

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT BELMONT DECEMBER 3, 1965

Present were Commissioners Parler, Cantey, Glenn and Hopkins; Jim Webb, Pat Ryan; and Advisory Committee Members Jack Carroll and Clyde Eltzroth.

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with on motion of Major Cantey.

Major Cantey inquired about the status of the federal land at Cheraw, saying that too much was at stake not to do something.

Mr. Webb said that the Forestry Commission had requested the entire 90,000 acres for forestry management, but that the Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to continue managing half as a federal refuge. He also said he saw no necessity of the Department taking any steps so long as the FWS was managing this refuge area for game.

Mr. Hopkins said something should be worked out for the field trial men.

Mr. Cantey said that he understood Tom Yawkey had indicated that he intended to leave his lands in Georgetown county to the federal government but that he might be persuaded to leave it to South Carolina instead.

Mr. Webb said that he had just learned of new developments in the situation, including the fact that Mr. Yawkey wished to work out something with Phil Wilkinson, Department biologist in the area, so that he might stay on Mr. Yawkey's place and do some work for him. He said Mr. Yawkey was very impressed with Mr. Wilkinson and was willing to absorb part of his salary.

Mr. Webb also said Mr. Yawkey told Phil Wilkinson that he was leaving his place to some governmental agency in such a way that it will not be a burden to the agency. He added that he had asked Mr. Wilkinson to talk further with Mr. Yawkey. It was suggested that Mr. Webb make arrangements for a meeting with Mr. Yawkey.

Mr. Parler also suggested that Joe Cronin, a former associate of Mr. Yawkey, whom he knew, might be approached to see if he could help.

Mr. Webb said he would not be interested if the place were to be an inviolate sanctuary.



A motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that Mr. Webb be authorized to proceed in whatever manner he deems necessary in his negotiation with Mr. Yawkey even to assigning Mr. Wilkinson to part time with Mr. Yawkey.

Mr. Glenn inquired about the status of the recreational program.

Mr. Webb then explained the present status of the program, saying \$1,150,000 was available for the current year, provided it was matched with state funds, and an estimated \$2,000,000 annually would be available hereafter. He pointed out that the Department was the state agency with which the program had been entrusted but that the various agencies must put up matching funds for any project approved for them. The Department has requested an appropriation of \$52,000 for next year.

He also said no federal money was available for administration so that when things passed the planning stage the Department could receive federal funds for administration, only when it was included in the projects.

Mr. Webb also said he had talked with the Governor about an advisory committee for handling the program, and that West Jacocks, former official with the Forestry Department, was being considered to head up the work. He said some agencies oppose the Department handling the program and favor a special agency being set up.

Mr. Cantey asked whether there was a chance of getting money to buy land and Mr. Webb said there was, and possibly Bear Island could be expanded. He added that this would be on a 50-50 basis and not 75-25 as in P. R. and D. J.

He also said expenditures had been so high that expenditures would have to be curtailed unless additional funds could be obtained.

He said it looked as if the Department would have to pay rent on its present quarters, amounting to around \$17,000 annually. He had talked with Governor McNair and Pat Smith to see if anything could be done. An appeal may be filed with the Budget and Control Board.



He also explained the background of the rent situation.

Mr. Hopkins asked about the possibility of the Department building its own building.

Mr. Webb said a meeting would be held with the Ways and Means Committee and it was suggested that Mr. Eltzroth might also attend in an effort to obtain the tax from the sale of ammunition sold in South Carolina. Mr. Webb said the ammunition tax would amount to around \$300,000 annually.

A bill is being drafted to give the Department 1-2 of one per cent of the gasoline tax for marking channels, erection of public landings, etc. This would be a portion of gas used in boats.

Mr. Webb said that unfavorable news stories in the News and Courier seemed to have died down and in his opinion it would be best to let the matter drop.

Some appointments were approved and Mr. Webb said that now he was getting the approval of the delegations on all non-pay appointments.

A motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that Mr. Webb "be directed to take such action as he deemed necessary in the matter of the Dillon county game warden", after Mr. Webb said that the warden's work had been unsatisfactory.

Mr. Eltzroth suggested that the name of the Hampton county lake be named for the late George Warren and after several Commissioners said they believed this had been done the Secretary was instructed to check the minutes of previous meetings. The Commission reaffirmed the naming of the lake as Lake George Warren.

Mr. Glenn brought up the problem of the harvesting of oysters from polluted areas, which was a tough enforced problem and was a potential danger of an outbreak of disease. He said the industry was much concerned about this and had recently hired an undercover man. This had resulted in the arrest and conviction of nine persons but the \$25 fines imposed by the magistrate were not enough to discourage the illegal harvesting. He added that if an epidemic broke out the oyster industry would be wiped out.



He suggested that for the benefit of the Commission wide publicity should be given to the fact that the Commission was trying to eliminate this illegal harvesting and was concerned about the health threat. He also suggested that those convicted might also be fined by the Board of Health, the Tax Commission and SLED.

He also suggested that the Secretary send news releases to the newspapers that attempts were being made to stamp out the osyter bootlegging. The Secretary was also instructed to contact SLED Chief Strom and Dr. Peebles, head of the Board of Health, and write all legislators from coastal counties. He was also asked to write Rivers Vaughan.

Eddie Finlay

