

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA, OCTOBER 10, 1963

Present were Commissioners Cox--who presided in the absence of Chairman Johnson--Cantey, Oliphant, Hopkins, Tison and Heyward, Directors Webb and Lunz, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Pat Ryan, Tommy Welch and John Quillen.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Dr. Lunz brought up the matter of filling the position of fisheries inspector in Berkeley county, saying that Senator Dennis favored a man who is 47 years old. He asked whether he should follow the Commission ruling that no inspector or warden over 40 years of age be appointed.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that Senator Dennis be informed that so much trouble had been caused by over-age appointments that the Commission "must abide by the rule it had established." The Secretary was instructed to write Senator Dennis to this effect and Dr. Lunz said he would write him also.

Dr. Lunz said work on the research boat was progressing well but that some equipment would be needed for proper and efficient operation. He asked for \$3,500 of the pier tax money for this purpose. A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that he be allowed to use this amount of the pier tax money, if allowable.

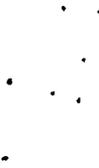
Mr. Webb explained the procedure to be followed in using the money. (The motion was amended later in the meeting to allow \$4,000 of the pier tax money).

Dr. Lunz brought up pending injunctions against the Commission in connection with oyster leases, going into considerable detail on the background of the Atlantic Shellfish company, including taxes and assignment of the lease.

Mr. Cox explained that a preliminary hearing was being held before him October 22 prior to the final hearing before Judge McFadden.

Mr. Tison asked whether the Commission should employ counsel in addition to help from the Attorney General.

Mr. Cox said he wishes only to hold the hearing on October 22 and after he has turned in his findings wants only to be out of the matter, with further action left up to the rest of the Commission. He said he thought it best not to take up the question



of legal representation in the hearing before Judge McFadden until after his hearing October 22.

Mr. Tison suggested that at the next meeting the Commission take up Mr. Cox's recommendation as to whom to employ as counsel.

Mr. Cox then discussed the entire oyster lease situation.

Mr. Heyward then mentioned how big an industry the oyster fishery was and how profitable it could be, citing some operations in the Santee as an example of how much money could be made.

There was a general discussion of their fisheries lands that were being lost to the State.

Mr. Tison asked whether enough was involved for the Attorney General to assign a lawyer for Wildlife Resources Department problems, a general discussion following this.

Mr. Cox said that the Commission has always upheld his rulings, none of which has been reversed by the courts.

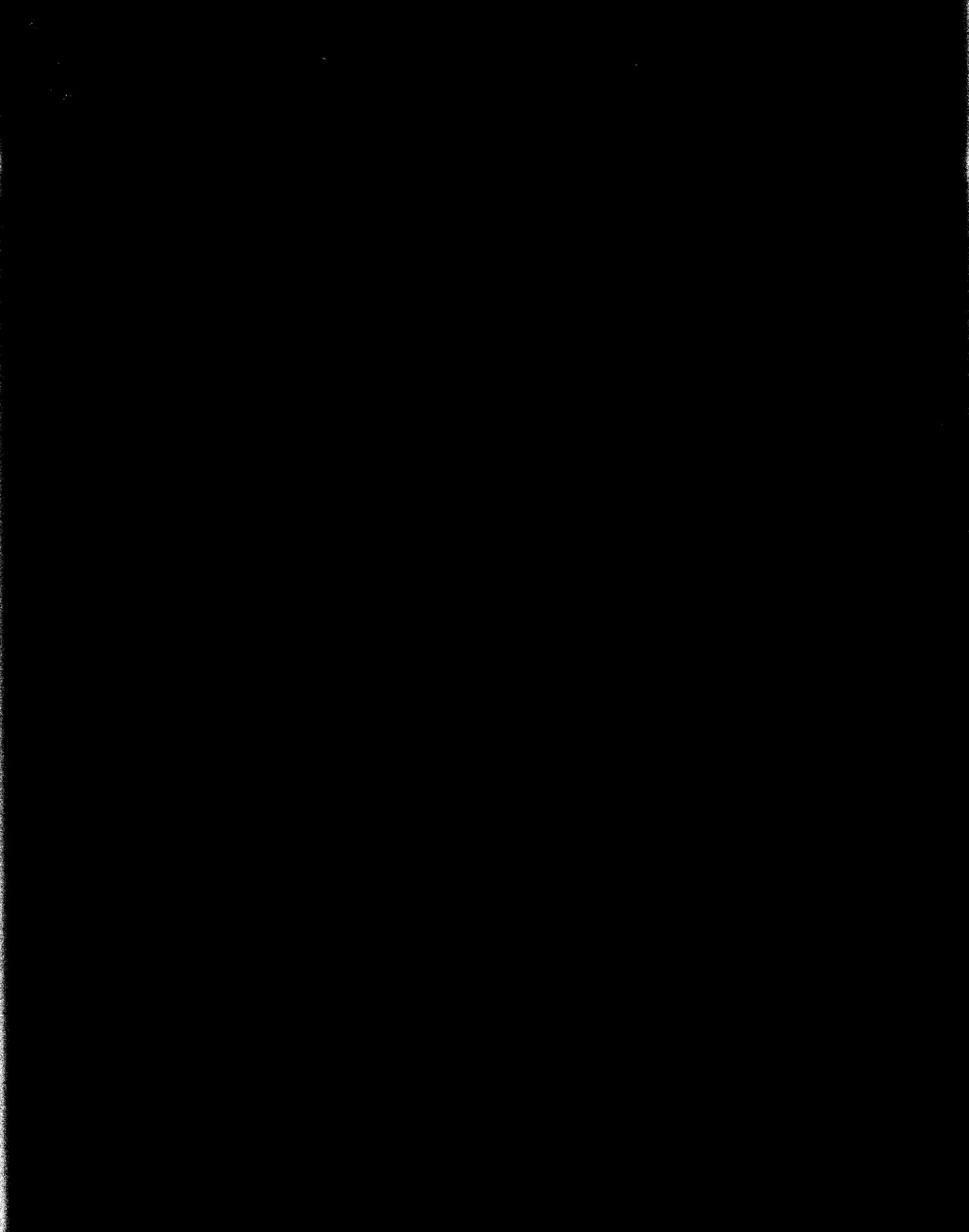
Mr. Canteley stated that the surface has not even been scratched in regard to the potential of the salt water fisheries and the marsh lands. A general discussion followed of title to coastal lands, pending suits, etc.

