

WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

December 18, 1970

Columbia, South Carolina

Chairman Eltzroth called the regular December monthly meeting of the Wildlife Resources Commission to order at 10:20 A.M. in the Commission Room at the offices of the Department in Columbia. Commission members in addition to Chairman Eltzroth were Vice-Chairman Glenn, Commissioners Mishoe, Rhame and Eppes. Commissioners Thompson and Williams were unable to be present. Members of the Staff present included Executive Director Webb, Dr. Timmerman, Pat Ryan, Ed Latimer, Brock Conrad, Jeff Fuller, Joe Logan, T. C. Welch, Gene Howell and Frank Nelson.

On the motion of Commissioner Eppes, the minutes of the November meeting were accepted without objection.

Executive Director Webb reported that as a result of his discussions with Dr. Priester, that the Department of Health had prepared a new news release concerning mercury pollution in South Carolina waters. This release had been reviewed on the previous Friday and contained statements that clearly set forth the condition as it existed and removed the hysterics from the situation as a previous Health Department release had caused. It stated in part that the taking of shad in the lower Savannah River would be permitted and that the only place in South Carolina where fish were deemed unfit for human consumption, excepting shad, was that portion of the Savannah from Augusta to the sea. It further stated that all other waters of the State had been monitored and found that if mercury was present, it was in such low levels that the fish taken from such waters were safe for human consumption. It was understood that this release was to be made available to the public at an early date and if not already released to the news release, would be done so shortly.

The question of contributing construction funds to the Marine Resources Division from both the Boating Section and the Law Enforcement Section was next on the agenda. Executive Director Webb reported that because of an existing reserve fund, the Boating Section could make available at this time the sum of \$50,000.00 and also that its budget for coming years could provide a monthly maintenance payment of \$490.00.

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Mr. Webb continued that the Law Enforcement budget, as financed from Game and Fresh Water fisheries license income, was extremely critical and it seemed doubtful that any appreciable sum could be realized from this source. He noted that for the current fiscal year the sum of \$161,000.00 was appropriated for Marine uses, which paid for enforcement in the Marine area. He hoped that through cautious spending in this account, that funds could be left over at the end of the fiscal year and could be made available for this purpose. At this time, he had not had an opportunity to thoroughly project expenditures and report what this amount might be on June 30, 1971.

Mr. Ryan further substantiated the tightness of the Law Enforcement Section budget and noted the need for approximately 75 replacement vehicles before the end of the fiscal year. These vehicles will cost the Department considerably more than in past years because of the change in manufacturers' policy which has removed the fleet sales advantage. He also noted that at the present time he was withholding the purchase of various pieces of equipment because of the financial situation.

At the January meeting, the Executive Director will have reviewed this situation, projected the expenditures in the Marine Section of Law Enforcement and will have prepared an estimate of funding that may be made available.

In the discussion on this item, a number of questions and comments were made relative to the costs of the present office facilities for the Marine Law Enforcement at Maybank Highway and the Boating Division in its current location.

Jeff Fuller reported that he had received one bid for the sale of the weed control chemicals which are stored in Anderson County. This bid, in the amount of \$5.58 per gallon was received from Lebanon Chemical Corporation and a condition of the sale included our paying the cost of transportation to Lebanon, Pennsylvania. On the motion of Commissioner Mishoe and seconded by Commissioner Rhame, Mr. Fuller was authorized and instructed to complete the sale of this material and to make the proceeds of the sale available to the Anderson County fund.

Executive Director Webb reported that a committee of the Southeastern Section of the American Fisheries Society had prepared a report on the monetary values of fish in public waters. He explained that this study, in which Hilton Phillips of our Department participated, provided the basic values which have long been needed in calculating losses due to pollution and other reasons in public waters. He stated that Mr. Logan, who had requested consideration



of the report by the Commission, hoped that it could be supported by the Commission, and that it would provide a universal baseline of fish values.

Chairman Eltzroth requested that copies of the report be made available to each Commission member so that they might review it and act upon it at a later date. On the motion of Commissioner Rhame, seconded by Commissioner Mishoe, the Commission voted that a sub-committee be appointed by the Chairman to review this report and make its recommendation to the Commission.

In a later Executive session, the Chairman appointed a sub-committee composed of Commissioner Mishoe, as Chairman, Mr. Rhame, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Williams to report on the recommendations of the Southeastern Section of the American Fisheries Society.

The Commission saw no reason to discuss Item V of the agenda, dealing with non-discrimination. They stated that this had always been the policy of the Department and that it will continue to be so. No further action was taken or required on the item.

The next item of business was the appointment of Conservation Officers. Vice-Chairman Glenn moved, Commissioner Mishoe seconded, that the appointments contained on the list as mailed to each Commission member be approved, subject to the approval by Commissioners Thompson and Williams of those appointments within their districts. This motion was carried.

Commissioner Rhame inquired if Rembert Dennis, Jr. could not receive a Conservation Officer commission. Executive Director Webb replied that there was no reason why this should not be done and that it was solely an oversight that it had not been done.

