

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT COLUMBIA JANUARY 17, 1963

Present were Commissioners Johnson, Cox, Cantey, Oliphant, Hopkins and Heyward, Directors Webb and Lunz, Division Chiefs Nelson, Fuller, Welch, Ryan, Ed Latimer, Crawford Billings, and Fisheries Inspector Allison Fickling.

Frank Nelson reported that although Camp Croft was suitable for restocking with deer, none had yet been trapped this year and no releases had been made.

Mr. Johnson commented on the large amount of money spent on waterfowl development which would produce sport for relatively few people at the expense of development of other game species which might benefit more people.

Mr. Webb reported that Laurens County Senator would have the county supervisor take over the responsibility of building boat ramps in the county and would authorize the use of money from the county funds, if needed.

Tom Welch presented specifications and prices for several boats for consideration in the possible acquisition of a large boat for the Boating Division. The question was raised by several Commissioners as to whether a boat was necessary or not.

Both Mr. Welch and Director Webb said that although the Department has been operating without one, it would be helpful in carrying out boating division assignments. They stated that it could be valuable in rescue work as well as providing a base of operation in law enforcement and wildlife research work along the coast. Mr. Welch stated docking facilities could be obtained for a department boat at the Coast Guard base. Both Mr. Heyward and Mr. Cantey moved that the report be received as information and that Mr. Welch was to look further into the matter.

Mr. Webb stated that he had reinstated Game Warden Carlisle Jones following his release from a sanatorium, subject to good behavior.

Mr. Johnson stated that South Carolina law is vague in defining the powers of the Directors regarding disciplinary action and supervision, and proposed that the Commission clarify the extent of the Directors authority. The Commission was of the opinion that the Director had the power to suspend and/or carry out disciplinary measures, subject to the review of the Commission. Mr. Cantey moved that the Commission file



a regulation with the Secretary of State to be drawn up by Mr. Cox, which will give the effect of law to such decisions as might be made by the Directors subject to review by the Commission.

In the matter of appointing Horace Jacks as assistant pilot and/or Game Warden, Mr. Webb recommended that the age limit adopted by the Commission either be adhered to or raised so that a consistent policy could be followed in the hiring of personnel. Mr. Cantey moved that the application of Horace Jacks be turned down on the basis of his being over the age limit set by the Commission. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Old business being cleared up, Mr. Johnson turned to new business.

Jeff Fuller suggested the Cleveland Fish Hatchery be closed and stated that it was now being used as a rearing station rather than a fish hatchery. The water supply was unsuitable for hatchery operation and sufficient trout could now be obtained from the federal hatchery. No personnel would be affected by the closing as the superintendent had died a year ago. Mr. Campbell, who had been carrying on these activities, was to be transferred to the Heath Springs Hatchery to replace Mr. Bower, who has reached compulsory retirement age. Mr. Heyward moved that the Cleveland Hatchery be closed and the motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson commented on the violation conviction record of Districts One and Two as compared with the rest of the State, and Mr. Webb stated that more cases were made on the large impoundments which were located in these districts.

Information was presented that the Coast Guard personnel operating out of the Norfolk district were making cases for violations of boating laws on Lake Wylie on the North Carolina and South Carolina lines. Mr. Welch stated that the Charleston Coast Guard district did not consider these waters to be classified as navigable, but that the presence of Coast Guard activity in this area made it easier for State game wardens to enforce the laws.

Mr. Johnson raised the point of soil bank restrictions on wildlife food plantings, and Mr. Webb stated that such wildlife food plantings could now be legally planted on soil bank lands other than on permanent plantings such as pine tree plantings.



Pat Ryan reported on the Hunter Safety Training Program which select Department personnel had just completed, and the state-wide Hunter Safety Training Program which would follow. Gordon Brown reported on the organized plan which would be carried out between the State and National Rifle Association of America following the adoption of the plan by the Commission. Mr. Cox moved that a proper resolution be drawn up for the carrying out of the Hunter Safety Training Program in affiliation with the National Rifle Association of America.

Mr. Johnson stated that no other states in the Southeast now handle the distribution of licenses through their game wardens and that North Carolina, who was the last to change, now mails all licenses out of the Raleigh office. The licenses are distributed directly by mail to approved vendors who are bonded. This removes the wardens from all financial responsibilities and frees him for regular game warden activities. Director Patton is sending further information. Mr. Webb recommended that before such a policy be adopted it would be advisable to obtain Legislative backing and passage of an enabling Act in the Legislature.

Mr. Cox requested that it would be necessary to transfer \$5,000 from the pier tax fund to the Division of Commercial Fisheries in order to provide funds for the salary of Mr. Ben Heyward. Commissioner Heyward so moved and the motion was carried.

Mr. Webb recommended the re-appointments of the following non-pay game wardens, who were approved: Henry C. Hutson, Joseph T. McElveen, James R. Well, R. H. Pattilo and J. G. Haire; and appointments of non-pay wardens John W. Watts, George F. Grubbs, Sr., Michael R. Onufer, Harold W. Brooks, and Kenneth L. Boggs, who also were approved. He recommended re-appointments of the following salaried game wardens: Manley Greer, Hugh R. Still, and C. H. Sanders and appointment of Pearly E. Britt. They were all approved.

Mr. Lunz reported that the Budget and Control Board had cut his travel allotment by \$4,000 and, unless this could be reinstated, the activities of the Commercial Fisheries inspectors would have to be seriously curtailed. He also stated the James Island Fire Commission was interested in obtaining one of his boats for rescue



work, but thought it would be a bad precedent to give away such a boat which did have sale or trade-in value. Mr. Cantey moved that the boat should not be given away and that it would be disposed of in the normal manner. The motion was carried.

Dr. Lunz called attention to low country marshlands transfers which had been made by Walter Brown from the Sinking Fund to the United State Navy, and that the Navy was going ahead and dumping spoil on adjacent state-owned marshlands. He stated that numerous individuals were driving piles and stringing wires to claim ownership, or jurisdiction of state-owned marshlands adjacent to their properties, which was also illegal.

Dr. Lunz said that the United States Army Engineers are now notifying the Division of Commercial Fisheries regarding all obstructions to navigation which they are responsible for.

He said that Fisheries Inspector Campbell had appealed for an additional two days termination pay but that he had already been paid beyond the date of October 6, when he apparently stopped work. Commissioner Cox moved that the Commission uphold Dr. Lunz's decision and deny the request for the two days pay.

Dr. Lunz stated that Representatives from the Belgian Embassy are studying the activities of the Bears Bluff Laboratories.

Dr. Lunz displayed a Polystyrene buoy used to mark crab pots which many boaters claim are a menace to navigation, and stated that such buoys could not possibly damage a boat or motor.

Commissioner Johnson presented information from other states regarding the out-of-state cars by game wardens which was inconclusive, but that no other state felt they were in a position to give a final answer as to the most economic means of operation. It was suggested that the comparison be made in our State between the cost of operating private cars as against the state-owned vehicles. Mr. Webb said that the Department was currently purchasing gas and oil supplies from the Highway Department at a considerable savings and that we were presently able to obtain state



vehicles at fleet prices, less taxes, at a mark-up of about \$50 above dealer cost. It was proposed that where wardens are to be provided with vehicles that all of the wardens in the same county also receive them for efficient travel and operation.

Mr. Johnson called for a Commission hearing on January 28, 1963, for action in the case involving Game Warden Frank Weeks and M. C. Parler of Calhoun County.

Several Commissioners made complimentary remarks on the new game warden uniforms, as the meeting was adjourned.

*Eddie Finlay*

