

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA DECEMBER 12, 1963

All Commissioners were present, along with Directors Webb and Lunz and Mr. Nelson, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Fickling, Mr. Wolling, Mr. Welch. Also present were Mr. Dixon and Mr. Moore of the Arthur Andersen company and George Lucas, representing State Auditor Jim Smith.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and Mr. Johnson suggested that Mr. Moore and Mr. Dixon might present their recommendations on reporting and procedures for book-keeping and accounting. Mr. Moore said they would be glad to do this, adding that the study requested by the Governor was not yet ready for clearance.

Mr. Dixon started reading the report, first taking up the recommendations on Organization.

Mr. Cantey pointed out that some of the suggested changes would be dependent upon action by the General Assembly.

Mr. Moore stated that the report was concerned with delineation of organizational lines and its adoption would free the Commission of administrative responsibilities.

The next phase taken up was Reporting, at which point Mr. Cox inquired as to the meaning of "internal control" as opposed to "external controls." These were explained.

Mr. Heyward said he did not see how one of these reports and its recommendations could be sensibly taken up without the other, and why not wait until both could be studied at the same time. Mr. Cox agreed and said there should be plenty of time for study.

Mr. Moore stated that one of the most important things was to get a good fiscal auditor and that there was no one now qualified for the position in the Department.

Mr. Johnson asked if the present system were not set up more for reporting to the Governor and the Budget and Control Board than for reporting to the Commissioners.

The next phase of the report taken up was on Procedures and Mr. Dixon explained in detail how the suggested system would work.

Mr. Johnson said the Commission was unable to know what the total cost of a project would be and Mr. Moore explained how the suggested system would enable the Commission

to keep up with the progress of the projects, as well as determine their future costs. He added that this would not "put the projects in a straight jacket."

Mr. Johnson said that in the past the Commission had not had the opportunity to pass upon the various projects, specifically mentioning the marsh hen study. He said the only reports received by the Commission were flat fund expenditures and the projects had not had termination dates or authorization.

Mr. Cantey then inquired about the purchasing system of the State and Mr. Lucas said the auditor's office was awaiting a report of a study ordered by the Governor. He said that at present each Department had pretty much its own procedure.

Mr. Dixon then explained recommendations for simplification of the voucher system which would reduce clerical costs, also suggesting that a card be set up for each license agent. He then cited examples of unnecessary record keeping.

Mr. Moore said that he did not expect the recommendations would be approved per se and that reporting should be geared to the organization and not to a theoretical organization.

At this point Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Lucas if he cared to make any comment and Mr. Lucas said that it was a good report and that any minor differences of opinion could be ironed out.

Mr. Johnson said his main objection to the system was that the Commission did not know how much was being spent on the various projects nor how long they would go on. He said the Commission should be better informed on what was going on, since the responsibility was on the Commission for expending funds.

Mr. Cox moved that the report be received as information and that as soon as the other report and its recommendations were made available that the entire matter be considered.

Mr. Johnson said he was pleased with the report and said that if the recommendations were adopted what would be the best method of implementing them?

Mr. Moore said the most important factor in implementing the recommendations would be the selection of a competent fiscal officer, and that this officer should confer with the Andersen officials. He said it was important that there be someone in the Department the Andersen company could work with.

In answer to a question as to how many State department have comptrollers, Mr. Lucas mentioned the ones that did, including the colleges, the board of health and the forestry commission.

Mr. Cox then brought up a requested hearing on an oyster lease matter. There was a general discussion of what this might mean in regard to the holding of similar hearings, Dr. Lunz pointing out that it might mean that every decision could be followed by a hearing.

