

WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

October 16, 1970

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission was held on October 16, 1970, at the invitation of the South Carolina Public Service Commission at Wampee near Moncks Corner. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eltzroth at 10 a.m., with all of the Commission members present. Also in attendance were James W. Webb, Ed Latimer, John Culler, Joe Logan, Gene Howell, Pat Ryan and Vernon Sumwalt, a Director of the Public Service Commission. Dr. Timmerman was not in attendance because he was attending a meeting in Florida and Mr. Ramage had gone to Mississippi in connection with the license handling study.

Mr. LeCroy, representing the Berkeley County Tricentennial Committee, presented to the Board a report on its activities in restoring approximately a mile of the old Santee canal. This was illustrated with some very attractive slides. Mr. LeCroy reported that the parcel of land through which a portion of the canal flowed and adjacent to Highway 52 has been developed in part by them and that interest has been shown by a federal agency to acquire this part of the canal and to make it a national park. He presented to the Commission a proposal that the lands lying between the Santee canal project and the Tail Race canal offers excellent opportunities for acquisition and development by the Wildlife Department. Mr. LeCroy was thanked for his presentation and assured that the Commission would give it serious consideration.

Chairman Eltzroth ^{will appoint a committee} ~~appointed Commissioners Glenn and Thompson~~ ~~as a committee~~ to investigate more completely this proposal and to make their report to the Commission at the earliest practical date.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director Webb reported on the proposal for the reorganization of the Law Enforcement Section which would provide for additional supervisory positions. He explained that he had reviewed the study as completed by Mr. Ryan and felt that the proposal to have assistant district supervisors would complicate the communications and therefore would not improve the operation of the section. He wholeheartedly supported the proposal that group leaders or a similar position should be



Chairman Eltzroth inquired if all employees of the Department were now receiving the minimum wage. Executive Director Webb stated that all were receiving the minimum wage with the exception of some parttime help employed at Belmont for the purpose of weeding the bicolor beds and temporary kitchen help which was needed from time to time.

The policy affecting abutting landowners at Lake Warren was contained in a regulation prepared by Mr. Latimer. Chairman Eltzroth questioned the advisability of having in this regulation certain provisions which appeared to be unnecessary, one of which referred to Tort actions. After limited discussion on this matter, the Chairman appointed a committee of Commissioners Eppes and Rhame to review this regulation and make their report to the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

The appointments for conservation officers as mailed to Commission members prior to the meeting, was approved on a motion of Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Commissioner Williams. This approval by the Commission was subject to the request by Commissioner Rhame that no appointments on this list be made at this time for any new non-pay conservation officers from his district. The reappointment of Russell Wells of Charleston was approved.

The status of the 1971-72 budget was reported by the Chairman, Eltzroth. He noted that this was presented to the Budget and Control Board and that they were informed that this budget would not doubt be revised when it was presented to the Ways and Means Committee. He also noted that in his presentation he had indicated that there was a need for the users of game management lands to assist in the cost of providing these lands for hunting and that the members present of the Budget and Control Board appeared to indicate no sign of disagreement. The Chairman suggested that the Budget sub-committee of the Commission continue to study the budget and to have it ready for the December meeting in its refined form. It also was stated that prior to the November meeting, the committee should give the budget further consideration and make a preliminary report in November. The I & E Section was requested to prepare visual aids which would be utilized when the budget is presented to the Ways and Means Committee. The Chairman ~~stated that he would call a meeting of~~ Executive Director Webb, Pat Ryan, Fred Ramage and Dr. Timmerman to further discuss budget needs.

The new monthly financial report was reviewed and accepted by the Commission. It was requested that in succeeding months, this

*5/20/72
W. Webb*

*in. J. Webb
to Budget
Committee
no. Webb
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financial report should be received by each Commission member at least four days prior to the regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Eppes expressed appreciation to Commissioner Glenn and his Committee for the preparation of this report.

