

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA SEPTEMBER 9, 1965

Present were Commissioners Parler, Cantey, Oliphant, Glenn and Hopkins; Directors Webb and Lunz; Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Tommy Welch, Fred Ramage, Gene Howell and W. K. Stringfellow.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Major Cantey then outlined the Sears-Roebuck Federation Awards program, saying that the nomination of Director Webb for the Governor's Award for Conservationist of the Year should be sent in in the name of the Commission, with all Commissioners signing. This was unanimously approved, seconded by Mr. Oliphant, and the Secretary was instructed to go ahead with the drawing up and sending in of the nomination.

Major Cantey also said that Gordon Brown was being nominated by the Garden Clubs as Conservation Educator of the Year. He also explained that if the Federation judges wished they could place the nomination in another category.

Mr. Webb expressed his thanks to the Commission.

Dr. Lunz said that the sheets that had been distributed to the Commissioners fairly well covered the activities of his Division and of Bears Bluff. He added that he had not heard anything on the pollution study in Charleston harbor, and Mr. Parler said he might call Congressman Mendell Rivers in regard to getting information on it.

Mr. Webb said that he had learned from his brother, now heading the laboratory for the State Board of Health and who had been called in to the pollution study, that it was believed the source of the pollution causing fish kills had been located. He said further analysis was being conducted.

The question of ships now in "mothballs" at Cape Fear was brought up with the possibility they might be used as sunken reefs for offshore fishing. Mr. Parler said the he might contact Congressman Rivers. (Mr. Webb suggested that Rivers might also be contacted in regard to pushing federal legislation for protection of alligators, and said he would provide the information to Mr. Parler).



Dr. Lunz said he had had several conferences with representatives of the crabbing industry but the projected crab study was not yet under way. The Commission then authorized the expenditure of the same amount (\$15,500) for the crab study as for the oyster study.

Several appointments and reappointments for wardens were approved as presented and the Commission also approved the appointment of Joe White as a McCormick county warden.

The question of an Orangeburg applicant who was over-age then came up, Mr. Webb saying that he was strongly recommended by the Senator and the House delegation, but that he had informed them of the Commission's stand of overage wardens. After some discussion Mr. Parler suggested that Mr. Webb write the delegation saying that the Commission wished to give the county a warden but wished that a man of the proper age be proposed.

Mr. Webb asked Commission approval of the dismissal of Thomas Aaron, Jr., as superintendent of the Styx Hatchery. Mr. Webb said that equipment on confiscated cars stored at the Hatchery had been taken and the superintendent failed to either give an explanation or reveal the names of those taking the equipment although the equipment was recovered. The Commission unanimously approved Mr. Webb's action.

Mr. Webb then brought up the matter of the disposal of Oak Grove Lake in Greenville county, which he said was not large enough to furnish much fishing. Its sale had been previously authorized by the Commission. He said that the Attorney General had given an opinion that this could be done but that the Commission should adopt a resolution authorizing this. It was also agreed that an appraisal of the property be made before it was sold.

Mr. Webb then read the letter from the Attorney General.

Mr. Hopkins suggested that the sale be handled so there would be the least chance of public criticism.



After further discussion it was agreed that the property be offered at public auction and if the bids were not high enough that it be offered on sealed bids, the Department reserving the right to reject any or all bids. (The tract consists of approximately 45 acres with the lake between 12 and 15 acres).

The Commission then went into executive session after which it announced that the budget requests had been approved as amended. The Commission also approved an across the board 10 per cent raise for employees where spot raises were not included.

The Commission voted to reverse the previous decision charging the \$3.10 fee for management area hunts for deer and turkey. However, all hunters must still pick up free permits.

The Commission also authorized the Chairman and the Director of the Division of Game to work with the Governor in the appointment of an advisory board to the Recreation Division. The proposed budget for the Recreation Division was approved in principle, subject to minor changes.

The Commission also authorized the Chairman and Dr. Lunz to contact the Governor and other members of the Budget and Control Board to secure favorable action for additional funds for the Commercial Fisheries Division.

Mr. Ryan was instructed to acquire for the Commercial Fisheries Division uniforms equal to the ones provided for game wardens and to submit the bill for same to the Commercial Fisheries Division.

The proposed gift by Mr. Sauer and others for education and special training for personnel of the Department was received as information and Director Webb authorized to accept funds and work out a suitable agreement.

*Eddie Finlay*