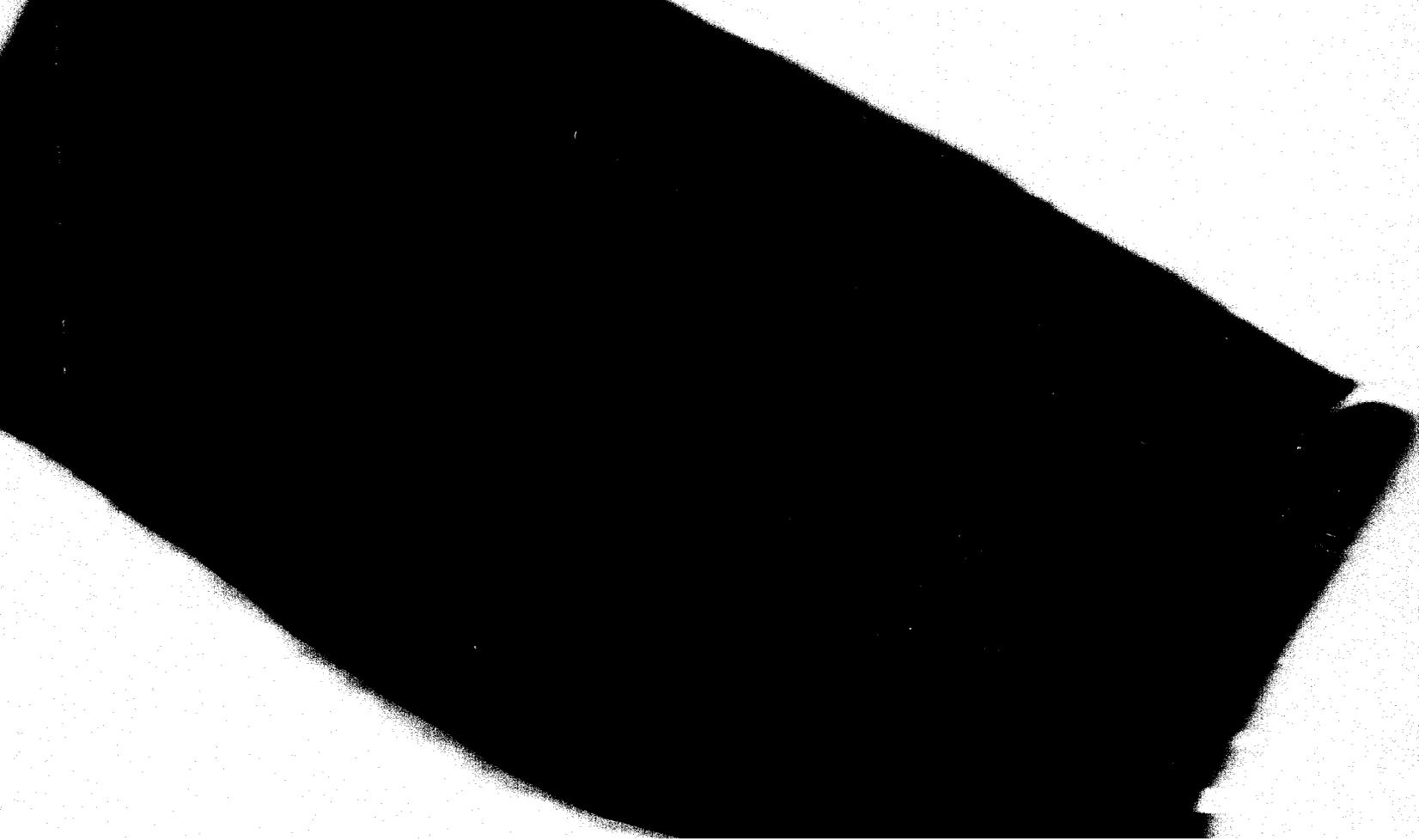
Mr. Heyward said that this would mean too much work on Mr. Cox if the Commission must rehear the entire case on each disputed oyster lease.

Mr. Tison said he did not think the Commission could delegate its responsibility to one man (Mr. Cox) and it was the Commission's duty to hear and pass on the disputes.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that the attorneys involved in the matter of Roscoe Mitchell vs. Blue Channel Corporation be heard at the meeting January 9. (Subsequently it was agreed that this would be the first order of business at the meeting and Mr. Johnson instructed the Secretary to write Calhoun Thomas, Brantley Harvey, Jr., and Henry Gaud, attorneys in the case.

At this point Mr. Heyward said he would like to offer a resolution commending Mr. Wolling for the fine job he has done for more than 20 years in keeping the books and records so efficiently. (He also suggested that after the resolution was drawn up it should be circulated for it to be signed by all Commissioners.)