Mr. Ryan explained the problem that exists at the present time relative to the requests from non-members of the Wildlife Resources Department for radios. He explained that these requests are becoming more common and that he was concerned about both the cost to the Department, which incidentally is approximately \$800 per unit, and the effect that this would have upon the Department's communication system. He noted that our radio system was the best there was in the State of South Carolina and that we did not want to have this jeopardized. Chairman Eltzroth appointed a Committee consisting of Commissioners Mishoe and Eppes to study the question of supplying radios to non-Department personnel and to make their recommendations to the Commission at the earliest practical date.

Commissioner Mishoe noted that he had observed a number of instances where the Wildlife Resources Department assisted other State agencies without any reimbursement for the costs that this Department may have incurred in giving such assistance. This should not be interpreted as meaning that our Department was not willing to assist wherever possible, but that some thought should be given to a sharing of the costs involved. Commissioner Rhame ^{suggested} requested that this subject be added to the study dealing with the issuance of radios to non-Department personnel, inasmuch as it was a similar problem.

Chairman Eltzroth reported on the observations that he had made while in Europe. He noted that especially in Germany, the information and education efforts were carried on by a private organization, similar to this country's Wildlife Federation. He noted that approximately 90% of the license purchasers belong to a single conservation organization. In Germany, much different from what we see here in the States, there is generally only this one conservation organization and that therefore its membership reaches all parts of the country, all strata of the population and is in a position to do much good work.

He was also impressed by the planning which is done to utilize the non-consumable values of wildlife. Public parks and public forests provide elevated look-outs where the users of these public facilities may observe game and that there are many people



who utilize these wildlife resources purely for the purpose of observing and photographing. This indicates a great deal of awareness by the general public for this segment of the natural environment.

Chairman Eltzroth urged that we emphasize programs that educate the youth to appreciate what is around us. At this point he inquired what we were doing in this respect and what plans we might have.

Seamans responded that the Information and Education Section believed strongly that ~~whatever efforts were made~~ with youth *which would* ~~and to~~ instill in them the awareness of these values, was a most important approach. It is believed that we cannot possibly instruct all of the youth within South Carolina schools to be conversant in conservation, but certainly we do have an obligation to make them aware of the values that these things of beauty have. Wildlife, natural environment and conservation is something that can be treated much like good music or fine art - not fully understood but valued and enjoyed. It also was noted that the Federal Department of Education and a number of other States have acknowledged ----(page 6)

general acceptance of the very fine conservation curriculum guide being used by the South Carolina Education Department, the efforts by the Education Department to cause the instruction of conservation in the school systems and especially the assistance being given by John Jackson, the recently employed Conservation Education Consultant. He also noted that a meeting is planned for February 3rd and 4th at Hobcaw in Georgetown, to which representatives of all of the institutions of higher learning in the State will be invited and through this meeting it is hoped that better teacher training in their institutions can be made available. He also pointed out the activities of the Section in providing educational materials which were mailed to 25,000 students last Spring and that we have an improved package now at the printer's in the sum of 30,000 units which will be available to teachers and students. He also noted the planning for film strips, slide programs and related materials in this field. Above all, there is a strong belief within the Section that we must prepare materials so as to make the students and residents of this State aware of the values of wildlife and that even though they may not enjoy hunting or fishing, they are truly an enhancement to their everyday existence.

At this time, the prepared statement was distributed which sets forth the concepts of the I & E Section and the basic requirements for its new I & E Chief. Although time was not available for full discussion of these printed materials, it was suggested that they be reviewed at each Commission member's convenience, and that the Executive Director be informed if there is any desire to change these criteria or concepts. Commissioner Glenn expressed the belief that the Commission had complete confidence in the present I & E activities and that Acting Chief of the Division's decisions would be acceptable to them.

