

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT PALMETTO BLUFF SEPTEMBER 23, 1963

Present were Commissioners Johnson, Cox, Cantey, Tison and Heyward, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Tommy Welch and Allison Fickling.

The minutes of the August 15 meeting were corrected to state that the release requested from Mr. Samworth in regard to Dirleton had been "recorded as well as received."

Mr. Johnson stated that a clerical error in regard to pilot coverage under the proposed insurance policy on the Department plane had been corrected.

Mr. Johnson said that he understood there had been several instances up-state where wardens could not agree whether or not a field had been baited and said this disagreement was not good.

Mr. Ryan reported that he had had several conferences with Director Webb in regard to appointing assistant supervisory personnel but that the best step to take was still being explored. He requested that he would like the matter to be held off for the present and a motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that it be carried over.

The log being kept at Belmont was discussed and it was suggested that it might be larger.

Mr. Nelson said that he had investigated the feasibility of securing a trailer, or trailers, for use of wardens on management hunts and that they would cost around \$1,500 each. It was suggested by Mr. Johnson that Mr. Nelson and Mr. Ryan might study the matter further.

Mr. Cox said he had conferred with Highway Department officials regarding a refund on the gasoline tax paid by boaters but that nothing definite had been decided upon.

There was a discussion of what should be done with a Department car driven by Ed Latimer, who is leaving the Department to join the Attorney General's office. A motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that the car not be sold to Mr. Latimer but be assigned to the office pool for use as needed or for reassignment by Mr. Nelson.



A letter was read from Rep. Jerry Hughes of Orangeburg requesting another warden for the county but no action was taken.

Mr. Johnson suggested that Wednesday might be better than Thursday for Commission meetings, particularly while the General Assembly was in session, but Mr. Cox said he thought it would be best not to hold meetings on days the Assembly was meeting. After some discussion a motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that meetings be held the second Thursday of every month.

Mr. Johnson brought up a suggestion that fishing lake permits might carry some conservation message or something advertising the Department. He said that this possibility should not be overlooked.

Mr. Cox mentioned a letter he had received from a motorist who had been helped by a warden, saying this was the best type of public relations. He added that the Department had come a long way from the time when wardens were judged entirely by the number of cases they made.

An envelope of the Virginia Commission carrying a conservation message on the back was presented and the Commission agreed something similar should be considered.

Mr. Johnson said in view of the press of other matters it would not be best to take up his suggestion regarding putting the magazine on a pay basis and it would be passed over until later.

The budget of the Commercial Fisheries Division was presented and Mr. Cox said that he had gone over it.

The matter of employment of relatives was brought up and Mr. Johnson said this had resulted in some unfortunate publicity. He also mentioned the employment of a relative of Mr. Wolling. After some discussion a motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that the whole matter be held in abeyance until a check could be made to determine whether there was a violation and the whole matter could be looked into.



Mr. Cox brought up an oyster hearing he had held in Charleston July 23 and asked that the Commission uphold a ruling he had handed down. A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that: "The action of Mr. Cox in regard to the lease be approved as the sense of the Commission."

At the request of Mr. Cox, Mr. Fickling related details of an oyster lease to the Atlantic Shellfish Company. The company had been delinquent in payment of rentals and two different persons--Roscoe Mitchell and Mr. Maggionni--had at different times paid back taxes and rental. Both men had come in with assignments from the company but Mr. Cox said that he believes the land reverts to the State. A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that the letter of the law be carried out and that persons being on the lease in question be considered as trespassers and warrants should be sworn out against them.

Mr. Cox brought up some actions of Assistant Attorney General Julian Johnson in commercial fisheries cases and a motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that Mr. Cox be authorized, "To take up the matter with the Attorney General and that there be no future assignment of Julian Johnson to cases involving the Commercial Fisheries Division."

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that: "Proposed salaries of persons in executive capacity be talked about only in executive sessions."

The appointments of Floyd Prevatte as a salaried Georgetown warden and John F. Robinson as a non-pay warden in Georgetown were approved. A commission was approved for Sam Stokes, a new biologist. Several other reappointments were approved.

A budget for the Division of Game, which now includes the Administrative Division, was presented by Mr. Nelson.

The Commission approved purchase by the Department of a drag line for Bears Island after Mr. Nelson explained that it would be rented back to the federal aid project and that federal aid would practically pay for the machine in three



years, after which it would have several more years of service. The understanding was that the purchase be approved by the Purchasing Department and the Budget and Control Board.

Mr. Nelson also brought up the matter of purchasing fertilizer saying that the rule that purchases over \$50 would have to go through the Purchasing Division handicapped the efficiency of the program and saved no money. There was some discussion of the law regarding purchases and a motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that the matter be held over for the next meeting.

Changes in title and salary increases for Philip Wilkinson and Robert Gooding were approved, the increases being from \$5,000 to \$5,800.

Mr. Nelson then brought up the matter of a one-day doe season in Zones Six, Seven and Eight. The General Assembly had approved this with the approval of the respective delegations. He said 11 counties would be affected but only four had been heard from so far. The matter was passed over until the next meeting.

A request of Mr. Fuller that he be given permission to travel to Washington State with an engineer from Santee-Cooper for the purpose of studying systems of diverting fish by electric currents was approved. He said this might prove valuable in getting fish through the Santee-Cooper Locks.

The Commission then adjourned to meet October 10 in Columbia.

*Eddie Finlay*

