

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT COLUMBIA, FEBRUARY 21, 1963

Present were Commissioners Johnson, Cox, Cantey, Hopkins, Oliphant, Heyward and Tison, Division Chiefs Fuller and Ryan.

Senator Gresette and Representative Nelson of Calhoun County and Game Warden Frank Weeks appeared at the beginning of the meeting to request that the Commission reconsider the case of Game Warden Weeks and his suspension. Senator Gresette reviewed the salient points of the previous hearing and expressed his appreciation to the Commission for again receiving them. Senator Gresette, Representative Nelson and Game Warden Weeks then excused themselves and left.

The Commission went into executive session and the decision was made to penalize Game Warden Weeks thirty days pay but permitting him to continue the performance of his duty and retain his badge, uniform and equipment.

In executive session, the Commission also reconsidered the matter of termination pay for Fisheries Inspector Campbell and decided to follow the recommendation of the Attorney General and allow the additional two or 2½ days pay which was in question and requested that Doctor Lunz be notified that he grant this additional pay which was in question and that a copy of the letter go to Senator C. Claymon Grimes of Georgetown.

The Commission resumed open hearing.

The reappointments of the following non-pay game wardens were approved: Baxter C. Varner, Raymond L. Walters, Richard P. Gordon, Harry Craven, Harry B. Cooler, Jr., Maj. Loy L. Doggett, and James C. Matthews. The appointments of Jack F. Morris, David Sanders, and M. L. Marshall as non-pay game wardens were approved.

Mr. Cox moved that Joel R. Bowers be appointed salaried game warden in Newberry County to fill the vacancy which exists there. This was seconded by Mr. Cantey and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Johnson presented a communication from the Governor's Office regarding a public hearing called by the Governor to hear complaints or petitions as to what would serve the best interests of South Carolina relative to the Trotter Shoals Dam. The hearing is to be held March 18th at 10 a. m. in the Senate Chamber. Mr. Johnson



raised the question as to whether the proposed Dam would affect the South Carolina Fisheries and Jeff Fuller answered that in his opinion it would have considerable affect on the fishing waters in that area. He said that the Dam would be located at the backwater limit of the Clark Hill Dam and that it would back water up to the Hartwell Reservoir. As the impounded water is released from the lower level of the Hartwell Reservoir, it is cold enough to provide trout waters below the Hartwell Reservoir. The water to be released from the Trotter Shoals Dam would also be released from the lower level and would be cold enough to affect the Clark Hill Reservoir. In Fuller's opinion, it would lower the water temperature enough to possibly do away with the warm water fishes, such as bass, bream and crappie and make it necessary to find fish such as the walleye to replace them which would be better suited to the colder waters. The Commission requested that Jeff Fuller gather information and be in a position to present the Wildlife Resources Department's viewpoint in regards to the fisheries on the Savannah River at this hearing. They also requested that either Frank Nelson or James W. Webb present the Department's viewpoint as to how this proposed dam would affect wildlife in the area.

Following up discussion on the manner of license distribution at the last Commission meeting, Mr. Cantey moved that an attempt be made to persuade the Legislature to approve the distribution of licenses and permits from the main office and do away with game warden distribution of licenses and permits. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and passed.

Pat Ryan raised the question of obtaining Prima Facie legislation to enable the game wardens to more effectively combat night hunters and cited a similar law passed in Mississippi for this purpose. Mr. Cox moved that Mr. Ryan work with the State legal aides in drawing up whatever law might accomplish this purpose. This was seconded by Mr. Cantey and passed.

Mr. Cox commended the monthly report submitted by Frank Nelson and moved that it be received as information. Jeff Fuller's report was also commended.



Jeff Fuller explained his earlier letter regarding the construction of access areas for the public waters in South Carolina and the various methods by which they could be financed. Mr. Heyward moved that the Department proceed with the recommended procedures. Mr. Oliphant seconded the motion and it was passed.

Mr. Tison moved that Mr. Cox be appointed a committee of one to work on the problem of reclaiming gasoline tax money spent for boating purposes to obtain additional finances for the purpose of access area construction.

Jeff Fuller stated that the cost of operating Oak Grove Lake exceeded the income from fishing permits and recommended that the Lake be opened to public fishing free-of-charge daily except Sundays. Mr. Cox moved that the recommendation be approved. It was seconded by Mr. Hopkins and passed.

Mr. Cox moved that the application of Lionel Lucas for appointment to Richland County Game Warden be referred to Mr. Cantey and Mr. Webb for determination and that their findings be approved by Commission. (Mr. Lucas has since been approved and appointed.)

The next Commission meeting was set for March 7, to be held in Columbia at 10:30 a. m.

The Commission meeting was adjourned.

Gordon H. Brown