Major Cantey expressed the well-taken opinion that every effort should be made to reach the students at the high school level as well as at the lower grades. He recognized the limitations of personnel and funds to do this, but believed that any efforts made in this direction would be well worth such efforts.

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Commissioner Glenn inquired as to the current status of the Southeastern Economic Survey. Executive Director Webb explained that when the status report was made, he did not have the present report from the study committee which indicated that a comprehensive study for the State could be accomplished for a figure slightly less than \$25,000.00. This proposed survey had been reviewed by Dr. Don Haynes and found by him to be reliable and that the output material would be useful. Mr. Webb indicated that at the present time the proposed study is being presented to both the Corps of Army Engineers and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service to learn if they will accept the values obtained through this study when the State utilizes these values in its presentations relating to various projects that these two agencies may be interested in. He also noted that the committee of the Southeastern was preparing suitable documents and that these would be presented to the member States at an early date and when they were available he would again request guidance



from the Commission for this. He thoroughly recommended the accomplishment of the study because the materials are so badly needed in our many programs and in Mr. Nelson's development of long range plan for the Department.

The present events which are happening in the game management area program illustrates the change in the economic situation as it effects such game lands. Game and the right to hunt this game has become a saleable product and many of the large timber companies are becoming reluctant to enter into this Department's game management program without some form of compensation for the use of these lands. This makes it necessary for the Department to revise its thinking in this respect and to consider the possibilities of leasing, purchasing or providing some form of monetary contribution to the owner for the use of such lands. At this point, a report prepared by Frank Nelson, relative to this subject, was distributed. The Chairman ^{with} appointed a committee consisting of Commissioners Rhame and Mishoe to consider this problem and to make a final report to the December meeting regarding fees for the use of game management lands and related items.

The monthly report of the Marine Division was presented and accepted. Dr. Timmerman was not present to make any comments on this report because of the necessity that he attend a meeting in Florida.

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Executive Director Webb noted that under the classification system, personnel now come up for salary advancement in accordance to their anniversary date. If they have performed satisfactorily during the past year, such personnel is then entitled to the step advancement. He requested if the Commission was agreeable to award these advances, provided satisfactory service had been given, or did the Commission want to review each case. Commissioner Rhame moved and Commissioners



Mishoe and Eppes seconded, that such advances should be referred to the sub-committee on Personnel and Salary and that they, in turn, make their recommendations to the Commission.

The Secretary was requested to prepare a list of all of the functioning committees, indicating each committee's chairman and the members of the committee. This up-to-date list is to be provided as soon as possible to each Commissioner.

Commissioner Mishoe requested details concerning the incident in Dorchester County. Executive Director Webb stated that this was under investigation and that such investigation would be completed shortly. As soon as the details are available, a complete report will be made.

Chairman Eltzroth expressed the appreciation of the Commission for the hospitality which it has been given by the Public Service Commission and its personnel at Wampee. He stated that this had been a most enjoyable experience and that certainly every member of the Commission and the staff have enjoyed themselves. To this, Mr. Vernon Sumwalt responded. He expressed regret that because of unforeseen problems the Directors of the Public Service Commission could not be present when our Commission was there and that he hoped that at some future time this could be done. He noted that his group had tried to meet jointly with the other State agencies, believing that a common discussion of problems and becoming better acquainted with each other, resulted in greater accomplishments. Personally, he expressed concern for the large number of boats which are using the State's reservoirs and said that he observed many incidents, especially at Lake Wylie with which he was acquainted, that led him to believe that licensing of all operators was becoming a necessity. He felt that this action and more stringent controls over boat operations would cut down accidents and save lives.

Chairman Eltzroth declared the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

All reports, statements and financial summaries referred to in these Minutes are to be found in the files of the Secretary in Columbia.

Submitted by Secretary

ROGER SEAMANS

RS/pal



*old minutes
not used*

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Chairman Eltzroth appointed Commissioners Glenn and Thompson as a committee to investigate more completely this proposal and to make their report to the Commission at the earliest practical date.

