

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA OCTOBER 4, 1962

Vice-Chairman Cox presided in the absence of Chairman Johnson. All other Commissioners were present, along with Directors Webb and Lunz, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Pat Ryan, Ed Latimer and Gordon Brown.

Mr. Nelson presented reports on the progress on Dirleton and also on the small game program, and Mr. Webb said that offers had been made on some of the land between Dirleton and Brookgreen Gardens but the owners were not interested in selling.

Mr. Nelson stated private lands generally did not lend themselves to small game development programs and much of the National Forest land open to public hunting could not support large populations of small game.

Mr. Tison suggested that such reports should be received at one meeting and be taken up for discussion and action at the next meeting, after Commissioners had a chance to read and study them, and other Commissioners agreed.

There was a general discussion of small game programs and how the public could be made aware of public lands that were open to hunting. The Secretary was instructed to get some publicity on this.

The proposed budgets of the various divisions were approved, Mr. Hopkins saying he could not vote approval since he had not had time to study them.

Mr. Tison and Mr. Heyward both stated that a committee from the Commission should go over the budgets before they were presented to the full Commission and after some discussion a motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that: "A Budget Committee of the Commission be set up, composed of Chairman Johnson, Vice-Chairman Cox and Mr. Cantey to consider the budgets of the various Divisions before the September meetings, at which time the budgets would be presented and that the Committee make a report or reports in writing."

Mr. Hopkins said the inspectors of the Division of Commercial Fisheries should have radios and asked how much this would cost and whether it could be put in the budget. It was pointed out that there was not sufficient time for this, as all budgets



have to be in by October 15.

A motion of Mr. Hopkins was adopted that a committee composed of Mr. Cox and Directors Lunz and Webb see as to how best to accomplish the securing of radios for the inspectors.

Director Lunz said the Budget and Control Board, under a new policy, had turned down an allocation from the pier tax fund that had been approved at the September meeting, although previously such allocations had been allowed.

Mr. Cox said that he believed he and Director Lunz could work this out.

The commissioning of all non-pay wardens recommended by Director Webb was approved on motion of Mr. Tison and the commissioning of Mr. Wright as a regular Berkeley warden was also approved.

Director Webb then brought up the distressed areas act just passed by Congress which provides for \$900,000,000 for boosting the economy of distressed areas, including 23 South Carolina counties. He said that some of this money--somewhere between \$5,000,000 and \$12,000,000 would be available for wildlife work, primarily construction but not including any maintenance or land purchase--and he had worked up a tentative list of proposals. All the wildlife work would be on a matching basis, either 50-50 or 25-75. (Note: Copy of proposals will be sent soon).

Mr. Hopkins asked whether any of the 23 counties bordered Hartwell and what could be done in the Piedmont under the program.

Director Webb said that the totals for the proposed work came to around \$475,000 but that, of course, it could not be expected that all these would be approved; nor was it possible to know what the matching basis would be on those that were approved. He added that the proposals he had sent in were in no way obligations on the part of the Department.

The Commission agreed that it would be wise to come under the program as much as possible, provided matching funds were available, and Mr. Cox suggested Director Webb keep the Commission informed of all developments.



Mr. Hopkins gave the Secretary minutes of the Palmetto Bluff meeting, at which there had been no quorum, and also distributed copies of a program for consideration by the Commission. These suggestions were received by the other Commissioners for further study.

Director Lunz said that the Navy and Marines were, in effect, taking over some oyster lease lands and also dredging on leases without consulting his office but he was not certain what could be done about it.

A motion was adopted that Director Webb be instructed to work out with the Laurens delegation details for boat ramps on Lake Greenwood in line with action approved by the Commission at the September meeting.

*Eddie Finlay*

