

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA DECEMBER 19, 1969

All members of the Commission were present, as well as Major Cantey, Jim Webb, Pat Ryan, Tommy Welch, Frank Nelson, Jeff Fuller, Ed Latimer, Charlie Bearden, Gene Howell, Brock Conrad, Joe Logan, Fred Ramage, Roger Seamans.

Following an executive session, Chairman Eltzroth took up the discussions and negotiations that had gone on in regard to the establishment of the marine laboratories at Fort Johnson. He said a meeting had been set up for Tuesday with the trustees.

Mr. Eltzroth said that there was a strip of land between the boat slip and the road in front of the president's house which would be acquired from the College of Charleston, and that the Commission would allow them to use and beautify this strip so long as it does not impede ingress and egress to the boat slip. He also said that the Commission should agree that it would not use the strip for any purpose not approved by the Medical University, since the President lived there.

He said it would be at least 1972 before the Medical University's part could be secured.

The Commission then adopted a motion by Mr. Glenn, seconded by Mr. Eppes, approving action taken in regard to actions taken with the Medical University.

Mr. Eltzroth then said that a meeting had been set up with the College of Charleston for 11 o'clock Tuesday with the trustees of the College, the meeting with the Medical University being set for 9 o'clock. He said the check for \$20,000 should be ready for him to transfer on Tuesday.

He said that it was his understanding that the following would happen: 1. They will give us the deed for a little over seven acres, that includes the boat



slip and certain parts on each side of it. He added that he thought the seven acres would take care of all needs for the immediate future. The \$20,000 for that seven acres would include a fee simple title. At the same time, he said, the Commission would get an option from them to sell most of the balance if they do not become a state institution.

Mr. Eltzroth said that the \$20,000 would have nothing to do with the fair market value other than as a comparable sale and that the fair market value would have to be determined by mutual understanding. If agreement was not reached there there have to be either arbitration or trial in the courts. If, however, they became a state institution the land could be transferred to the Commission without cost, and that is what is hoped can be worked out on Tuesday.

He said proper people in federal government would be contacted regarding the transfer and the equity proposition can be worked out. A total of \$20,000 is needed but only \$11,000 will be paid to clear things up and then the General Assembly will be asked for 100 acres for an animal farm, the move to the new location not expected before January 1972.

Mr. Eltzroth then read a letter from Walter L. Shaffer, chairman of the board of the Bears Bluff trustees, saying that they wished to terminate state affiliations as of December 31. Mr. Shaffer said that the trustees appreciated the support given Bears Bluff by the Commission and offered any help with the new Fort Johnson facility.

He said he had sent this on to Mr. Webb and suggested that it be turned over to the Secretary.

He also said that the Commission appreciated the work done by Dr. Lunz and the staff of Bears Bluff and suggested that a resolution to this effect be adopted. This was done on motion of Mr. Eppes, seconded by Mr. Mishoe and Mr. Mishoe and Mr.



Glenn were named to the committee to draw up the proper resolution to be sent to Mr. Shaffer and Mrs. Lunz.

The Commission then took up the tidelands study, thanking Mr. Fuller for the fine work he had done in working with the South Carolina Water Resources Commission in drawing the report up as well as other Department personnel.

He said that he had not had an opportunity to study the report but had consulted regarding pending federal legislation calling upon all states to set up coastal zone authorities which will participate in anticipated federal funds.

He also mentioned the danger of federal domination of such a project, as well as the probability that various state agencies would think they were the proper one to handle the work. He said he believed the Budget and Control Board should run the project and had so written the Governor.

Mr. Webb reported on what he and Mr. Bearden had done regarding papers and material at Bears Bluff which was the property of South Carolina. He said much had been taken for storage at Fort Johnson and files currently in use will be picked up around January 1.

Mr. Glenn asked about the library and Mr. Bearden said this was being left to the last, and he would go over it and decide what should go the State and what remain in the Bears Bluff Library. He said the accumulation of information was of considerable value.