OLD BUSINESS

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provided which would give closer supervision support to the conservation officers and in turn would be of assistance to the district supervisors. Mr. Webb recommended that this report be coordinated with the study that Dr. Stroudemire, of the University of South Carolina, is conducting. He believed that a consideration of the total picture at the conclusion of this study would be preferable. On question from the Commission, Mr. Ryan informed them that the University study was under way, the investigational work for the study was approximately fifty per cent completed and that the report should be available in approximately six weeks. On the motion of Commissioner Mishoe and seconded by Commissioner Rhame, it was moved to delay action on this question until the University study had been completed. This motion was carried unanimously.

Executive Director Webb was asked what the current status of the new license handling procedures was. He noted that Fred Ramage was in Mississippi at the present time to gain information from their operations, which appear to be similar to what South Carolina desires. This review of Mississippi's procedure was being made in preparation for preparing a final report on this study. It is expected that this final report will be available for the November meeting. It was also noted that present plans suggest that all places of business which are willing to provide the necessary bonding, will be permitted to sell hunting and fishing licenses. If this procedure is adopted, then much of the present problem relative to the selection of agents will be eliminated.

The summary of bids for the proposed public fishing lake in Cherokee County, as prepared by Chapman Engineering Company of Williston, South Carolina, was distributed. Executive Director Webb explained that a total of eight bids have been received, that the distribution of the total costs of these bids was good and that the low bid in the amount of \$101,334.50 had been submitted by Neal Hawkins, Inc. of Gastonia, North Carolina. Mr. Webb also distributed the summary of financing, as prepared by the Planning and Development Section for this project. This indicated that the originally authorized amount of \$50,000.00 from department funds would be sufficient to complete this project. Because of the favorable bids received, there appears to be a total of approximately \$23,000.00 remaining to cover contingencies and overruns. Copies of this report and the certification of bids is filed in the Commission files by the Secretary. On the motion of Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Thompson, the Commission voted to let the contract without delay.



The Chairman requested the approval of the Minutes of the last meeting. Upon the motion of Commissioner Glenn, the Minutes were approved subject to a review and explanation of the actions taken as outlined in the Summary of these Minutes.

In regard to the Summary of the September 9th meeting, the following actions were taken at this time:

a. The Chairman indicated that Mr. Mitchell, House Member from Saluda County, had been informed by him of the decision made relative to conservation officer appointments.

b. The revised catfish basket regulation was implemented and is in effect.

c. The Secretary stated that the Training Officer in the Personnel Division is now on board and that the date of November 5, 1970, has been selected for the first training school for raters.

d. The question was raised if the Corps of Army Engineers have been informed of the objection made by the Commission to Mr. Hawkins' application for catfish farming in Lake Hartwell and also if Mr. Hawkins had been so informed. It is believed that this has been done and the Commission requested copies of these notices be sent to each Commission member.

e. Commissioner Rhame reported he will provide a statement on the Anderson situation at the next meeting.

f. Lake Cherokee bids have been reviewed and approved for contract.

g. Requested that revision of fishing regulations for State owned lakes be forwarded to all Commission members.

h. Mr. Hawkins' request and the application for a permit from the Corps of Army Engineers, see d. above.

i. Chairman Eltzroth, in the absence of Dr. Timmerman, reported that the consulting engineers had reviewed the Fort Johnson boat slip bulkhead repairs and reported that the only satisfactory repair would involve the driving of new sheet piling. Estimated cost for this repair work was set at \$500,000.00. An alternate method would be to fill in the present slip and construct a pier into the Ashley River adjoining the present slip location. The estimated cost for this work is \$400,000.00. Chairman Eltzroth, acknowledging



the difference of \$100,000.00 in construction costs, felt that the rebuilding of the slip had many more advantages than the proposed dock. He, therefore, strongly recommended that this be the route that we follow. He also noted that preliminary requests had been made to three out-of-State assistance agencies in search of funds for doing this work. If these efforts do not produce results, then additional avenues will be pursued. Chairman Eltzroth also reported that he had approved the emergency expenditure of between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00 for the placement of additional piles and deadmen which would be located under the Administration Building and serve as points for securing the present southerly bulkhead and the new southerly bulkhead when it is installed. This emergency expenditure of funds was approved by the Commission.

