

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA DECEMBER 7, 1961

Present were Commissioners Johnson, Cox, Cantey, Heyward, Hopkins, Oliphant and Tison, Directors Webb and Lunz, Admiral Polatty and Jack Carroll of the Advisory Committee, Ben Heyward of Charleston, Frank Nelson, Jeff Fuller and Ed Latimer.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Director Webb reported that he had not received a report from SLED on its Francis Marion area investigation, although it had been requested.

A scheduled discussion of operation of the public fishing lakes was postponed until the arrival of Mr. Tison.

Mr. Johnson commended the Game Division for its program of cooperation with timber companies in the establishment of game management areas and for the success of the up-state hunts on such areas.

A series of maps of the oyster areas north of Charleston were shown by Ben Heyward, who said that for years a bad situation has existed in regard to details of maps presented along with lease applications. The new maps which he has been preparing show clearly where leases are located. Mr. Cox stated that he should be commended for the fine job that he is doing.

Mr. Cox said that State lands were being taken over by private interests and that others were being spoiled for oyster production but that the situation was very complicated.

Mr. Latimer, who has been making a study of coastal lands to determine title and the State's ownership, discussed legal aspects of the situation and said that no one can say definitely what the law is regarding ownership of tidelands, and there were several other legal points that would finally have to be settled by the State Supreme Court.

Admiral Polatty said that Sumter county sportsmen were concerned over the way the Manchester area is being placed almost entirely in pines and said more of the land should be preserved for hunting and other recreation. He inquired whether the Commission could make any recommendations. A suggestion of Mr. Johnson was adopted that Mr. Webb and Mr. Nelson



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COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 7, 1961

arrange a meeting between the interested Sumter sportsmen and Forestry officials and report at the next meeting.

Admiral Polatty inquired as to whether any thing was being done to set up a waterfowl area on Hartwell Lake and Mr. Webb said that this was being done. He also mentioned the North Carolina dove field plan as something that might be done by the Department to provide additional shooting.

Mr. Johnson reported on the excellent work done by the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease group on checking tularemia (rabbit fever) near Spartanburg.

The Commission approved Mr. Webb's permanent dismissal of Warden Gleaton of Orangeburg county.

A number of appointments and reappointments were approved.

Mr. Johnson said that in cases of the death of a warden some expression of sympathy should be sent the family and asked the he be notified in such cases.

The matter of purchasing a plane for the Department was brought up by Mr. Webb and he recommended purchase of a Cessna 180, cost of which would be around \$18,000 delivered with annual costs after the first year of around \$10,000, this including pilot, insurance, upkeep, etc. The pilot would be used as a regular warden when not flying. Mr. Johnson suggested a clause in the insurance that the company would not depend on immunity.

A motion of Mr. Heyward, seconded by Mr. Cox, was approved that Mr. Webb be authorized to purchase the plane.

The question of the public lake operations was then brought up, Mr. Heyward saying that even though the program was operated at a loss this would have to be balanced against the good will created and the service to the public.

A general discussion followed, during which Mr. Webb explained why different fees had been established on the lakes. He also said that if a proposed universal fishing license law were passed it would probably be possible to remove all fees on the lakes.



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 7, 1961

Mr. Tison cited the big contribution of Marlboro county to Lake Wallace and said it would be most unwise to raise the present fees.

After more general discussion it was agreed that no action should be taken regarding the Lake Wallace fees until the matter could be discussed with the delegation. It was also agreed that some general policy should be set, particularly in view of the number of lakes under construction or under consideration.

Several suggestions contained in a letter of Mr. Johnson to other Commissioners were taken up.

Mr. Webb said that in regard to Belmont timber it would be good to have a reappraisal of needs by the Forestry Commission.

Also approved was a suggestion of Mr. Cox for a stop to indiscriminate dumping of trash and garbage at Belmont, and the use of a bulldozer for burying it.

A request of Mr. Lunz for a scientific study boat was discussed at some length. All Commissioners agreed that the boat was needed and that it should be secured, the question being the best method. Both a direct appropriation to Bears Bluff and a transfer of funds were proposed. A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that a committee of Mr. Cox, Mr. Webb and Dr. Lunz study the question of the best method of securing funds for the boat, estimated to cost \$20,000 to \$30,000. Mr. Johnson also named Mr. Heyward to the committee.

Mr. Johnson said there was a big gap in communications in getting in touch with wardens except through the radios of other wardens and something should be worked out to correct this. Mr. Webb said this would require five or six stations in addition to the three now in operation, each costing around \$3,000 to install with an undetermined sum for their operation during the year.

Mr. Heyward moved that consideration of this statewide hookup be pushed and the Commission agreed.



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 7, 1961

Mr. Cantey said that the quality of game wardens and requirements for employment must be raised and that a major difficulty was that wardens could be selected only from their county.

Mr. Webb said plans were going along for the Hampton county lake.

The question of a demarcation line between salt and fresh water was brought up and it was agreed that this was badly needed.

Eddie Finlay

