

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA, SEPTEMBER 6, 1962

All Commissioners were present along with Directors Webb and Lunz, Admiral Polatty, Mr. Tarbox from Brookgreen Gardens, Jeff Fuller, Pat Ryan, Tommy Welch and Crawford Billings.

In answer to a question from Mr. Johnson as to what had been done in regard to closing an area on Hartwell Lake because of pollution, Mr. Webb said that he had suggested to Dr. Edwards of Clemson that a meeting might be arranged with the delegations of the counties involved.

Mr. Hopkins said that Dr. Edwards did not favor such a meeting but had written the delegations.

Mr. Webb said that he would call Dr. Edwards. Before the meeting was adjourned Dr. Edwards called and stated the delegations had been informed and the regulations will be promulgated immediately.

Mr. Tarbox presented the possibility of the trustees of Brookgreen Gardens turning over a considerable area to the Department for management, although under the charter from the State there could be no hunting. He said that a new road to Sandy Island would open up much marsh land and increase the poaching problem. He said that around 1,500 acres of old ricefields were involved and thought some agreement could be worked out whereby the Department might manage it in conjunction with Dirleton.

Mr. Webb said there was much land between Dirleton and Brookgreen that could not be acquired and Mr. Hopkins suggested that further investigation be made as to what lands could be acquired.

Mr. Webb said that the Georgetown delegation had agreed to pay half the salary and expense of another warden and such a warden could give some additional protection to Brookgreen property.

Mr. Tarbox said that he would talk with Senator Grimes, adding that the property would be available if and when the Commission decided to take any action.

Mr. Johnson suggested that confirmation be secured from Mr. Samworth as to whether all commitments had been met in regard to Dirleton and Mr. Webb said that he had talked with Mr. Samworth and apparently he was satisfied.



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The question of better communications with the wardens in the field was discussed and Mr. Webb said that this was being worked out, but where wardens were tied in with some other law enforcement network there was always the possibility of violators being tipped off. It was agreed that at least one station is needed in the Piedmont.

A suggestion of Mr. Johnson was adopted that Frank Nelson furnish the Commission with monthly reports in writing of Dirleton progress.

Mr. Johnson read a letter from Warden O'Dell regarding the public landing of Lake Greenwood, and Mr. Webb said he did not favor a policy of using State funds for such projects but that funds credited to a county should be used. Mr. Hopkins said he would take up the matter with Senator Dixon of Laurens and notify Warden O'Dell.

The matter of Commission attendance at meetings of the International Association of Game and Fish Commissioners was brought up by Mr. Johnson and a motion of Mr. Johnson was adopted that one or more Commissioners should attend these meetings.

There was a general discussion of the policy on political activity by wardens.

Salary increases were approved for two wardens who had not received raises under the last general pay raise.

A number of appointments and reappointments for regular and non-pay wardens were approved, one recommendation being turned down by Mr. Heyward.

A non-pay commission for Mr. Crawford in Clarendon county was approved provided he meets necessary requirements.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that in the future Commissioners would get a list of recommendations for their districts and it would be understood they were approved unless objections were raised before or at the next Commission meeting.

Mr. Cantey said that with so much emphasis being put on waterfowl and deer-turkey programs, the small game hunter was being neglected. He suggested opening some of the management areas to small game hunting during the regular seasons.

Admiral Polatty said that the problem of where the city worker could hunt, along with better hunter-farmer relations, was a major one, particularly in the Piedmont.



Mr. Hopkins suggested that the Commission go on record as putting more emphasis on small game projects and that Frank Nelson give a monthly report of what is being done along these lines.

A request of Mr. Cox that \$3,700 be transferred from the pier tax fund to the Division of Commercial Fisheries was approved on motion of Mr. Heyward.

A motion of Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, was adopted that: "The Wildlife Resources Commission direct the Division of Commercial Fisheries not to require a license for a non-commercial fisherman who is using one minnow trap or one crab pot, provided the minnow trap or crab pot is clearly marked with a tag showing the name and address of the owner."

Mr. Webb said the Palmetto Bluff meeting has been set for September 20-21.

Mr. Cox said that the Commission had been invited to Johnston with the exact date to be set later.

Admiral Polatty invited all Commissioners to attend the annual convention September 23 at the Jefferson Hotel as guests of the Federation.

Mr. Fuller reported that work had started on the Ashwood lake in Lee county and other projects were coming along satisfactorily.

Dr. Lunz said that he had conferred recently with Clemson and Agriculture Department officials and the second phase of the fire ant control program was starting, using mirex, which is much less toxic than heptachlor.

In answer to a question from Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Welch said that 42, 225 boats were registered with 2,402 from Greenville county as of July 1.

It was suggested that a warden now assigned to the boating division for checking registrations be freed from this during the dove season.

Following adjournment for lunch the Commission went into executive session during which it adopted the following resolution, by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Hopkins:

"That Maxcey Jacks be employed as assistant, or standby pilot, and assigned to Greenville county for a probationary period as game warden subject to call at any time by the Director." Voting in favor were Commissioners, Cox, Hopkins, Heyward, and



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Oliphant. Voting against were Commissioners Cantey and Tison. Mr. Johnson did not vote.

Eddie Finlay