j. Mr. Ryan reported that the printing of the Game and Fish Laws and index is underway and that they should be available from the printer and ready for distribution not later than December 1st.

k. John Culler was introduced to the Commission.

l. Waterfowl regulations as approved on September 9th have been made known to the public, applications for these hunts distributed and being received by the Department.

m. Chairman Eltzroth inquired if the policy regarding employees serving as consultants had been distributed to all employees. A copy of this memorandum is to be sent to each Commission member.

n. Mr. Luther Harmon, Jr. is filling the vacant conservation officer position in Saluda County.

o. Implementation of revised catfish baskets regulations stated in b. above.

p. Performance Rater training, see c. above.

q. Hawkins' application, see d. above.

r. Non-pay conservation officers for the Mental Health Department in Columbia. Commissioner Rhame raised the question of need for such non-pay conservation officers and expressed the belief that in a number of instances such non-pay officers are not required. This question is to be considered with the Law Enforcement Section study and be made a part of the final report on that study.



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Commissioner Mishoe expressed the belief that the Department presently is helping a number of other agencies to accomplish the tasks of those other agencies at a cost to us. Commissioner Rhame requested that this subject be added to the question of supplying radios and that the committee appointed to consider this matter also consider the problem of non-reimbursable assistance to other agencies.

Chairman Eltzroth reported that the most important observation that he had made in Europe and especially in Germany was the I & E effort made there. He noted that this was done by non-governmental agencies and that it appeared to be the responsibility of an organization similar to our Wildlife Federation. In Germany this was the only sportsman's organization that existed and that approximately 90% of the license purchasers belonged to this single organization. This is much different than what is experienced in this country where there exists an untold number of splinter organizations all concerned with conservation and environment. The Chairman was also impressed with the fact that people were encouraged to enjoy the wildlife through non-consumable uses rather than through hunting or fishing alone. He noted that wildlife and wildlife observation was a part of nearly all park and forest developments. He felt strongly that we must increase our efforts to make more people aware of the values of wildlife and that we must educate the youth of this State to appreciate what we have. This, he believed, should be one of our primary responsibilities. In response to this, Seamans stated that this was the concept of the I & E Section and at the present time much was underway in South Carolina to do just this. He noted the



general acceptance of the very fine conservation curriculum guide being used by the South Carolina Education Department, the efforts by the Education Department to cause the instruction of conservation in the school systems and especially the assistance being given by John Jackson, the recently employed Conservation Education Consultant. He also noted that a meeting is planned for February 3rd and 4th at Hobcaw in Georgetown, to which representatives of all of the institutions of higher learning in the State will be invited and through this meeting it is hoped that better teacher training in their institutions can be made available. He also pointed out the activities of the Section in providing educational materials which were mailed to 25,000 students last Spring and that we have an improved package now at the printer's in the sum of 30,000 units which will be available to teachers and students. He also noted the planning for film strips, slide programs and related materials in this field. Above all, there is a strong belief within the Section that we must prepare materials so as to make the students and residents of this State aware of the values of wildlife and that even though they may not enjoy hunting or fishing, they are truly an enhancement to their everyday existence.

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Executive Director Webb noted that under the classification system, personnel now come up for salary advancement in accordance to their anniversary date. If they have performed satisfactorily during the past year, such personnel is then entitled to the step advancement. He requested if the Commission was agreeable to award these advances, provided satisfactory service had been given, or did the Commission want to review each case. Commissioner Rhame moved and Commissioners



Mishoe and Eppes seconded, that such advances should be referred to the sub-committee on Personnel and Salary and that they, in turn, make their recommendations to the Commission.