Dr. Lunz said he would like to see a State Review Board set up to supervise the inter-related activities of State agencies, stating that there is no coordination among the various Departments and none knows what the others are doing.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that: "A committee be set up composed of Mr. Cox, Mr. Heyward, Dr. Lunz and Mr. Nelson for the purpose of inquiring into the marshlands of the State and the ownership thereof and to come up with a report with some plan for the protection of the State's interests under the law; and that their services be performed at as early a time as conditions allow; and that they be allowed per diem and mileage."

Mr. Welch asked about securing liability insurance for the boat of the Boating Division. A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted authorizing Mr. Welch to investigate







1963

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

This letter to be a part of the minutes of the Wildlife Resources Committee meeting as of October 10, 1963. Take three, first paragraph.

getting bids on this liability insurance and to accept the low bid with \$50,000 and \$100,000 limits but no comprehensive.

The question of bids on fertilizer, which has been carried over from the Palmetto Bluff meeting, was brought up. Mr. Tison said that the records should show that Mr. Webb had investigated the whole matter and the contract had always gone to the low bidder. He also suggested that a letter to this effect should be written by Mr. Webb to the Secretary and should become a part of the minutes of the present meeting.

Several matters were held over due to the absence of Chairman Johnson, these including the matter of employment of relatives.

Director Webb said that the one-day season on doe deer had been discussed with the delegations of counties in the affected zones and said he would like the Commission to authorize the season where delegations favor it. A motion to this effect by Mr. Heyward was adopted.

Director Webb mentioned the invitation to appear before the Budget and Control Board October 31 at 3:30 to present the Department budget.

Mr. Tison suggested that the committee of Chairman Johnson, Mr. Cox and Mr. Cantey appear before the Board and also handle the matter of the boating division. His motion was adopted that the Commission approve the action of the committee as presented, and that the committee appear with Directors Webb and Lunz before the Board October 31.

The Commission then adjourned for lunch.

Mr. Webb then outlined what had happened in regard to plans to transfer a hatchery man from the Berry's Mill hatchery to the Heath Springs hatchery.

At this point two radio men from Com-Tec Laboratories--Mr. Bryant and Mr. DuPre--proposed a maintenance contract for the Department's car radios. A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that they take up the matter with Mr. Webb and Mr. Ryan, who will report to the Commission at the next meeting.

Senator Roddey then came before the Commission to ask that the vacancy at the Heath Springs hatchery be filled by a Lancaster county man.



After some discussion a motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that a Lancaster man be secured for the job and a study made of what can be done with the present hatchery man at Berry's mill, who had been considered for the position.

Several non-pay wardens' commissions were approved.

Mr. Webb brought up a request from Dr. Solomon of Moncks Corner, a Civil Defense official, who wishes to buy about a dozen used radios for civil defense work in his area. These units were the first units purchased by the Department and are now considered obsolete.

A motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that "Mr. Webb contact the purchasing division in connection with the sale of obsolete radios to the Civil Defense at Moncks Corner and obtain from them their approval of such course as he may follow in the delivery of these units to the Civil Defense agency at Moncks Corner and that upon approval of his plan he be authorized to follow through as units are displaced."

The reappointment of Warden Langston of Clarendon was approved by motion of Mr. Tison.

The reappointment of Warden Hayes of Dillon was also approved on motion of Mr. Tison.

Mr. Webb presented a letter from the York delegation requesting that \$150 of funds credited to the county be expended for an equipment pump for an irrigation system at the county fishing lake. The request was approved on motion of Mr. Cantey.

The sale of a horse at Belmont was approved, following the same procedure as was approved for disposal of the surplus radios, Mr. Webb being authorized to secure a more suitable horse by trade or purchase.

Mr. Nelson brought up the question of the rice allotment at Bear Island, which he said was of no use to the Department, saying that several persons had said they wished to plant under it. He suggested that it be transferred or sold.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that "the rice, the horse and the old radios be placed in the same category and handled in the same way."



The question of considering a legislative program for presentation to the General Assembly was carried over for the November meeting, which is set for November 14.

*Eddie Finley*

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