Considerable discussion concerned the appointment of Mr. Jackson to fill the long vacant Conservation Officer position in Charleston County. This discussion did not concern itself with the qualifications of the applicant, but whether it was necessary, in view of budget conditions, to make the appointment at this time. Executive Director Webb stated that it had been difficult to find a qualified man in the area and that there was considerable need for filling the position. This was further substantiated by Mr. Ryan. He stated that the officer's responsibilities would include a portion of the Francis Marion National Forest which is a part of our most important game management area program and also the complex estuarine area adjacent to McClellanville. He stated that there was a great need here and

that Mr. Jackson was ably qualified to fill these responsibilities. On the motion of Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Commissioner Glenn, the appointment was approved.

The several accident reports which were completed and submitted to the Commission, reviewed. All of those received, except the accident in which a State vehicle operated by Conservation Officer Roy Parker was involved, was approved. This report will receive further consideration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Finance - no report.
- b. Lake Hartwell - no report.
- c. Santee canal - no report.
- d. Radio - Commissioner Glenn stated that reports will be made at January meeting.
- e. Inter-agency - no report.
- f. Off-duty - no report.
- g. Permit fees - no report.
- h. Magazine - Chairman Eltzroth reported that when he had breakfast with Governor-elect West two weeks ago, Governor-elect West had complimented the appearance and contents of the Department's magazine. He also voiced the opinion that his administration was going to base many of its decisions on whether the program pays its way or not. Following this concept, he could see no reason why anyone would hesitate paying a reasonable subscription fee for this publication. Mr. Eltzroth also noted that he had talked to approximately a dozen people in all walks of life and that everyone had spoken favorably of the publication and was whole-heartedly in concurrence with the thought that it should be no longer be made available at no cost.

Commissioner Mishoe stated that the report of his committee was substantially the same as the Chairman had just reported. He stated that he and other members of the Commission had also mentioned this to various people throughout the State and all were in agreement that a subscription charge would benefit the magazine and that it should be done. He therefore moved that the yearly subscription price would be \$1.00 per year, individual copies

would sell for 25¢ each, that such charges would be made after the March issue and that after the March issue, the magazine would be published 6 times per year instead of the present 4 times. This motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mishoe also noted the need of a full time professional photographer for use by both the magazine and the I&E Section. He noted that John Culler had expressed the need in his presentation during the past Commission meeting and that it was substantiated by Chief of I&E. He believed that this was an urgent need and he therefore moved that such a position be established and filled. This motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Glenn and the motion was unanimously carried. Filling of the position will be in accordance with the existing personnel system.

Chairman Eltzroth noted that the ninth item on the agenda was the consideration of the transfer of Hampton County in District 4 to District 3. He said that he personally felt this was needed and that it would better equalize the personnel and responsibilities in these two districts. He also noted that Executive Director Webb had this under consideration for sometime. Without further discussion, this motion was unanimously carried.

At 11:05 A. M. the Commission went into Executive Session and continued in such session until 12:10 A. M. At that time, the Chairman reported the appointment of the sub-committee to consider the monetary values of fish, as reported previously in these minutes.

He also noted that they had considered the request by landowners for assistance in patrolling their lands to prevent trespass. He noted that the Department is not in a position where it can provide this type of assistance and that the policy as it has existed will continue.

At this point, Dr. Timmerman presented his progress report, dated December 18, 1970. A copy of this report is attached to the file copy of these minutes.

There was some additional discussion concerning Item II of Dr. Timmerman's progress report. This concerned the acquisition of additional lands at Fort Johnson from the College of Charleston and the Medical University. It was agreed that this acquisition should be pursued and arranged for at the earliest practical date.

The report was accepted as prepared.

The Commission went on record as expressing its appreciation for the fine work done by Tom Linton in preparing the new printing of the game and fresh water laws of South Carolina. Most important in this publication is the new index which has been so badly needed for too many years. The Secretary was instructed to express these comments by letter to Mr. Linton.

Chairman Eltzroth, on behalf of the Commission, noted that this meeting was the last of the calendar year and wished to express on behalf of the Commission the appreciation of the excellent work which had been done by Executive Director Webb, Directors Ryan and Timmerman.

Dr. Timmerman reported on the work of Senator Waddell's committee dealing with water resources and was especially concerned with the tidelands legislation. This was contained in a report prepared by the committee and he asked that copies of this report be made available to the Commission and to interested persons within the Department for their review and recommendations. The Columbia office of the committee had previously stated that copies of the report were unavailable. Chairman Eltzroth felt that he could receive such additional copies through the assistance of Senator Waddell and if these are not available, then the Secretary will reproduce sections of the report concerned with tidelands for distribution.

Vice-Chairman Glenn presented a letter from a Beaufort area shrimper which Chairman Eltzroth read. This letter pointed out the apparent southward migration of shrimp along the South Carolina coast and especially off Beaufort. He asked that the season for the taking of such shrimp be extended because if these mature shrimp are not taken in South Carolina waters, they will be further south in Georgia. The Chairman, after consultation with Mr. Bearden, was authorized by the Commission to take such action as Mr. Bearden may recommend.

On the motion of Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Commissioner Glenn, the employment of Lockwood Green for the sum of \$26,000.00 to prepare engineering plans for the replacement boat slip at Fort Johnson was authorized.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 12:35 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,


Roger A. Seamans, Secretary

RAS/pal

