

MINUTES OF MEETING

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA - FEBRUARY 18, 1972

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 A. M. by Chairman Eltzroth. Commissioners in attendance included Vice-Chairman Glenn and Commissioners Eppes and Mishoe. Also in attendance were Executive Director Webb, Major Cantey, General Harris, Pat Ryan, Charlies Bearden, T. C. Welch, John Culler, Brock Conrad, Jeff Fuller, Dr. Joseph, Dr. Timmerman, Joe Logan, Bill Chastain, Fred Ramage, Gene Howell and Ken Hare of The State newspaper.

The first order of business was the reading by the Chairman of the letter of resignation from the Executive Secretary, dated February 18, 1972, in which he informed the Commission that his employment with the Department would terminate on March 24, 1972, and therefore he would be unable to serve the Commission after that date. The resignation was regretfully accepted by the Commission.

The Minutes prepared as a result of the January meeting of the Commission were accepted as prepared.

OLD BUSINESS

Non-pay Game Wardens.

The contents of the report as prepared by Mr. Ryan and submitted in January were briefly discussed. Vice-Chairman Glenn suggested that some provision should be made for exceptions to the specified five-day training period which is a proposed prerequisite for obtaining a non-pay Game Warden Commission. Executive Director Webb also suggested that possibly a grandfather clause could be incorporated in the policy when it was finalized. Chairman Eltzroth also noted that in any event, those individuals who enforce the game laws as a part of their means of earning living on privately-owned lands should receive this training. Mr. Ryan noted that he would accept the suggestion that such training would apply only to one who makes part of his living as a "Warden".

Commissioner Mishoe moved, seconded by Commissioner Eppes, that the recommendations as prepared by Mr. Ryan, with Executive Director



Webb's concurrence, would be implemented on or before July 1, 1972. Vice-Chairman Glenn moved to amend this motion by stating that the recommendations would be implemented as prepared, except "those exceptions approved by the Commission". To this amendment, Chairman Eltzroth replied that he feared that once an exception was made to the regular policy, then a precedent would set and it would be most difficult to require such training in the cases of future applicants. After some discussion, Vice-Chairman Glenn accepted this point and withdrew the amendment. The motion then was voted upon and carried which states that the recommendations as prepared will be implemented on or before July 1, 1972, and that if the applicant does not meet the training requirements, then a commission will not be issued.

The Commission suggested and Mr. Ryan accepted, the responsibility for notifying all applicants of this policy and its requirements.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments.

The appointments as distributed by mail by the Executive Director to each member of the Commission, were approved on motion by Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Vice-Chairman Glenn, subject to approval by those Commissioners not present at this meeting and to the training requirements as authorized in the previous action of the Commission. This motion was carried.

Finance Report.

The Finance Report was briefly discussed and accepted as reported.

Equipment Cost Accounting and Inventory

The Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director explained the inventory procedure as it is presently operating and also the equipment cost accounting report. He exhibited copies of the old operational reports as were prepared earlier from source material provided by the monthly vehicle operational expense reports. Also shown was the first computer printout for operational expenses as prepared by General Services. It was noted that the computer printout could not be considered as being completed and totally accurate at this time because a total three-months input was not available for the quarterly report at this time and also that accumulative costs were in error because there was no way of re-constructing all of the past expenses for a piece of equipment. He noted that as the program continued and new pieces of equipment entered the inventory and older pieces were deleted, that the report would clarify itself and would become an accurate picture of operational



expenses. For the first time, all expenses incurred by any piece of equipment, including depreciation, insurance and other charges are being gathered by the Finance Section and entered into the program.

It also was noted that for the first time a complete listing of equipment was available. Prior to this, inventories were scattered through various Divisions and individual personnel. Personnel Inventory Accounts. This provided an opportunity for items to be left off the inventory or to improperly described. The inventory as it is presently prepared, will be updated every three months, to maintain this complete picture.

Savannah River Reciprocal Agreement.

The Reciprocal Agreement covering fishing on the Savannah River and those several impoundments which are located on the common geographical boundary between the States of South Carolina and Georgia was discussed. The new Agreement, which replaces a previous Agreement, was prepared as a result of joint meetings between representatives of the two States. The Commission accepted the revised draft as it was distributed to them and on the motion of Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Commissioner Eppes, the Executive Director was authorized to sign the subject Agreement on behalf of the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department.

