

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA APRIL 19, 1968

All Commissioners were present, along with Directors Webb and Lunz, Frank Nelson, Ed Latimer and Gene Howell.

Dr. Lunz said that a fishing reef had been completed off Murrell's Inlet, constructed of 21,000 tire units tied with steel rods and weighted with concrete, and a check for \$9,000 had been mailed to Fishing Paradise, Inc.

He said that action begun against L. P. Maggioni and Company in August 1967 to cancel their Lease No. 42 had been completed and three parties have expressed interest in securing the lease. He also explained the system of granting leases.

Dr. Lunz also said that cancellation of Oyster Lease No. 138 in Battery Creek in Beaufort County still is pending and unsettled, although action to cancel had been begun by the Commission in 1962. Mr. Eltzroth said that Mr. Latimer should push the matter and insist upon the perfection of the pending appeal.

The question of inter-agency disputes and responsibilities along various lines was then discussed at some length, Mr. Eltzroth saying that more cooperation was needed among the state agencies, although considerable progress had been made in recent years.

Dr. Lunz mentioned two bills that had been introduced effective only for 1968. One, already passed, would allow shrimp trawlers to market crabs caught incidental to shrimp trawling from June 1 through November 30. The other would keep the shrimp season closed until May 15 with the provision that Bears Bluff Laboratories can shorten or lengthen the season 30 days on each end.

He also mentioned meetings and correspondence with the Water Resources Committee in connection with the study of tidelands and expressed appreciation of the help given by biologists of the Division of Game, including John Quillen and Fisheries Biologists White and Cadieu.

He also mentioned the checking that must be done in connection with applications for construction of docks, wharfs or canal dredging, etc. Some of these



call for complete field surveys requiring several days of field work and he explained the procedure that is followed.

Dr. Lunz mentioned that he had learned the federal government was condemning certain oyster producing tidelands and he felt that he should have been notified.

Mr. Latimer said that the District Attorney had served papers on the Attorney General in this matter and that he would get a copy of this, along with any similar papers that might come up, to Dr. Lunz immediately. He said some of the tideland involved was of low value since it is to be preserved in its present state but that proper financial arrangements were being sought on other lands.

Mr. Eltzroth said that a court order should be secured making the Commission a party in the suit, as the Commission was charged with the responsibility of looking after the State's wildlife and fisheries interests.

It was agreed that Mr. Latimer should confer with Clair Guess of the Water Resources Committee as well as with Dr. Lunz on how the Commission should enter the suit.

Mr. Eltzroth said that it was time the value of tidelands was established and to let the government know that there are no longer free tidelands and that the State expects to be paid for their use.

Dr. Lunz cited the food value of tidal lands, saying that an acre of tideland could produce 1,000 pounds of oyster meat while the greatest amount of beef that could be produced on pasture land was 800 pounds per acre. He also mentioned other foods that were produced on tidelands, as well as the great amount of food value that goes to waste in shrimping. He said that while seven million pounds of shrimp were being harvested seven times as much "trash fish" were caught, which might some day be used as fish meal flour, now important in feeding some of the overpopulated nations.

The Commission agreed that he should bring his statistical findings up to



date as they would be of great value in establishing the value of the tidelands.

Dr. Lunz also said that he was concerned over learning that oil men were planning to make a seismographic study offshore.

Mr. Eltzroth said that he understood no explosions would be used in the study but it was best for Dr. Lunz to continue to keep in touch with plans for the operation. He also said the Commission should have some control over offshore operations. Mr. Webb said law enforcement personnel is available to Dr. Lunz if needed.

Mr. Eltzroth asked Dr. Lunz what the procedure was in regard to leases when the owner died.

Dr. Lunz explained that the lease died with the owner but that many leaseholders got around this by forming corporations or holding a lease jointly. He added that the Commission must approve sub-leases.

Mr. Eltzroth reported on the work of the committee working on the study of marine environmental needs, saying that it had met during the week in Columbia and should have its report ready by November 15. He said that although there was a contract with Clemson, other state institutions would also be most welcome. He told of a conversation with Dr. Jones of the University, who said he was supporting the program enthusiastically.

The matter of the issuing of shad sets was discussed at some length, Dr. Lunz explaining that the Corps of Engineers issued the permits on a first come first served basis, provided the person has a shad permit from the Division of Commercial Fisheries. This leads to considerable work and confusion and is not a very satisfactory setup. Dr. Lunz said he saw no reason why his Division should issue the permits.

Mr. Eltzroth then said that a committee of Commissioners Glenn, Mishoe and himself, along with Dr. Lunz and Mr. Webb, would meet with the Corps of Engineers to decide upon responsibilities and a tentative date of April 29 was set.



Mr. Glenn asked Dr. Lunz to get him up printed information on all the shad regulations.

Mr. Webb was authorized to terminate the employment of Conservation Officer McKerley, but pay to continue for all accumulated leave due him.

Plaques to be placed on radio stations named after late Commissioners J. D. Parler and Joseph W. Cox were approved with minor changes, which Mr. Webb said would be made, including the use of full names instead of initials if agreeable to the widows.

Some appointments and reappointments were then made with Mr. Mishoe saying that some of the appointments were approved too readily and on his suggestion one of the appointments was not approved and another was approved subject to further checking. Mr. Mishoe pointed out that some actions by the non-pay wardens, who might not be familiar with correct procedures, have led to criticism of the Department.

Carpeting of some of the Department offices was approved.

The possibility of a joint meeting with the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission was discussed. The PRT Commission has set its May meeting for May 10 at Belmont and Mr. Eltzroth said it might be good for the Wildlife Resources Commission to meet with them.

After it was brought out that at least two of the Commissioners would not be able to attend the May 10 meeting at Belmont it was agreed that as many Commissioners as possible should go down to Belmont for a meeting with the PRT Commission on the 10th. The regular Commission to meet in Columbia May 17.

Eddie Finlay

