

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA MAY 24, 1966

Present were Commissioners Parler, Oliphant, Mishoe, Jones, Cantey, Hopkins and Glenn, Directors Webb and Lunz, Advisory Member Stringfellow, Pat Ryan, Tommy Welch, Frank Nelson, Jeff Fuller, Art Buehler, Gene Howell and Fred Ramage.

Chairman Parler welcomed Commissioner Jones, who paid tribute to the late Commissioner Cox and pledged his best efforts to the program of the Commission.

The minutes of the March 30 meeting were read and approved, Mr. Webb saying that the cost of purchasing two lots in connection with the Barnwell hatchery had come to \$8,500 instead of the \$8,000 approved at the March meeting.

Dr. Lunz said the Toomer vs. Toomer matter and the Atlantic Shellfish Company matters were still unsettled, and that F. G. Toomer was planting seed oysters on the disputed lease.

The Secretary was instructed to notify Assistant Attorney General Coleman to prepare the order in the Toomer vs. Toomer case telling F. G. Toomer to get off the lease.

Dr. Lunz said the Atlantic Shellfish Company had not been living up to the requirements of its lease in the five years it had had the lease, but that it appeared a hearing would have to be held by the Commission to cancel the lease.

A general discussion followed and a suggestion of Mr. Parler was adopted that if the Attorney General rules that the Commission has a right to set hearing in the matter that it be heard at the next meeting of the Commission. It was agreed that the meeting should be set so as to give the company time to prepare its case. It was then agreed to have the meeting June 15 at 10 o'clock in the Columbia office.

The Secretary was instructed to ask Mr. Coleman to prepare a rule to show cause why the lease should not be cancelled for failure to fulfil requirements of the Coastal Fisheries Acts and to notify the interested parties and their attorneys of the date of the hearing.

Mr. Glenn reported on a meeting that had been held with Dr. Lunz and Gilbert Maggioni on the matter of patrolling oyster leases and said no agreement could be reached among the oystermen. His suggestion that the matter of policing the oyster beds be



dropped was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Lunz brought up the matter of municipalities, along with the Government engineers, draining and ditching oyster leases, over which the Commission has control. He mentioned the case in Beaufort county where the Commission had given an oyster company a lease and the county delegation passed an act giving part of the lease to Beaufort county.

It was suggested that the Attorney General be asked to look into the matter.

Mr. Oliphant inquired about state lands being taken over by private individuals and corporations, and it was suggested this be taken up with the Attorney General.

Dr. Lunz outlined the past actions taken regarding license handling in Beaufort county, saying that Mr. Sprott had been hired to handle licenses some years back, getting five per cent of the revenue. He said there had been continued complaints and Mr. Sprott's services were most unsatisfactory. A motion was adopted that as soon as someone suitable could be found to handle the licenses that the contract with Mr. Sprott be cancelled and a new dealer appointed.

Mr. Webb reported that Supervisor McKerley had been suspended and he would like to keep him under suspension with authority to reinstate him, either as supervisor or warden, when he had straightened out. He also said that he had appointed Warden Still as acting supervisor. Both actions were unanimously approved.

Mr. Webb then presented charts of proposed reorganizations of districts under which Orangeburg would be moved from District Three to Six and Lee from Six to Eight. The proposal was approved.

A number of warden appointments were approved.

Mr. Webb said that Warden Gamble of Williamsburg county has been suspended and will remain under suspension pending his coming trial and further investigation.

A motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that the restriction of getting Budget and Control Board approval on all purchases over \$50 be dropped, after Mr. Webb said it often led to much delay and sometimes to additional expenses.



The matter of an invitation for a joint meeting in July with the Georgia Commission was discussed and a motion that the invitation be accepted was adopted.

The action of Dr. Lunz in approving transfer of an oyster lease was approved.

Mr. Parler said that he was disturbed about the pollution of fresh water streams, citing the Edisto and Ashley where industries were polluting.

Mr. Webb said that in the Ashley pollution the Pollution Board had given a company a permit to operate but the company had gone beyond this. He said that a kaolin mine in Aiken county was responsible for at least a part of the Edisto pollution but that the mine was now building a dam around its operation, although rather slowly.

Mr. Hopkins mentioned pollution at the Donaldson industrial part and a big verdict recently granted a dairyman for injury to his dairy herd.

Mr. Parler suggested that Mr. Webb get the supervisors to check on fresh water pollution and patrol the areas.

Dr. Lunz pointed out that in cases where interstate waters were involved the Pollution Control Authority could be bypassed and the matter taken up with federal agencies.

The Commission then went into executive session.

Following the executive session it was announced that salary schedules for all Divisions had been approved.

Also, that Director Webb was also to be director of the Division of Outdoor Recreation and Pat Ryan as Assistant director. John A. May of Aiken was named chief of the Division of Outdoor Recreation, and Joe Watson as field representative.

It was also voted by the Commission that starting salaries for wardens would be \$4,000 after July 1 with a 10 per cent raise after six months or a year of satisfactory service.

*Eddie Finlay*

