

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT BONNEAU FERRY  
AUGUST 16, 1968

Present were Commissioners Eltzroth, Cantey, Eppes, Glenn and Mishoe, Directors Webb and Lunz, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Ed Latimer and Gene Howell.

Dr. Lunz said that Attorney Wayne Unger, who represents Fontaine, in the oyster lease hearing between Baldwin and Flowers had asked for a continuance and it had been decided that this should be granted. It was agreed that the hearing should be held in September on a Friday, if possible, and Mr. Eltzroth told Dr. Lunz that he should notify Mr. Unger of the requirements that had not been met and also notify the attorneys for the other parties.

Dr. Lunz then brought up a letter from Assistant Attorney General Latimer in which Mr. Latimer stated that from now on all oyster leases must be actually surveyed and platted by a registered surveyor. The lease holder must pay for the survey.

Major Cantey asked about the status of certain disputed oyster grounds at Pawley's Island and Dr. Lunz explained the situation. Mr. Latimer said that a test case was planned but that nothing had been settled to date.

The question of issuing a permit to the Trade School at Beaufort for operating a shrimp boat has been settled, Dr. Lunz said. The officials of the school had agreed the catch would not be sold and therefore there was now no objection to him issuing a simple permit.

The submission of budgets to the special budget committee was brought up.

Dr. Lunz said that Mr. Baldwin had asked him to present a request to the Commission regarding ownership of the white porpoise off Beaufort if it should be caught. Under the request, title to the porpoise would remain in the State in the name of the Commission, even though the porpoise was carried to Florida. Mr. Latimer said the Commission did not have the authority to claim title without legislative action and Dr. Lunz was asked to notify Mr. Baldwin of this.



The Commission authorized Dr. Lunz to notify the real estate agent for the property being rented by his Division that it would not move before June 30, 1970, provided appropriations are made. The rental for the offices, with the improvements, will be \$125 a month.

Mr. Eltzroth then brought up the serious crab mortality that has occurred for the past three years, saying that a long range study was needed. He said there was a good possibility of obtaining funds through the Coastal Plains Committee but from \$200,000 to \$500,000 or \$600,000 was needed.

Dr. Lunz said work had been started at Bears Bluff on the problem and he was hopeful of receiving help from the federal disaster funds.

Mr. Eltzroth said funds were available from the appropriations of \$50,000 from last year and \$50,000 from the current year. He added that men trained in detecting blood parasitism in crabs were on the staff of the laboratories but that the outbreak was apparently over for this year.

Mr. Cantey asked Dr. Lunz whether the mapping that had been done by the Division of Commercial Fisheries would not be accepted for the platting of oyster leases. Dr. Lunz said the division plats could be used for reference but that each lease had to be surveyed and platted by a registered surveyor.

Mr. Glenn asked about Charley Bearden's program and budget for a sports fishing program and Dr. Lunz said that \$30,000 had been approved for the sport fishing survey with Mr. Bearden in charge and with an assistant. He said equipment was already being purchased.

Mr. Eltzroth said that he had contacted the senior member of delegations of the coastal counties regarding where they wished the three fishing reefs to be located, and one meeting had already been held at Myrtle Beach for Horry and Georgetown counties. He said apparently the federal government was entering on a 50-50 basis. He said a meeting would be held in Charleston Thursday and another



one in Beaufort at a later date--the first for Charleston--Colleton and the second for Beaufort--Jasper.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Each Commissioner was authorized to approve the commissioning of non-pay wardens for his district by next week, Mr. Webb saying that the briefcase containing his recommendations had been misplaced.

The matter of air-conditioning houses at Belmont, Bear Island and Styx was discussed, Mr. Webb saying that central air-conditioning units could be installed at around \$825 per house. The Director was authorized to accept the lowest bids on four, or possibly five, houses, and to proceed in the normal course of handling.

Installation of an elevator at Dirleton was approved on motion of Mr. Cantey. Mr. Nelson stated that Mr. Samworth was anxious to get the elevator, as he had trouble getting up to the third floor, and he believed it could be installed for around \$4,500.

It was decided not to take up the pollution matter involving a fish kill by the J. P. Stevens Company plant in Chesterfield county on the Pee Dee River after Mr. Fuller said the investigation had not been completed.

Mr. Webb said there had been some new developments in regard to securing more land adjoining the Barnwell hatchery but that there was nothing definite to report on negotiations.

A general discussion of the duck and goose seasons then followed after Mr. Webb had reported on the Flyway Council meeting and his subsequent trip to Washington. He said the Commission had a choice of a 40-day season with four ducks or a 50-day season with three ducks. He also said there could be a closing date of January 15, a week or so later than in previous years. He also said that a later opening of the goose season in the north had been proposed but definite dates had not been decided upon. He also said there would be 10 days in which to



notify Washington of what seasons were wanted.

There was some discussion among the Commissioners as to whether the 40 or the 50-day season would be selected. After Mr. Webb said he believed the interests of most sportsmen would be best served by the 40-day season, a motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that this season be selected, Mr. Mishoe seconding.

Mr. Eltzroth said he wished the minutes of the meeting to show the appreciation of the Commission to the National Waterfowl Council for its good judgement in selecting Mr. Webb as chairman and at the same time to compliment Mr. Webb on the splendid work he has done.

Mr. Glenn mentioned the fact that Major Cantey's birthday was Friday and all members of the Commission paid tribute to his service to the Commission and to the State.

Mr. Nelson distributed schedules of the management area hunts and samples of the permits, saying that the permit system had been studied and he believed the one adopted was the best. He said all persons hunting either large or small game would have to have permits.

Mr. Eltzroth mentioned that this had not been in effect last year for small game on all the areas.

A discussion followed as to the practicality of all hunters being checked in and out and Mr. Webb said there were several drawbacks, the most important being the drain on enforcement personnel.

Mr. Mishoe asked whether permits could be revoked and after some discussion it was agreed that: "A rule and regulation of the Commission be promulgated that any and all hunting permits issued by the Department can be revoked by the Director or his authorized agents and that the Director or his authorized agents can also refuse to issue such permits when they consider it not in the best interests of all concerned."

The possibility of opening the landing at Dirleton to the public was dis-



cussed, and Mr. Eltzroth said he had taken it up with senators of the neighboring counties.

Mr. Glenn suggested that the minutes show that the informal suggestions made prior to the meeting by Senator Dennis regarding higher salaries for conservation officers and the appointing of more part-time conservation officers had been discussed.

In answer to a question from Dr. Lunz, the following resolution was adopted: "Be it resolved by the Commission that in all future hearings requested of the Commission that they be held by one or more Commissioners designated by the Chairman and that such hearing officer or officers shall make a report to the full Commission for action."

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 8 p. m. September 4 at Palmetto Bluff.

The meeting then adjourned but in an informal discussion of the handling of saltwater fishing licenses, particularly shrimping licenses, the Commission authorized Mr. Webb and Mr. Buchanan to work out a system with Dr. Lunz for handling licenses and the two Directors were authorized to pool their resources in regard to the sale of all licenses.

*Eddie Finlay*