Marine Resources Report

Dr. Timmerman presented his regular monthly progress report for the Marine Resources Division. Mid-way through the report, Dr. Timmerman called upon Dr. Joseph to present that portion for which he is personally responsible. In this part, he noted the progress that he and Dr. Timmerman were making in securing a suitable offshore research vessel and especially the provisions which will provide for operational funding for such a vessel.

In regard to this vessel, a motion was entered by Commissioner Eppes, seconded by Vice-Chairman Glenn, which authorized the acquisition of a suitable research vessel, such acquisition to be in accordance with the good judgment of both the Executive Director and the Director of the Marine Resources Division. The motion was carried.

Charles Bearden also was asked by Dr. Timmerman to report on those parts of the report which fall within his Section. He noted the studies which were underway and the good progress which was being made in the completion of the shellfish leasing arrangements.

Following the completion of the Marine Resources Report, a brief discussion was had concerning overhead figures which are being used



in requests for various Federal Aid funding and for grants. Both Dr. Timmerman and Dr. Joseph noted that an arbitrary figure of 25% was being utilized and that this was treated as in-kind contribution to the project. Chairman Eltzroth voiced concern as to the amount of this and said he hoped that great care would be taken to insure that overhead did not reach such levels as are found in other institutional levels which might indicate an undesirable organizational structure. Both Dr. Timmerman and Dr. Joseph assured the Commission that this would not happen and that the present more detailed cost accounting procedures would provide a better insight in this area.

Game and Freshwater Fisheries Report.

Mr. Ryan presented the monthly progress report for his Division. This report is as printed and attached as a part of our copy of these Minutes. Joe Logan was called upon to explain more fully what was meant by a two-story lake, as suggested for the management for Lake Jocassee. He noted that bodies of water of sufficient depth and with a well distributed oxygen content, it is possible to provide fishing for a cold water species in the deeper areas and warm water species in the upper, warmer layers. If this can be accomplished at Lake Jocassee, it will be one of the few opportunities in the Southeast where a fisherman may obtain both trout and the normal warm water species in the same body of water.

Chairman Eltzroth inquired of Mr. Ryan if commercial fishermen have been consulted in the formulation of the proposed herring proposals. It was further suggested by Chairman Eltzroth that such commercial fishermen should be fully consulted in this matter before the herring regulations were finalized and adopted.

Chairman Eltzroth also inquired if any thought had been given to placing all of the consideration for shad fishing in one Division's responsibility. As it presently exists, the preparation of regulations and the licensing for shad fishing falls within the responsibilities of the Marine Resources Division, the research and other investigational work concerning this species is presently being carried on by the Game and Freshwater Fisheries Division. After brief discussion, it was suggested that Dr. Timmerman, Pat Ryan and Executive Director Webb discuss this in more detail and present at the next regular meeting of the Commission suggestions concerning this matter.

The discussion of herring and shad reminded General Harris of a condition presently existing at the Locks on Lake Moultrie. This has been emphasized to the General by numerous camp owners who are greatly concerned as to what steps are being taken to insure that the herring can be locked through into the lakes this year as has been done in passed seasons.



As of this date, a barge lies sunken in the Locks and the Locks are inoperative because of this accident. It is alleged that action is not being taken because of indecision as to who has financial responsibilities for the removal of this piece of equipment.

Chairman Eltzroth noted that the Department should contact the South Carolina Public Service Authority and inform them of the long standing arrangement which they have had with the Department concerning the operation of the Locks for the benefit of the herring, the striped bass and the fisherman and to express the need for the continuation of this operation. Executive Director Webb was instructed to do this at the earliest practical date.

Commissioner Mishoe inquired why the Department should not work also with the Corps of Army Engineers to solve this problem, because this was essentially a navigational problem and he felt it was their responsibility. At this point, Chairman Eltzroth appointed Commissioner Mishoe to represent the Commission in this regard and to investigate what can be done to rectify the problem.

Legislation.

