

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT BELMONT JANUARY 17, 1969

Present were Commissioners Eltzroth, Eppes, Glenn and Rhame, Major Cantey, Directors Webb and Lunz, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Ed Latimer, Roger Seamans and Hilton Phillips. The Commission went into executive session, and after the meeting was opened a motion was adopted that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Mr. Eltzroth then recited the action taken during the executive session as follows:

"The Commission passed a motion that it will request the General Assembly to amend the statutes so as to provide that the Commission may organize its own department; and should the General Assembly not provide the Commission with this authority the Chairman is authorized to present to the General Assembly an organizational chart calling for an executive director with the Secretary of the Commission reporting directly to him and with four other Divisions as follows:

"The Division of Game and Inland Fisheries."

"The Division of Marine Resources."

"The Chief of Finance."

"The Chief of Information and Education."

"Should the General Assembly want further information, the Commission authorizes the Chairman to request a revision of the statutes so as to set up an organization as shown in Exhibit A. (A copy of Exhibit A is attached to each copy of the minutes).

"The Commission has adopted a salary scale for requested approval by the Budget and Control Board as follows: Executive Director--\$20,000 to \$25,000; Director of Division of Game and Fish--\$18,000 to \$20,000; and Director of Marine Resources--\$18,000 to \$20,000."



"The Commission has also approved the advertising of job classification for Marine Resources Director and for his employment at the earliest possible time."

"The Commission adopted a motion requesting the presidents of the two State universities to assign deans of the respective graduate programs and also to consult with the Committee of Higher Education regarding its naming someone to serve with the two deans as an advisory committee to the Commission on marine resource matters."

"The Commission has also unanimously, in recognition of his great service since the inception of the Commission in 1952 until the present, and in recognition of his great knowledge and untiring efforts on behalf of the State of South Carolina, elected Major Cantey as chairman emeritus of the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for life, with the privileges and duties of such office, and I am happy to report that he has agreed to this and to attend meetings in the future."

Dr. Lunz brought up a Senate bill--S.9 by Senators Harrelson and Waddell-- which would call for the Department to issue shad sets on certain portions of the Edisto river in Colleton county.

Mr. Eltzroth suggested that a public hearing might be held and this was agreed to, a substitute motion later being adopted authorizing Dr. Lunz and Mr. Latimer to contact the authors, Mr. Glenn adding that he would talk with Senator Waddell.

Dr. Lunz said that the papers had been carried through the courts on an oyster lease cancellation.

He added that he had not heard from Senator Dennis in regard to the bill to protect porpoises.



The minutes of the December meeting were corrected to change the name "Peeples" to "Heape" on Paragraph four of Page two.

A number of appointments by Director Webb were approved, some being approved subject to the final approval of absent Commissioners.

The Pee Dee fish kill and discussions with the Stevens Company was then brought up, Mr. Eltzroth asking if there were any comments from personnel.

Mr. Webb said that Mr. Phillips had made the study and was ready to answer any questions.

Mr. Webb said that he was ready to recommend that the Commission proceed with the possibility of out-of-court settlement if the company was willing to meet the Commission's position. He added that the figure for actual damage was \$29,970.

Mr. Eltzroth said the company's offer of \$2,700 was ridiculous and was not to be considered seriously. He said if the company should make an acceptable offer of settlement the Commission might withdraw the warrant, Mr. Latimer agreeing that this would be proper.

He added that although he believed the Department has a very good case, the Commission should realize that the case would be a jury matter and be tried in Marlboro county.

Mr. Cantey said that any action taken would be considered as setting a precedent for the future.

Mr. Rhame moved that Attorney Goldberg be advised of the Commission's position and Mr. Latimer was instructed to draft the letter.

The Congaree navigation matter was taken up, Mr. Ryan saying that the special committee appointed to study the matter and make recommendations would like a policy statement from the Commission.



A general discussion of all phases of the matter followed, including consideration of the best methods of informing the public of the expected results of anything that would impede the flow of the Congaree river. It was agreed that it would not be feasible to contact all purchasers of hunting and fishing licenses by mail, as the cost would be too great.

Mr. Seamans mentioned a half-hour program on ETV scheduled for February and said it would be fine if there were a definite policy statement that could be presented.

A motion was adopted that the special committee draw up a policy statement for approval by the Commission and circulate it by mail among the Commissioners before the next meeting. The major recommendations of the special committee were then approved.

Mr. Eltzroth asked Dr. Lunz if he had read an editorial in the News and Courier which suggested to the General Assembly members that they accept the advice of Dr. Lunz in regard to the Marine Resources facility, and Dr. Lunz stated that he was familiar with the editorial. Mr. Eltzroth asked Dr. Lunz to give the Commission the benefit of any advice that he had in regard to the Marine Resources program, with which Dr. Lunz was familiar by reason of his having been present when it was presented to the Ways and Means Committee. Dr. Lunz replied that he had no recommendations in regard to it.

*Eddie Finlay*