Mr. Webb said he had taken up with the Budget and Control Board the operation and transfer of funds to the Division of Marine Resources but said no problem was expected.

Mr. Glenn asked about personnel from Bears Bluff being employed by the Commission and Mr. Webb said those wishing to come had been asked to file application, and their names were on the salary list which the Commission had taken up. He also said the Budget and Control Board had authorized the payment of Dr. Lunz' salary through January, but that he had died the day after the action



was taken.

Mr. Bearden explained a pending project.

Mr. Webb reported on the financial condition of the Division of Game and said the only area of concern was where between \$600,000 and \$700,000 was tied up in funds credited to the counties, and could not be expended except with the authority of the delegations.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Mr. Ryan and Mr. Seamans reported on the study of employee classification and it was agreed the group should meet again in January. A letter had gone out over Mr. Webb's signature to all employees for suggestion on classification.

Mr. Glenn reported on the committee appointed to study space requirements and it was received as information. Mr. Eltzroth suggested that a report on it be made at the next meeting.

Mr. Ryan said that Tom Linton is making good progress on reindexing the game and fish laws and bringing them up to date.

The salary schedule for farm laborers was brought up and it was agreed that no changes would be made in the suggestions.

A number of appointments and reappointments were approved.

The coming Federation awards were discussed and Mr. Rhame, Mr. Eppes and Mr. Thompson were named to make recommendations with Mr. Webb being an ex officio member.

Action on possible restriction on the use of watercraft in certain waters was continued to the next meeting.

Mr. Bearden reported on certain oyster leases and Mr. Eltzroth asked him to make written reports that could be studied by the Commission prior to the next meeting.



Ben Heyward was reappointed to survey applications and his work in the past was praised by Mr. Webb.

The January meeting was set for Belmont January 15-17.

The Commission then adjourned but a few minutes later was called back into session, Mr. Williams having already left.

Mr. Eltzroth said he had received a call from Mac Gibson in Charleston.

He said the College of Charleston had said they would have the papers of understanding ready for the Tuesday meeting but now Mr. Gibson said they wanted to give 7.1 acres now and the Department pay \$20,000 for it, and at some later date have the rest of the property appraised and at that time pay the balance of the whole amount.

*Eddie Finley*

EF:jc



Following are the corrected minutes of the Commission meeting held December 19, 1969:

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would get an option from them to sell all of the balance except approximately three acres upon which is situated the George Grice Laboratories. If the college becomes a State Institution there would be no charge, if not the cash would be the fair market value.

Mr. Eltzroth said that the \$20,000 would have nothing to do with the fair market value other than as a comparable sale and that the fair market value would have to be determined by mutual understanding. If agreement was not reached then there would have to be either arbitration or trial in the courts. If, however, they became a state institution the land could be transferred to the Commission without cost, and that is what is hoped can be worked out on Tuesday.

He said proper people in federal government would be contacted regarding the transfer and the equity proposition can be worked out. A total of \$20,000 is needed for the College of Charleston but only \$11,000 will be paid to clear things up between the Medical University and the federal government and then the General Assembly will be asked for 100 acres for an animal farm for the Medical University so they can move to the new location; such should not be expected before January 1972.

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He said the College of Charleston had said they would have the memorandum of understanding ready for the Tuesday meeting but now Mr. Gibson said they wanted to give 7.1 acres now and the Department pay \$20,000 down on it, and at some later date have the rest of the property appraised and at that time pay the balance of the purchase price which would be the fair market value. He also informed the Commission that according to the proposed memorandum of understanding that the additional lands of the College were proposed to be sold to the Commission at a price of not less than \$125,000, whether or not the College becomes a state institution.

It was the unanimous feeling of the Commission that no definite action be taken until approval by the Commission; and for that purpose, Mr. Eltzroth was requested to call a special meeting as soon as a definite proposal was submitted in keeping with past negotiations.

*Eddie Finlay*

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