Mr. T. C. Welch discussed the proposed new legislation to update the existing boating laws for South Carolina. The first discussion in this matter concerned Executive Director's suggestion to include sailboats in the proposal so that such sailboats would be covered by licensing requirements. It was decided that this might affect the overall legislation and on the motion of Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Vice-Chairman Glenn, the matter of sailboat licensing would be removed from this proposal. This motion was carried.

The next matter for discussion in this proposed legislation was the suggestion by Commissioner Mishoe that boat registrations be of some form of water-proofed construction so that they could be secured to the boat. This matter was further discussed by Chairman Eltzroth because it relates to the reasoning why the proposed legislation contains a section which excepts boat liveries from having the registration in the boat. Mr. Welch in response, noted that it was difficult to maintain the boat registration if unknown numbers of people were to have it and that invariably it got mutilated, lost or was unknowingly taken home by the fisherman running the boat.

On the motion of Vice-Chairman Glenn, seconded by Commissioner Eppes, it was moved that the section to do with licenses for boat liveries



be deleted from the proposed legislation. This motion was carried.

The proposed legislation also includes sections related to compliance by the owner with the limit on horsepower and weight as noted on the manufacturer's specification plate. Further discussion on this subject clearly emphasized that this was a safety precaution that should be applied to all owners, including the Wildlife Resources Department.

Mr. Welch was instructed to consult further with Mr. Linton of the Legislative Council on the text of the proposed Bill and to determine from Mr. Linton why certain sections within the existing statutes were not included in the new proposal. With this being accomplished, an effort should be made to obtain early passage of the proposed legislation.

The proposed legislation which was presented to the Commission at its January meeting which would change the name of both the Department and the Commission to indicate that it is a combination of Game, Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Resources. Chairman Eltzroth recommended that this proposed change be submitted to the General Assembly for enactment and on the motion of Commissioner Eppes, seconded by Vice-Chairman Glenn, the recommendation was approved. Executive Director Webb was instructed to take up this piece of legislation with the respective committees in both the House and Senate as soon as possible.

Meeting of Commission.

At the request of Commissioner Rhame, the Commission agreed to change the regular monthly meeting date in March to March 16th. The meeting will be held at Bear Island, commencing at 9:00 A. M. The Secretary was instructed to arrange for food and lodging for the night of March 15th at Bear Island for those Commission Members desiring to arrive the afternoon before the meeting and stay overnight.

At 12:40 P. M., the meeting of the Commission adjourned for lunch and agreed to re-convene at 2:00 P. M.

At 2:00 P. M., the meeting re-convened and immediately went into Executive Session.

At 3:00 P. M., House Member Fred Moore, accompanied by Charles Williams and Ralph McDonald appeared before the Commission to present a proposal for the publication and distribution of a limited edition of prints depicting the official state bird, state animal and state fish. During this discussion, the meeting was open to the public and further discussions noted that this would be similar to a contract presently in effect in the State of Tennessee. Through this means, the Wildlife Resources Department as a



single agency or in cooperation with Parks, Recreation and Tourism would agree to purchase from the artist, Ralph McDonald, a number of limited edition prints at \$10 per copy and agree to sell these within the State of South Carolina at \$20 per copy. These prints would be numbered and signed and probably would not exceed 2,000 in number. It was suggested that they could be placed on sale at various Welcome Centers and other State Parks and tourist attractions operated by the State.

The Commission, after receiving the details from Mr. Charles Williams, who presented the proposal, agreed to further consider this proposal and to inform him of their decision at a later date.

With the completion of this presentation of the proposal, the Commission returned to Executive Session and continued until 5:00 P. M., at which time they adjourned until 8:00 A. M. on February 19th.

On Saturday morning, February 19th, the meeting was again called to order by Chairman Eltzroth for continuation of the business at hand as noted on the Agenda. In attendance in addition to Chairman Eltzroth, were Vice-Chairman Glenn and Commissioners Mishoe and Eppes. Also attending the morning meeting were Executive Director Webb, General Harris, Major Cantey, Bill Chastain, Joe Logan, Jeff Fuller, Brock Conrad, Dr. Timmerman, Pat Ryan, Fred Ramage, Ken Hare of The State newspaper and Harry Logan of The Columbia Record.