The Secretary was requested to prepare a list of all of the functioning committees, indicating each committee's chairman and the members of the committee. This up-to-date list is to be provided as soon as possible to each Commissioner.

Commissioner Mishoe requested details concerning the incident in Dorchester County. Executive Director Webb stated that this was under investigation and that such investigation would be completed shortly. As soon as the details are available, a complete report will be made.

Chairman Eltzroth expressed the appreciation of the Commission for the hospitality which it has been given by the Public Service Commission and its personnel at Wampee. He stated that this had been a most enjoyable experience and that certainly every member of the Commission and the staff have enjoyed themselves. To this, Mr. Vernon Sumwalt responded. He expressed regret that because of unforeseen problems the Directors of the Public Service Commission could not be present when our Commission was there and that he hoped that at some future time this could be done. He noted that his group had tried to meet jointly with the other State agencies, believing that a common discussion of problems and becoming better acquainted with each other, resulted in greater accomplishments. Personally, he expressed concern for the large number of boats which are using the State's reservoirs and said that he observed many incidents, especially at Lake Wylie with which he was acquainted, that led him to believe that licensing of all operators was becoming a necessity. He felt that this action and more stringent controls over boat operations would cut down accidents and save lives.

Chairman Eltzroth declared the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

All reports, statements and financial summaries referred to in these Minutes are to be found in the files of the Secretary in Columbia.

Submitted by Secretary

ROGER SEAMANS

RS/pal



SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting - October 16, 1970

PRESENTATION MADE

Mr. Gary LeCroy of the Berkeley Tricentennial Commission on the Santee canal project.

ACTION TAKEN

1. Delayed action on preliminary law enforcement study until USC study completed. This and policy of non-pay conservation officers to be incorporated in final report.
2. Approved contract to Neal Hawkins, Inc. of Gastonia, North Carolina for Cherokee County Lake at \$101,334.50.
3. Approved expenditure of \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 for slip bulkhead deadmen which were placed under the new Administration Building at the marine center.
4. Approved conservation officer appointments, except new non-pay officers in Commissioner Rhame's district.
5. Monthly financial report to be mailed so Commission may receive same at least four days prior to meeting date.
6. General approval of I&E concepts and criteria for I&E Chief.
7. Salary increments within the classification plan shall be referred to the Salary Committee for review.

ASSIGNMENTS AND REPORTS TO BE MADE

1. License study at November meeting.
2. Submit copies of letter to Corps and Hawkins re denial of application for permit for catfish farming in Lake Hartwell.
3. Commissioner Rhame to report on Anderson matter at November meeting.
4. Forward copies of revised fishing regulations for State-owned lakes to each Commission member.
5. New game laws to be available for distribution on or about December 1st.



6. Secretary to furnish copy to each Commissioner of memorandum to personnel regarding consulting work.
7. Sub-committee - review Lake Warren abutting landowners policy.
8. Budget committee to revise 1971-1972 budget, with preliminary report for November and final for December.
9. I&E to prepare visual aids for budget presentation to Ways and Means.
10. Sub-committee to consider policy on issuing radios to non-department personnel and non-reimbursable assistance to other agencies.
11. Sub-committee to consider Tail Race canal proposal and Bonneau hatchery site.
12. Mr. Ryan to forward to each Commission member list of conservation officers taking seven consecutive days of annual leave last year.
13. Sub-committee to investigate and report on planning and communications within conservation officer districts relative to days off and annual leave.
14. Sub-committee to consider and provide final report for December meeting on feasibility of fee system for use of game management lands.
15. Salary committee to review proposed biologists salary adjustments and report to November meeting.
16. Secretary to prepare list of all functioning committees of the Commission and forward to each Commissioner.
17. Provide report on Dorchester County incident.