Mr. Cantey moved that a resolution be drawn up clarifying the Commission's position regarding hearings on oyster leases which had been taken at a previous meeting. Mr. Cox agreed to draw up the resolution.



The meeting then adjourned for lunch.

Dr. Lunz then brought up the matter of leave for employees, citing an employee who went to National Guard Camp for two weeks during the summer. He asked whether this should be charged against annual leave.

Mr. Nelson said he had talked with the Attorney General regarding a similar case and had been told that the individual should get the two weeks in addition to regular leave.

Dr. Lunz was instructed to write the Attorney General for a ruling and clarification on the matter.

The matter of a manual of procedure for wardens was brought up and Mr. Ryan said he was studying those of 15 states and apparently that of North Carolina was the best, and he would have a report later.

The question of appointing assistant supervisors was discussed at some length, Mr. Johnson saying there should be a chain of command and there was a big jump from the supervisor down to the wardens.

Mr. Cox made a motion, subsequently withdrawn, that Mr. Webb and Mr. Ryan be authorized to choose a head warden for one or more counties and that the term be specified as for one year unless he be removed for cause.

After some more discussion it was agreed that it would be best to wait until the next meeting and to make recommendations as to the best plan at that time.

Mr. Johnson criticized the Department magazine and said that if it is continued something should be done about making it self-supporting.

Mr. Johnson read a letter from Rep. Harwell of Florence regarding construction of a public pond in the county.

Mr. Fuller said he had investigated the two proposed sites and said either might provide fair fishing but that due to their shallowness there would be a severe weed problem, and it would not be feasible to fertilize. Mr. Fuller was instructed to write

Mr. Harwell and discuss the matter further, telling him it would not be as beneficial as he had hoped and small ponds would be better.

Mr. Heyward asked about the recently announced plant for the Orangeburg area and its possible pollution in the Edisto.

Mr. Johnson said apparently the plant planned to do everything possible to prevent pollution. He then read a clipping from a daily paper regarding a protest by a Mr. McCoy against proposed federal control of pollution. Mr. Johnson said he had never heard of the organization Mr. McCoy represented.

Mr. Ryan reported that the Greenville station was ready to go but an operator is needed, and asked the Commission to approve hiring a full-time operator. Mr. Heyward moved and Mr. Tison seconded that an operator be approved for the station.

Mr. Webb was instructed to set a date for the opening and the Secretary was instructed to handle publicity.

It was brought out that the Wildlife Federation was meeting Sunday morning in Columbia.

The proposed trout stocking programs was praised by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson mentioned some leaflets by the Paducah Chamber of Commerce which told of striped bass brought in from South Carolina.

Some appointments and reappointments were approved, including a request that a non-pay Georgetown warden be given county-wide authority.

The question of a 90-horse motor bought by the Georgetown delegation from funds credited to the county then came up for discussion, Mr. Webb and Mr. Ryan both saying that they had known nothing about this until informed that it had been purchased. Mr. Webb pointed out that it exceeded the \$50 limit for purchases without formal approval.

The question of the boat's safety with this big motor was brought up and it was agreed that the motor was too big for the boat.

After more discussion a motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that: "Mr. Webb write and

advise the Georgetown delegation that the motor could not be purchased unless they went through regular channels; and that although the Department wished to cooperate with the delegation it could not recommend such an over-sized motor which was definitely dangerous."

The Commission authorized the hiring of a replacement man at the York county game hatchery.

Mr. Webb then presented a report of the federal study of the rockfish in the Congaree. Since there were only a few copies it was agreed that they would be circulated among the Commissioners.

Mr. Webb was granted authority to sign a lease agreement with the Santee-Cooper authority for land for a wardens' headquarters in Clarendon county.

Dr. Lunz said that his Division had no money to make maps and mark shad sets in the Savannah River, as requested by an act of the last General Assembly. He said that he had informed legislators of the counties involved that he would be impossible to comply due to lack of funds.

A salary adjustment for Biologist Warren Blandin was approved.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Cox said that he would take no part in the oyster lease hearing January 9 and that "he would not say whether the report should go to the attorneys requesting the hearing, and other attorneys, because he felt he should take no part in determining the issue."

Eddie Finlay