

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA FEBRUARY 1, 1962

All Commissioners were present, along with Directors Webb and Lunz, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Tommy Welch and Crawford Billings.

Mr. Tison presented figures on the operation of Lakes Wallace, Johnson and Oliphant, along with a report on the uses of Lake Wallace, saying that these differed considerably from the other two lakes.

Mr. Johnson inquired why private boats were allowed on Lake Wallace, since he had thought only Department rental boats would be allowed on the public lakes.

Mr. Tison said if a man was allowed to use his own boat he would fish more and would also have a companion, and that thereby more money was taken in than would be the case if only Department boats were allowed.

Mr. Johnson also inquired why Wallace had a 50-cent fishing fee while it was \$1 at Johnson and Oliphant.

Mr. Webb said that in view of Wallace's large acreage it was advisable to encourage heavy fishing while the two smaller lakes could not stand as much pressure.

Mr. Cantey said that in view of various agreements and the fact that Lake Wallace was well serving its purpose he would hate to see the fee raised to \$1.

Mr. Webb said there was no chance of passage for the proposed universal fishing license, which would make it possible to remove fees on the lakes, and also said neither Marlboro or Spartanburg counties had enough money in their county game funds to make up any lake deficits.

Mr. Cox said that as long as expenses were at no great variance, and in view of the benefits for the people and for the Department, it would be nice not to increase the Wallace fees. He added that the Department should be content with the status for the current season with the hope the pending license bill could rectify the situation.

Mr. Cox then moved that the matter be held in abeyance for 12 months, which motion was adopted.

Mr. Tison and Mr. Oliphant brought up the possibility of using the Lake Wallace and Lake Oliphant superintendents as wardens during part of the non-fishing year.



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In answer to a question from Mr. Tison, Director Webb said there would be some expenses at the Barnwell lake, where no fee will be charged, and it might be necessary to employ a caretaker but that they should not amount to much.

Mr. Heyward said that several persons interested in shad fishing has suggested that the shad tags be eliminated and the net tax be increased to take care of any revenue loss.

Director Lunz said that it would be good if such a bill could be passed at this session to become effective July 1, 1962.

It was agreed that the special committee of Mr. Cox, Mr. Heyward and Director Lunz take care of this and other legislation that was under consideration.

In answer to a question from Mr. Heyward, Director Webb said it was impractical to eliminate early season dove shooting and explained how and why the seasons were set within the federal framework. He added that there would be a great waste of unharvested doves, since the Southeastern dove study had shown 50 per cent of the September doves would not live until the following mating season, even if there were no hunting.

Mr. Heyward asked why the radio network facilities could not be utilized by the Commercial Fisheries Division and why the Division could not be incorporated in the network.

A motion of Mr. Heyward that radios be secured for Director Lunz and his inspectors was adopted.

Director Lunz discussed the Santee oyster situation, saying that he expected the State Health Department to declare the area unpolluted this month. He said that leasing would be the best method of handling the oyster lands but that until such a system could be activated through the General Assembly--to become effective July 1, 1962--he favored a permit plan. He suggested that the Health Department be requested to give 10 days advance notice for the area to be opened so that the necessary permits could be issued.



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The Secretary was instructed to write the Water Pollution Control Authority to this effect.

Director Lunz also brought up the question of a law enforcement chief for his Division and said there were two inspectors who might do but that the salary would have to be raised to \$5,000 for moving to Charleston.

Mr. Heyward question the advisability of securing such a man, who could handle only part of the work that was necessary, when for a higher salary a more qualified person might be secured.

Director Lunz asked authority for a 10 per cent raise for Ben Heyward, who has been doing coastal mapping for the Division, and on motion of Mr. Heyward this was approved.

The Commission approved the action of Director Webb in the dismissal of Warden Long of Saluda county. He said he had told Long of the scheduled Commission meeting and he could appear before it if he cared to do so.

Director Webb's recommendation for the employment of Pat Ryan as chief of law enforcement for the Division of Game and Fish was approved.

Several appointments and reappointments of regular and non-pay wardens were approved.

Director Webb said that an option has been secured on a 1,500-acre tract on the Santee delta in which the Department had long been interested. He said that the price was \$45,000 but that federal participation would cut the cost to the Department to \$11,250.00.

Mr. Nelson said that it was fine waterfowl area and could be the start of a much larger public shooting area.

A motion of Mr. Heyward that the purchase be approved was adopted.



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Mr. Johnson brought up the matter of fixing the washing beach at the home of Supervisor Flood on Lake Moultrie and Director Webb was asked to investigate this and report at the next meeting, as well as on the possibilities of a public landing.

Director Lunz brought up his so far unsuccessful efforts to secure a boat and after some discussion it was agreed the best chance would be in the Deficiency Appropriations Bill.

He also discussed the recent shooting of Inspector Scarborough and said there might be a hearing in the case before the Industrial Commission.

Insurance on the recently-purchased plane was discussed and Director Webb was instructed to check further into the coverage.

Eddie Finlay

