercial Fisheries Division and the recommendation was passed without objection.

A property line question was brought up by Mr. Webb at Oak Grove Lake in Greenville County. The issue, in essence, was to swap one-fourth of an acre of Wildlife Department land with the adjacent property owner in order for a road to serve as the property line. Mr. Webb's recommendation was passed unanimously.

Director Webb then informed the Commission that he had not received any instructions from the Budget and Control Board concerning salary adjustments for Department personnel. Mr. Eltzroth pointed out that the Department was not concerned with the "across the board" raise that the General Assembly approved for all state employees but that the Department's merit system for categorized salaries was the subject with which the Commission must be concerned. Mr. Eltzroth suggested the appointment of a committee to approve the matter in time for the July payroll. Mr. Mishoe moved for the Chairman to appoint a



three-man committee and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Eltzroth in turn named Commissioners Cantey, Glenn and Jones to the committee with Mr. Glenn serving as chairman.

Dr. Lunz stated that he had made an enlightening visit to some mosquito control areas in the North Carolina marshes, and that similar mosquito control systems could work in South Carolina, particularly in the spoil areas around Charleston. After explaining the merits of the system he studied in North Carolina, Dr. Lunz suggested he recommend adaptation of the system to the Corps of Engineers. After explaining that the system requires the use of dikes and a relatively inexpensive pump arrangement, he pointed out that it would eliminate the use of pesticides and provide additional places for rearing fish.

Dr. Lunz reported that he, Director Webb, Mr. Glenn and Mr. Mishoe had a meeting with the Corps of Engineers on May 9th concerning the shad sets and an agreement was reached to no longer issue sets for shad nets.

Dr. Lunz then brought up the subject concerning the crossing of an oyster bed on Hilton Head by Sea Pines Plantation and Chairman Eltzroth excused himself from the commission room with Mr. Cantey acting as Chairman, since Mr. Eltzroth's law partner represents the petitioner in the case. Before explaining the situation, Dr. Lunz was very emphatic in pointing out that he and Mr. Eltzroth had had absolutely no discussions concerning the issue and he was most careful to point out that there was no pressure from either direction concerning the decision. After a lengthy discussion concerning the oyster bed lease, Mr. Latimer explained the issues involved.

It was agreed that the Commission would not oppose the issuance of a mining or dredging permit by the Budget and Control Board to Sea Pines Plantation under the following conditions:

1. That Sea Pines relinquish the lease it now holds.



2. That Sea Pines remove and transplant, under the supervision and direction of the Division of Commercial Fisheries, all shellfish that would be affected by the permit issued by the Budget and Control Board.

The action was taken on motion of Dr. Jones seconded by Mr. Mishoe. Chairman Eltzroth was asked to return and assume the chair.

The Commission unanimously approved the reappointment of Warren O. Watts as a non-pay Conservation Officer.

Mr. Glenn requested a date for the salary committee meeting on June 10.

Dr. Lunz stated that he had signed a contract with Trident Chamber of Commerce and pointed out that we are ready to give them the money for reef construction. Mr. Glenn requested that he be allowed to inform Chairman Eltzroth of the Sea Pines discussion and the Commission granted his request. Mr. Glenn then informed Mr. Eltzroth that, basically, all the Commission wants is for Sea Pines to replant the oysters before cancellation of the lease, and relinquish the lease it holds in toto.

Mr. Eltzroth recommended that next month's Commission meeting be held on June 21 at Belmont and that the Governor and his staff be invited. The date and site were unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned.

*Eddie Finlay*