GOVERNOR'S MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORT

Executive Director Webb distributed to the Commission Members the remarks which had been prepared in response to the Governor's request relative to the recommendations for the Wildlife Resources Department as contained in the review report. Inasmuch as this was the first opportunity that the Commission had to read these comments, Commission time was taken to go over the several pages of material. Also distributed at this time for the information of the Commission, was the Governor's letter of January 28th, in which he requested that these comments and other data be prepared and presented to the Director of Implementation on or before February 28, 1972.

At this point, the question was raised as to whether the discussions and the final report to be prepared to the Director of Implementation should be made public. For clarification, Chairman Eltzroth called by telephone Dr. Robert Stoudemire who is the Director of Implementation.

Chairman Eltzroth requested an interpretation of a paragraph in the Governor's letter of January 28th, relative to news releases. Dr. Stoudemire



informed the Chairman that there was no desire to keep such discussions or recommendations as a private matter and that the Commission was free to allow the press to be present during the discussions and to receive copies of such recommendations. After obtaining this interpretation, the meeting continued as an open meeting with the press present.

Chairman Eltzroth noted that there were several other parts of the Management Review Commission's Report which related to other agencies in State Government, but also had a distinct bearing on the operations of the Wildlife Resources Department. These included such subjects as standard work week, insurance, assignment of state-owned vehicles, etc. He instructed the Executive Director to review the report in its entirety and to include in his recommendations to the Director of Implementation what steps the Department has, or will take, to comply with these other recommendations. The Chairman stated that these were basically administrative matters and could be included without further discussion.

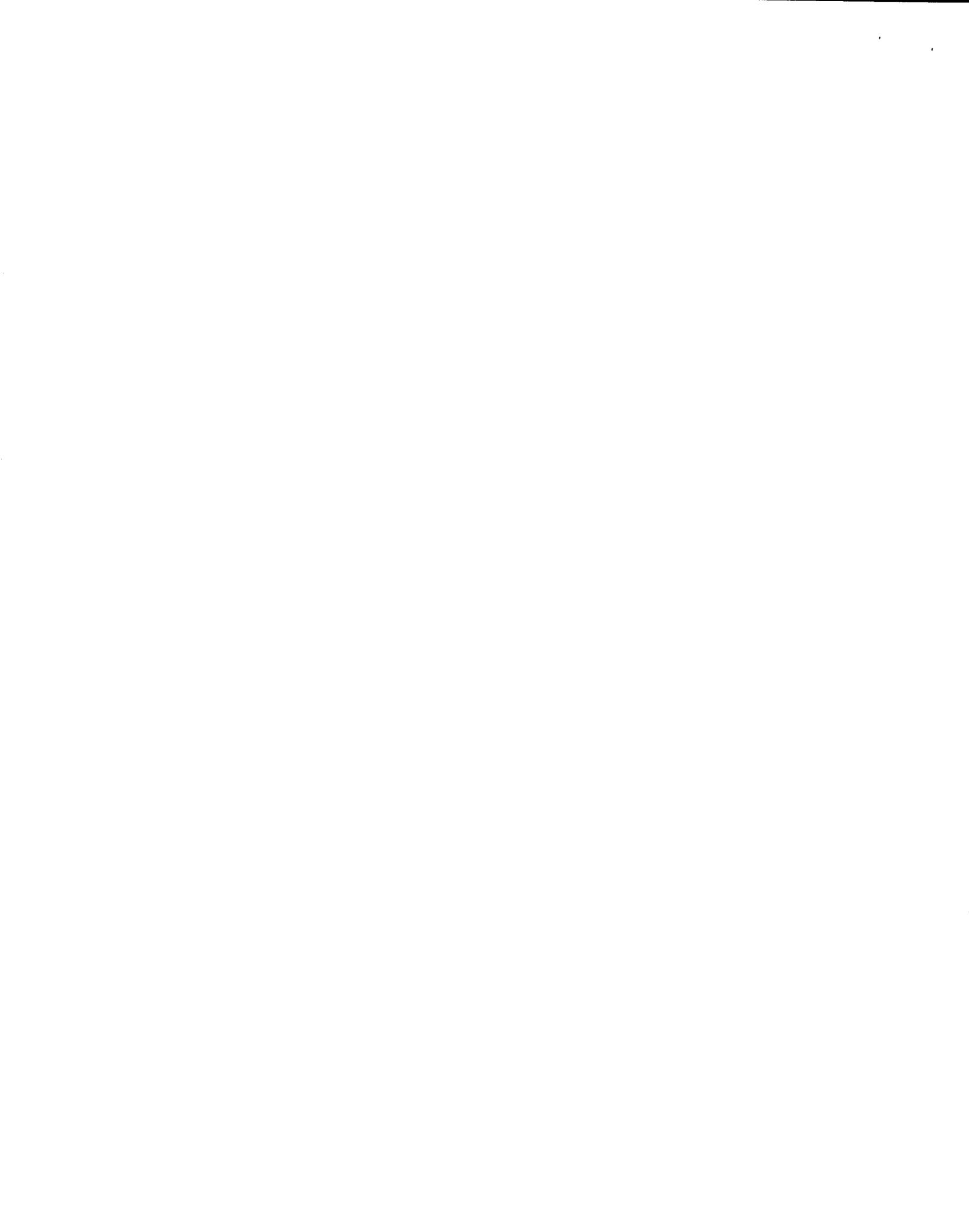
The first subject discussion concerned the ownership of aircraft by the Department. Vice-Chairman Glenn noted that there was a definite need for the locating of at least one of the planes in the Charleston area. He noted the increased need and demand for aircraft support in the coastal area and felt that there was considerable waste both in time and expense of flying the plane from Columbia to Charleston before it started to fill its requested assignment. He also noted that there was considerable weather variations between Charleston and Columbia and that many times the plane would be usable in Charleston but was not available because of ground fog or other adverse conditions at Columbia.

