

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA NOVEMBER 2, 1961

Present were Commissioners Johnson, Cox, Heyward, Hopkins, Tison and Oliphant, Directors Webb and Lunz, Tommy Welch, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Gordon Brown, L. S. Schley, Jack Carroll and Crawford Billings.

The Commission adopted a motion of Mr. Cox authorizing the Secretary to discontinue an exhibit at the State Fair, provided that if the space were given free it could be continued at his discretion.

A number of warden appointments presented by Director Webb were approved.

The Commission voted approval of the action of Director Webb in not renewing the commission of Warden Murray of Dorchester county.

Director Webb recommended that Warden Adam Clayton, who has reached the age of 65 after 32 years of service, be paid \$25 a month while continuing to work with other wardens, stating that he could still perform valuable work. A motion of Mr. Cox that the recommendation be approved was adopted. (Director Webb was asked to instruct Supervisor Flood to give a report on Warden Clayton's activity after six months).

Mr. Johnson asked whether a report from SLED on an investigation of certain matters on the Francis Marion area had been received and Director Webb said that it had not but was expected soon. The report was set for the consideration at the next meeting.

Director Webb read a letter from Federal Game Management Agent Harold Steele regarding some cases made in Newberry county on a dove shoot, Steele stating that the field was definitely illegal and that in his opinion none of the wardens was negligent, overbearing or coercive. Mr. Cox moved and the Commission agreed that the report be received as information and the matter closed, and that Director Webb write Mr. Furman, on whose complaint the matter had been investigated.

A recommendation of Director Webb that the Department participate in the South-eastern Statistical Project at N. C. State college at approximate cost of \$2,000 was approved after Mr. Nelson had explained the benefits, and said that it would save money in certain instances.



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Plans for the development of Dirleton Plantation, donated to the Department by Thomas G. Samworth, were discussed.

Mr. Johnson said that the Department should capitalize on the development of the project as an inducement to others to follow the example of Mr. Samworth and that all avenues along these lines should be explored.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was unanimously adopted that the Commission express its appreciation to Mr. Johnson for the splendid way in which the program at Dirleton had been handled. Mr. Johnson stated that the success of the program was largely due to the part that had been played by others in arranging for it.

Director Webb stated that development plans would begin as soon as possible and would be concentrated on the marsh areas at present.

Mr. Nelson explained development plans and said that 25,000 feet of dike were needed for water control and that by using Department machinery the cost should be lower than the usual contract price of around \$1 a linear foot.

In answer to a question of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Nelson said that federal aid would probably go along with a boat landing but would probably not go into any repair or upkeep of the house. He said no definite plans for the upland had been drawn up, since the farming and hunting rights were leased through the current year.

A motion of Mr. Cox was adopted that in view of the sincere concern for the comfort of Mr. and Mrs. Samworth a study be made of the house and any needed repairs and that any repairs and upkeep be carried by the Department as part of the development and management plan.

Director Webb said that he was working on details of markers and signs to be erected.

Mr. Johnson asked whether the report on the operation, expenses and fees charged at various public fishing lakes was ready and Mr. Fuller presented copies of his report. After some discussion a suggestion of Mr. Tison that the report be studied and



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considered at the next meeting was adopted. Mr. Tison said that the amount of federal tax money available should be taken into consideration, along with how it should be allocated.

Director Lunz discussed the U. S. Engineers' plan to divert waters from Santee-Cooper in an effort to cut down silting in Charleston harbor and said that adoption would be a most serious blow to commercial fisheries, as well as recreation, interests. It was pointed out that the proposed canal would cut through the center of the Francis Marion turkey area.

Director Lunz said that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was seeking federal aid for shrimp studies, and added that Georgia was spending some of its Dingell-Johnson money for construction of offshore reefs to improve fishing.

Director Lunz also gave out copies of a report on shrimping violations, particularly in Beaufort county, saying that violations had tripled over last year. He said that hard times in the industry were largely responsible. He added that shortage of travel money for inspectors made enforcement more difficult, along with the fact that boat owners were getting around the law by hiring "dummy" captains to draw the fines for violations, while the boat resumed illegal operations.

Mr. Heyward discussed trawling and said that those states that had allowed inside trawling had faded out of the market picture and that the rivers and sounds must be closed to protect young shrimp. He also said that on occasion concentrations of marketable shrimp were in the inside waters and that Director Lunz should have more discretion in opening and closing such waters. He added that the shrimp industry depends upon protecting the inside waters and that illegal trawling must be stopped. He suggested the imposition of stiffer penalties, similar to the Georgia laws under which a boat caught violating must be tied up for ten days and a second offense means an automatic jail sentence.



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Director Lunz said that it was most difficult to obtain convictions when penalties were severe and that the present laws were adequate, provided certain magistrates would follow the letter of the law. He added that the Attorney General's office planned injunctions against boats with records of continued violations and this should help correct the situation.

Mr. Johnson commended Director Lunz on his long tenure as official and chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, other Commissioners joining him. It was suggested that a plaque presented Director Lunz be photographed and carried in the magazine.

Mr. Tison suggested that in the future Director Webb notify Commissioners in advance of the regular meetings of all wardens who would be recommended for appointment from their districts, and Director Webb said this would be done.

The Commission then went into executive session.

Following the executive session, the Commission announced that Director Webb had been instructed to write the York delegation and inform them that since no vacancy exists in the county it would be impossible to employ the man they had recommended, to be paid from county funds. Mr. Oliphant said that he would like a copy of the letter.

The Commission also announced that a motion of Mr. Tison had been adopted that: "The Commission pay all county treasurers five per cent on amounts represented by Commercial Fisheries licenses they had sold and other amounts legally collected by themselves or their office; but that they receive nothing from licenses sold or other amounts legally collected by other state offices of officials."

Mr. Heyward voted "No" on the motion. Mr. Cox had stated that he would abstain, since the voting resulted from a ruling that he had issued.

Director Lunz was requested to ask the Attorney General to notify all magistrates



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that according to law all fines should be forwarded to the Division of Commercial Fisheries rather than to county treasurers.

Eddie Finlay

