

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
AT PALMETTO BLUFF SEPTEMBER 11, 1967

Present were all Commissioners except Mr. Oliphant. Also present were Director Webb, Tommy Welch, Fred Ramage, Ed Latimer, Jeff Fuller, Gene Howell, Charlie Bearden and the Secretary.

The Commission held a brief executive session, following which several appointments of conservation officers and non-pay officers were approved.

The special budget committee presented its report, Mr. Webb explaining in reply to a question of Mr. Glenn why the salaries of the fish wardens were not carried in the budget itemization. It was reported that no salary adjustments were out of line although some minor adjustments had been made.

The Commission then went into executive session for consideration of salaries, following which it was announced the budget had been approved as modified. It was announced that the salary of Director Lunz had been raised by \$1,200 and that of Charlie Bearden by \$1,000, effective as soon as this can be submitted to the Budget and Control Board and approved.

A report on the receipts from the sale of licenses was received as information and for further study.

The same procedure was followed in considering a report on the cost of vehicle operation presented by Mr. Webb, who said the total cost of operation came to 5.4 cents a mile, including insurance and all costs, including depreciation. Mr. Cantey asked who had checked the figures and Mr. Webb said work was being done to see what operators were out of line.

Mr. Webb said that a policy had been established whereby accidents involving state-owned vehicles, as well as vehicle abuse, would be investigated by Pat Ryan, Fred Ramage and the Chief of the Division involved. He said there had been one accident since the last meeting but that the other person was in the wrong and his insurance company was paying all costs. Mr. Webb's recommendation that



[The text in this section is extremely faint and illegible. It appears to be a multi-paragraph document, possibly a letter or a report, but the specific words and sentences cannot be discerned.]

no action be taken was adopted.

Mr. Webb reported on the trip he had made to Norfolk to inspect the plane that the Department had been offered. He said that it had 13,000 hours of operation and 1,700 hours since its last overhaul and a minimum of \$15,000 to \$20,000, plus radio equipment, would be needed to put it in operation. He recommended that the Chairman be asked to see how much work and overhaul, including parts, could be arranged.

Mr. Eltzroth read a letter telling of the condition of the plane and overhaul and repair needs.

In answer to a question from Mr. Cantey, it was brought out that a comparable new plane, or one that would suit the needs of the Department, might cost up to \$100,000 or more.

After further discussion, a motion of Mr. Glenn was adopted that Mr. Eltzroth be requested to contact the proper authorities in Washington to see if the plane could be put in usable condition at reasonable cost, and if it could not to reject the offer. Mr. Eltzroth, who said he was going to Washington on the 21st, was given the power to act for the Commission.

Mr. Eltzroth read a report from Dr. Lunz that said that the request for disaster funds to study the recent crab kill has been turned down by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, although it would support such a study on a 75-25 per cent ratio.

(Mr. Bearden was told that apparently there was some misunderstanding regarding the function and duties of the Governor's Committee on the Use of Federal Funds, and that it wished to keep up with contracts with the Federal Government for information but approval was not required.)

The report also stated that the drop in the number of cases for violation of the Commercial Fisheries Law was no reflection on Supervisor Oscar Sullivan--



who was praised as the hardest working inspector or supervisor in the last 25 years--and the number of cases has been dropping every year.

The trouble in securing biologists was also mentioned, but Mr. Bearden reported that since the letter was written one had been secured for the shrimp culture program.

The letter also discussed the possible commissioning of biologists of the Commercial Fisheries Division, and it was agreed that Mr. Bearden should be commissioned.

Mr. Bearden also reported on the artificial reef situation, reading a summary of the status of reefs and reef proposals in Charleston, Georgetown and Beaufort counties. (At the August meeting of the Commission a suggestion had been made that Dr. Lunz should study the needs and requests of the three counties and report back on the wishes of the governing authority of each county, as well as the desired design, location and cost estimates for the projects in each area.)

Since each Commissioner received a copy of Mr. Bearden's report, I will touch on it only briefly, as follows:

Both Beaufort and Georgetown have well-planned projects underway while in Charleston no final plan is available, but a committee of the Trident Chamber of Commerce is planning for the building of one.

Beaufort has long-range plans calling for at least four reefs costing an estimated \$113,000, two inshore and two offshore. Approval has been secured for the sites selected and about 1,000 old car bodies are on hand as reef material and other material is being collected.

In Georgetown, the Fishing Paradise Association of Garden City-Murrells Island has plans for a large reef three miles off Garden City and actual construction has begun. At least 3,000 concrete-weighted tires have been dumped at the site and 7,000-8,000 more are ready. They also plan two more reefs off



Murrells Inlet.

Three approved sites are available off Charleston.

Mr. Bearden said he believed that one-third of the State appropriation should be made available to the appropriate organization of each of the counties, this relieving the State of responsibility to a certain extent.

Mr. Mishoe asked whether the three groups mentioned in connection with the reefs were the only ones interested and Mr. Eltzroth said they were the only ones with which there had been actual contact. He suggested the Commission name a three-man committee to consult with Dr. Lunz giving it authority to act in the name of the Commission for the purpose of carrying out its work.

Mr. Glenn was named chairman with the other members being Mr. Mishoe and Mr. Eltzroth, with Mr. Latimer working out the type of contact needed.

Mr. Latimer reported on the Carolina Sea Foods, Incorporated matter and Mr. Eltzroth told of the hearing and later conversation and correspondence with Mr. Leland. Mr. Leland admitted not complying with the law in regard to planting, and after first saying that he would like to attend the October meeting changed his mind.

A motion of Mr. Eltzroth was adopted that the Commission revoke the license on the lease for which a rule to show cause had been issued.

Mr. Eltzroth also mentioned a letter he had received from Mr. Leland stating that Dr. Lunz had failed to answer a letter he had written him, and the secretary was requested to write Dr. Lunz and ask him for a report on this.

The \$50,000 appropriation granted in connection with the proposed marine laboratory was mentioned and Mr. Eltzroth said that he would like the Commission to allow the use of part of the \$50,000 for bringing in experts, their per diem, etc.



Mr. Glenn asked about an appeal by Calhoun Thomas from a conviction of Mr. Toomer and his son; and Mr. Eltzroth asked Mr. Latimer to have all appeals heard as quickly as possible.

Mr. Welch showed a proposed form for the authorization of boat racing and after some discussion it was carried over for further study.

Changes in the flotation requirements were approved.

Mr. Eltzroth brought up a request from Dr. Harry Freeman to appear at the October meeting to discuss Commission help in a classification of the fish of South Carolina. He suggested that Mr. Webb and Mr. Fuller review Dr. Freeman's recommendations.

An invitation from Mr. Hickin for a barbecue near St. Matthews was brought up and Mr. Webb and Mr. Fuller were requested to work out details.

Mr. Eltzroth suggested changing the meeting date from the second Friday to the third Friday and Mr. Webb said this would conflict with the meetings of the Recreation Commission, of which he is an ex-officio member.

Mr. Eltzroth said that he would meet with Mr. Holder, chairman of the Recreation Commission, and try to work out arrangements for possible change.

Eddie Finney



10/1/11