

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA APRIL 3, 1963

Present were Commissioners Johnson, Cox, Cantey, Heyward, Hopkins and Tison, Directors Webb and Lunz, Tommy Welch, Frank Nelson, Jeff Fuller, Pat Ryan, Ed Latimer and Allison Fickling.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and Chairman Johnson brought up the question of insurance for the Department plane, which had been grounded until this could be straightened out. He said that he had discussed coverage with the Alester Furman Company in Greenville, which he considered tops in the field of plane coverage.

Mr. Webb said he had talked with the company by phone and the plane was apparently covered but still on the ground. (Later in the meeting he received a wire confirming the coverage). Mr. Tison suggested that Mr. Latimer study the policy and report to the Commission.

Mr. Latimer said that a statement had been secured from Mr. Samworth stating that all conditions of the Dirleton deed had been met by the Commission, and the statement had been recorded.

Mr. Ryan said that arrangements had been made for the display at the C. & S. bank in Greenville.

A report on car ownership and operation requested by Mr. Hopkins was then taken up. Mr. Ryan reported that a check with the Highway Department revealed that 18 million miles of travel had been made at between 4 1-2 and five cents a mile during 1962. He said that the patrol considered it was coming out ahead by furnishing State cars. He added that they sold the cars after 100,000 miles instead of trading them in. He also said that better performance and economy was offered by the automatic shift, and that the Highway Department does not carry insurance on its cars.

Ryan also said that in his opinion law enforcement would be hampered by putting decals on law enforcement cars.

The question of bonding license agents was brought up, Mr. Johnson reading a letter from Rep. Saleeby of Florence inquiring about the licensing of dealers. Mr. Johnson



said that the license handling wardens had to spend as much as a quarter of their time on this, and also that it was difficult to check as to their activities. He said handling by mail would be preferable with bonding much better than on a cash basis.

Mr. Ryan presented a tentative bill on licensing, along with a revised bill on carrying guns in cases and one making it unlawful to hunt from a mechanically propelled vehicle or water conveyance.

Mr. Webb said that Jim Verner had been working on legislation regarding the seizure of cars for night hunting.

Mr. Johnson exhibited a pamphlet put out by the Georgia Department and said the State needed an overall program, and should give more advice and consultation to its citizens.

Mr. Cantey said Mr. Nelson had advanced some good ideas along these lines, including the public dove shooting program planned for next fall, but that some segments of the license-buyers were being neglected, particularly the rabbit hunters.

Mr. Nelson said the dove shoots would be set up in eight counties, two to the county, next fall with the Department having the dove shooting rights. Each field would have 10 acres of brown top millet.

In answer to a question of Mr. Tison, Mr. Nelson said that the hunts would be self-regulating as far as the number of hunters was concerned.

Mr. Johnson said he had been asked by wardens whether or not they could get State cars and Mr. Webb said this was due to a misunderstanding brought about by the questionnaire sent out on car ownership. He added that the great majority of wardens did not want State cars, but that he thought the Department would eventually be better off with all wardens in State cars.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that Mr. Webb write wardens finding out which one ones wanted State cars, giving them not over two years except in individual situations.

It was agreed that all used cars should be put up at auction and not sold on sealed bids.



Mr. Johnson brought up the survey of the Department made about 10 years ago by the Wildlife Management Institute and said he had contacted Ira Gabrielson to see about the possibility of a repeat survey. (The Secretary was instructed to find out the cost of the first survey and the approximate cost of a repeat, exclusive of the Division of Commercial Fisheries).

Mr. Webb gave out a financial report for the Division of Game and Fish as of February 28, and Mr. Tison said he would like a breakdown to where the money came from and where it goes.

Mr. Johnson said he would like itemized expenditures for one month at one early meeting. Mr. Webb said these two requests would be taken care of.

The purchase of an office book keeping machine was authorized.

The appointment of several wardens was approved.

Mr. Webb said he had talked with Governor Russell regarding the appointment and duties of non-pay wardens, and Governor Russell had suggested the wardens be restricted to the land they were commissioned to protect, except when accompanying a regular warden.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that the policy as outlined by the governor be adopted, with the understanding it would not affect the trout deputies in Zone One.

Mr. Webb reported that the Columbia station transmitter would be shifted from the WIS tower to the Highway Department tower, this being approved on motion of Mr. Cantey.

Mr. Webb said a survey had been made in Greenville county and that a station could be placed on Highway Department property with remote control at the house of Supervisor Ross, cost being \$3,270. He said this was part of the plan for state-wide coverage and a station was also planned for Hampton or some nearby county, and also Bear Island.

Mr. Webb also said that a teletype was being ordered for the Columbia office which would be on contact with all sheriffs' offices and the larger police stations



over the State.

The Commission approved the Greenville and Hampton stations and authorized the completion of a State-wide radio hookup.

Mr. Fuller was complimented for the fish pond booklet he had prepared.

Mr. Heyward asked about the signs that had been put up at Bushy Park, and Mr. Webb said there had been arguments between skiers and anglers but that the Department could not regulate anglers.

Mr. Fuller said plans for 65 access areas were progressing satisfactorily and other State agencies were cooperating.

The proposed Hampton county lake then came up for discussion, Mr. Webb saying that he had talked with the Hampton delegation and the Department was being called on for more than had been expected. He said that at this point the Department can either go ahead or get out, his thinking being that if funds could be secured from the Highway Department it might be best to consider going along with the 700-acre lake. He suggested that the county be told it and the Highway Department would have to put up more.

There was a general discussion before adjournment for lunch.

Following lunch a motion was adopted that the cost to the Wildlife Resources Department be not more than \$75,000.

Mr. Welch presented figures on a boat for his Division and on motion of Mr. Heyward he was authorized to purchase the boat for not exceeding \$5,500, depending upon checking its condition.

Mr. Webb brought up the commissioning of a non-pay warden from Jasper county who had once been convicted of night hunting and on motion of Mr. Cox it was agreed to adhere to regulations previously established and not hire him.

Mr. Cox reported on two oyster lease hearings he had held and on motion of Mr. Tison his recommendations were accepted.

Mr. Webb inquired as to what to do about the commission for a warden who had been recommended by Governor Russell but who had not picked up the commission in the



three weeks since it had been granted. It was agreed that Mr. Webb should write the governor.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that emblems be purchased for the Commissioners.

Mr. Ryan reported briefly on the investigation being carried on in regard to furs and alligator hides being shipped from the State illegally, saying that he and Federal Agent Harold Steele had gone to New Orleans to check reports. He said that 88 persons were involved in 309 cases involving over \$41,000, including over 3,000 alligator hides. He added that he understood even more furs and hides had gone to New York.

A report from Archibald Rutledge as to dangers from big gators from Wambaw creek was received as information.

Eddie Finlay

*Eddie Finlay*