Executive Director Webb explained that this had been given considerable thought on previous dates and that it was deemed advisable to keep both aircraft in Columbia because of the interchangeability of planes and pilots.

It was further noted that when the interchangeability of planes and pilots was a necessity, no doubt occurred less frequently than when benefits could be derived because of the location of aircraft at the Charleston airport.

The Executive Director was instructed to evaluate this point, to study the question, to provide reasons for both locations and to report to the Commission on this subject.

Chairman Eltzroth noted that in the foreword of the complete report, it stated that the findings were based upon accumulated files and that such files were available for review if requested by an agency. The Executive Director was instructed to obtain such backup files as relate to recommendations 1 through 9 as they relate to the Wildlife Resources Department and to mail such material



to the Commission as soon as possible.

It also was noted that the foreword indicated that the recommendations do not ask for any changes in organizational structure, since this is being left to another committee for consideration, but to find savings both in monies and in effort within the existing organizational structure. Therefore, the replies which are made to these recommendations, should be done so in this light.

Vice-Chairman Glenn moved, seconded by Commissioner Eppes, that the Executive Director contact Mr. Fred Koch, of Georgetown Steel Corporation, who was the member of the Review team that reviewed the Wildlife Resources Department and invite him to meet with the Commission so that they may receive a better understanding of the recommendations as made. It was suggested that Mr. Koch give several alternate dates which would be suitable to him and that then the Chairman would poll the Commission as to the best date for the Commission and a special meeting would be called. This motion was carried and the Executive Director instructed to make the arrangements.

At this point, Chairman Eltzroth read that portion of the report as it relates to the Wildlife Resources Department, commencing on Page 110 and continuing through Page 112. He noted that the report recommended that saving would occur and also there would be less interference by the Commission of the operation of field personnel if radios were not in Commission Members' vehicles. He reported that he had taken out his radio approximately 3 weeks ago in response to these recommendations.

Commissioner Mishoe stated he does not believe the presence of a radio in his vehicle interferes with field personnel. He stated that in several instances it had been most helpful when emergencies had occurred, that he had utilized it in the assistance of contacting Conservation Officers in such emergencies, that he believed it helped to keep the Commission Member informed of what was happening so that he could satisfactorily answer the questions posed to him by the public.

