

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA OCTOBER 6, 1966

Present were all Commissioners, Director Webb, Assistant Director Ryan, Frank Nelson, Jeff Fuller, Tommy Welch, Johnny May, Fred Ramage, Allison Fickling, Gene Howell and Assistant Attorney General Mac Spigner. Also present were Advisory Committee Members Jack Carroll, Clyde Eltzroth, W. K. Stringfellow and Bartow Culp, Federation president.

Chairman Parler asked Mr. Spigner to report on the status of the Sprott vs. Bailey matter. Mr. Spigner reported that Judge Rhodes had postponed a decision for 30 days, giving the Commission time to consider the matter. Mr. Spigner said that Judge Rhodes had agreed for a Commissioner to be present at the hearing, which Mr. Spigner agreed to arrange.

The minutes of the September 19 meeting were corrected to state that the budget of the Department would have to be "presented" to the Budget and Control Board by October 8 rather than "considered" by the Board.

Major Cantey asked about the status of the Toomer vs. Toomer matter and there was some discussion on this, the minutes of the July 27 meeting being checked as to what had been done. It was brought out that one of the parties had advertised and applied; a protest had been filed, and the matter was now set for a hearing.

The Atlantic Shellfish matter came up, Mr. Glenn saying that the lease should be cancelled. A motion of Mr. Mishoe was adopted unanimously that this be done and Attorney General J. C. Coleman be asked to prepare the necessary papers.

Mr. Hopkins brought up a pollution problem in Greenville county and suggested that the Commission go on record as opposing the plan of the Water Pollution Control Authority to shift pollution from one stream to another. The Secretary was asked to prepare a resolution embodying this.

Mr. Webb said that a recent checking of lines at Belmont plantation had revealed that apparently Union Bag-Camp was over on the Belmont property and that considerable timber and pulp belonging to the Department had been cut. He suggested that Mr. Eltzroth be employed to represent the Department in the matter, which was unanimously



agreed to by the Commission.

A number of appointments and reappointments for non-pay and regular wardens were approved. Several wardens being retired for age were allowed to retain their commissions, this action being taken on a motion of Dr. Jones.

The Commission approved a request of Mr. Webb that a Calhoun warden be put on after investigation, his salary to be paid partly by funds with this Department credited to the county and partly by Santee-Cooper funds.

Major Cantey explained a plan whereby the budget of the Department would be handled in the same way as the Highway Department and the Forestry Commission with a lump sum appropriation presented to the General Assembly for approval. He said this would give more leeway in handling of the Department moneys.

Mr. Mishoe suggested that when the budgets were presented to the Ways and Means and Finance committees they should also present the current budget, to avoid the impression of trying to hide something. He also said it should be understood the information could be given out to any member from the floor. The budget would be presented at the end of the year in the annual report to the General Assembly.

Dr. Jones said there was a dog problem on the Horse Pasture area, asking what could be done in the way of eliminating free-running dogs, which was favored by the biologists.

Mr. Ryan said that an opinion from the Attorney General gave the Commission authority for promulgating such rules and regulations as were necessary for the protection of game and a dog law would come under this, although Commission action would be required. He also said that the situation should be studied thoroughly before any action was taken, saying that the Georgia Department had run into a great deal of trouble by taking action against free-running dogs. The Commission agreed that no definite action should be taken but that the matter should be studied.

Mr. Hopkins asked Mr. May to brief the Commission on the progress of the Outdoor Recreation Division. Mr. May said the deadline of December 31 would be met and that



he was well pleased with the progress being made. Mr. Hopkins suggested that Mr. May contact Mr. Jantzen, former head of the Fish and Wildlife Service, who lives near Greenville.

Mr. Stringfellow asked about the public reaction to the public dove field program. Mr. Nelson explained the program and Mr. Webb said it was important to let the public know an effort was being made to provide them with hunting.

Mr. Culp mentioned the Governor's Award dinner the night of October 28 and also mentioned the possibility of a Youth Camp at Hobcaw Barony on land left by Miss Belle Baruch. He said the Commissioners were also invited to the annual meeting of the Federation on October 29.

Mr. Webb was authorized to acquire land for two or three additional radio stations, one near St. George and the others in the Barnwell-Aiken and Greenwood areas.

Mr. Parler asked the Commission to give Mr. Webb the authority to put on another warden in Charleston county, with special consideration being given to reinstating Danny Warren, who resigned several years ago. This was approved.

There was a general discussion of the baiting problem and Mr. Webb explained Department policies.

The Commission went into executive session, after which it announced that the budgets of all Division had been studied and approved.

The Commission also discussed some matters involving the Division of Commercial Fisheries and Bears Bluff Laboratories.

*Eddie Finlay*