At this point, Vice-Chairman Glenn directed the question to both Dr. Timmerman and Pat Ryan if they felt the presence of radios in Commissioners' cars interfered with the day to day activity of their activities. To this, Dr. Timmerman responded that he had no knowledge of such interference and didn't believe that it occurred and Mr. Ryan also stated that he knew of no interference. At this point Chairman Eltzroth inquired of Executive Director Webb if he feels such interference occurred and Mr. Webb replied that he did not know the source of the information and he knows of no interference. He also noted that all Commissioners do not have radios and that it was necessary to see the



background data and talk to Mr. Koch concerning this before a full response could be made.

Recommendation Number 1 - Define Responsibilities and functions of the 7-Member Policy Board.

After limited discussion on this recommendation, the Executive Director was instructed to advise the Director of Implementation that the Commission does not have sufficient information at this time to submit a statement to the Director of Implementation concerning this recommendation and will do so at a later date when backup information is available.

Recommendation Number 2 - Discontinue use of Conservation Officers for conducting guided hunting and fishing tours.

The reply to this recommendation as prepared by Executive Director Webb were essentially approved in their present form. Chairman Eltzroth did wish that attention would be called to the fact that restrictions have been made in this area sometime prior to the report or the study which was made by the Review Commission. He also wished to emphasize that he felt it was most proper to show what the state had to offer in wildlife resources to potential business prospects who were seeking possible locations in South Carolina and that he knew that the availability of hunting and fishing was a most important factor in the satisfaction of employees of any such business enterprise.

Executive Director Webb noted that he felt that no savings in money could be made in this area and this was further substantiated by remarks from Mr. Ryan.

Recommendation Number 3 - Halt Use of Belmont and other State Properties as Guest Houses as well as hunting and fishing preserves on a no-charge basis.

Chairman Eltzroth noted that the Commission had received a report from the Committee which had been designated to study Belmont situation and to make recommendations to the Commission. He also noted that with Executive Director Webb, he appeared both before the House and Senate Committees asking for their constructive criticism in this matter and for an input that might come from them before a policy concerning Belmont was finalized by the Commission. He noted that they could not finalize a plan for the utilization of this area until there had been reasonable time for members of the General Assembly to make known their wishes in this matter.

The Executive Director was instructed to notify Dr. Stoudemire that we will implement a plan on or before July 1, 1972, and that it is necessary to delay submission of this plan to him until the study has been completed and that a full report will be made prior to July 1st.



Chairman Eltzroth requested that a complete account of operation costs for each item be maintained at Belmont. This will include not only costs, but also the uses for which the facilities are put when such costs are incurred.

Brock Conrad reported that the Management Plan for Belmont is on schedule.

General Harris reported that his committee which made recommendations concerning the operation of Belmont is purely advisory to the Commission and that the committee expects the Commission to make a policy statement on the use of Belmont.

Recommendation Number 4 - Establish job descriptions and adhere to qualifications when hiring.

It was noted that the Department has been following this concept for sometime and the Executive Director was advised to include in his comments on this item that descriptions and qualifications were established in 1968, have been upgraded on several occasions since then and have been utilized for this period of time.

Recommendation Number 5 - Sell one airplane and restrict use of aircraft to further Department's objective.

The comments as prepared will be submitted and if possible will include the study relative to the basing of aircraft.

General Harris inquired if there was a necessity to have a clarification or a policy concerning the providing of aircraft to other agencies. Chairman Eltzroth responded, stating that the Department always has provided in-kind assistance to other agencies, if available. Both Vice-Chairman Glenn and Commissioner Mishoe noted instances where such assistance was given in the cases of apprehending violators of laws other than fish and game, searching for missing persons, conducting surveys and providing transportation for official state business. It therefore seemed that this situation needed no further consideration at this time.

Recommendation Number 6 - Increase the subscription price of South Carolina Wildlife to \$3 annually.

The Commission agreed that the reply as included in the rough draft was satisfactory for submission to the Director of Implementation, except that it should be noted that the magazine also provides materials for schools and teachers through its educational center section.



The consideration of this item provided an opportunity to again reassess the desirability of maintaining the \$1 annual subscription charge. On the motion of Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Commissioner Eppes, the Commission approved the continuance of this \$1 charge.

Recommendation Number 7 - Revise the tax on ammunition and control its collection.

Chairman Eltzroth noted that this was a legislative function and noted that we have made suggestions to the General Assembly in several instances in the past concerning the including of 22 caliber ammunition in the taxing category. He noted that no action had been obtained from these previous requests.

Chairman Eltzroth instructed Executive Director Webb to draft proposed bills to carry out the proposed recommendation for increasing tax on ammunition, to include 22 caliber ammunition within the program and to provide for the issuance of stamps as set forth in the recommendation. This proposed legislation is to be submitted to the respective committees in both the House and the Senate, advising them that the Department is doing this to implement the Governor's program. These instructions were made a part of a motion proposed by Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Commissioner Eppes and the motion was carried.

Recommendation Number 8 - Re-direct the income from the sale of non-resident fishing licenses and confiscated weapons from the county of entry to the Wildlife Resources Department.

Recognizing that this is a legislative matter, a motion was entertained and carried directing the Executive Director to prepare suitable legislation for presentation to respective committees in both the House and the Senate for the purpose of carrying out the recommendations as stated in the Governor's Management Review Commission Report.

Recommendation Number 9 - Restructure the licenses and fees for hunting and fishing to provide additional income sufficient to offset costs.

Commissioner Mishoe moved, seconded by Commissioner Eppes, that the Executive Director be instructed to inform the Director of Implementation that this recommendation required further clarification and that the Department will make suitable recommendations to the Director of Implementation as soon as this clarification has been obtained. This motion was carried.

Chairman Eltzroth instructed the Executive Director to prepare a preamble to the proposed statement that is to be submitted to the Director of Implementation concerning these recommendations, said preamble advising the Director that the Commission is inviting Mr. Koch to meet with them



for clarification and that a report will be provided as soon as possible on those items for which clarification is required.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committee reports were made.

UNCLASSIFIED BUSINESS

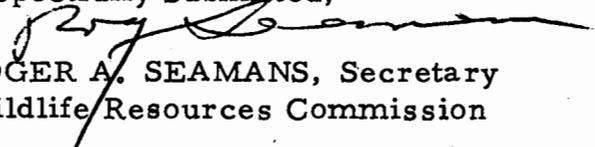
Chairman Eltzroth noted that the Department had been asked by Santee-Cooper Country to issue a doe quota to a plantation for the weekend in September during which time the promotional organization had scheduled an archery hunt. Executive Director Webb noted that he was reluctant to recommend such an early quota because arbitrarily the Department had set October 1st as being the first date that does could be legally harvested. This recommendation was based upon knowledge that fawns were still nursing during September and that if these does were killed, it would also probably mean the destruction of one or more fawns. This seemed to be both impractical from a wise utilization standpoint and certainly was an inhuman aspect of the problem. It also was noted by the Executive Director that if this exception was made, that it would set a precedent and it would be most difficult to maintain the October 1st opening date, although the need for this could be well substantiated.

The Commission decided that no doe quotas will be permitted prior to October 1st and the Chairman stated he would so notify Santee-Cooper Country.

Vice-Chairman Glenn moved that a Bill be drawn up which would give the Director of the Division of Marine Resources and the Commission the authority to make all rules and regulations in the marine area. He noted that the Department had capability to determine the need for such rules and regulations to permit the best use of the resource. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Eppes. Chairman Eltzroth further noted that if the General Assembly was in session, the Department had experienced no difficulty in obtaining relief when a need arose. The difficulty did occur when the General Assembly was not in session and field investigations indicated that a change in the opening or closing of seasons or the method of harvest was warranted. The motion was carried and the Director of Marine Resources was instructed to draw up a proposed Bill for presentation to the respective committees in both the House and the Senate which would authorize the Director of the Division of Marine Resources and the Commission for authority to set rules and regulations for the proper utilization of all marine resources.

At 11:35 A. M., the meeting concerning the regular business of the Commission was adjourned and the Commission went into Executive Session to consider personnel matters.

Respectfully Submitted,


ROGER A. SEAMANS, Secretary
Wildlife Resources Commission

RAS/pal

