

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JANUARY 4, 1962

Vice Chairman Cox presided in the absence of Chairman Johnson. Commissioners also present were Cantey, Oliphant, Heyward, Tison and Hopkins, along with Directors Webb and Lunz, Thomas C. Welch, Jr., Jefferson C. Fuller, Jr., and Frank Nelson.

In answer to a question from Mr. Heyward, Director Webb said that project had been submitted to the Atlanta office of the Fish and Wildlife Service for Dirleton and when it was approved work could start. He added that negotiations were being carried on for additional land in the area. He also said that an agreement had been worked out with the International Paper company on 12,000 acres in Georgetown county and that it would probably be possible for a resident manager to look after both this and Dirleton.

Mr. Nelson said the first work on the project would consist of diking and that it was hoped a resident manager could be secured.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that the Secretary draw up a resolution for the Commission expressing its regret at the passing of Warden Murray DeLoach of Hampton county and its appreciation for his years of service. A similar resolution was asked for the late Warden Thomas Burch of Chesterfield county.

Director Lunz reported on his appearance before the Ways and Means Committee asking for a 50-foot research boat for Bears Bluff Laboratories.

Director Webb said that although SLED Chief Strom has told him there was nothing to the Francis Marion reports nothing had yet been officially received in writing.

Mr. Nelson said that in regard to Manchester forest and how more of it could be preserved for hunting he had talked with Forestry Commissioner Flory, but had not yet talked with sportsmen of Sumter county. Flory has plans for wildlife, he said, including planting of food strips, and had promised he would go along with any reasonable recommendations.

Mr. Nelson said that eventually almost the entire forest would be in even-age stands, which would help deer and turkey but not small game, and the area would pass from small game to big game habitat.



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He said that he would talk with Mr. Pickens of the Forestry Commission and then long range plans for the area could be explained to the Sumter people. His report was received as information and he was asked to follow through with his plans.

The operation of public fishing lakes was brought up and on motion of Mr. Cantey it was agreed to defer action in view of the absence of Chairman Johnson. In connection with the operation of the lakes Mr. Cox said that Lake Wallace differed considerably from the other lakes and should not be considered on the same basis.

Mr. Tison said that he would endeavor to get up all facts on the operation of Lake Wallace and present them at the next meeting.

Director Webb said he turned over to the State Purchasing Division the matter of getting bids on the plane for the Department and the bids would be opened Monday, January 8.

Director Webb was authorized to proceed with construction of an office and radio station on the property of Supervisor Alex Gregg at Florence, and also explained operation of the station in connection with a state-wide hookup.

Two warden appointments were approved, one for a warden to succeed the late Tom Burch of Chesterfield and the other a re-appointment of a non-pay position.

Director Webb also said he was working on a replacement for the late Lonnie Bundrick as chief of law enforcement and several Commissioners expressed the view the position should be filled from the organization if at all feasible.

Mr. Cox asked that the Commission uphold him in conclusion of an oyster lease matter, saying that all parties had agreed although the papers had not been formally signed.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that: "The agreement worked out by Mr. Cox and interested parties in the oyster lease in question be approved by the Commission and that Mr. Cox be authorized to proceed with and conclude the matter."



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Director Lunz brought up the possibility of using maps and plats drawn up by his office in the granting of oyster leases and eliminating the recording of plats in the court house. It was suggested that he go before the appropriate legislative committee and ask passage of a law to permit this.

Mr. Cox said something should be done to see that the State got a fairer share of the money from oyster leases. He cited a case where an operator had paid \$37 for a five-year lease, worked the lease for 20 months and then transferred it to another person for \$2,000 for the remainder of the lease. It was pointed out that all transfers must be approved under the present law.

There was considerable discussion of the pollution of certain oyster areas, and Director Lunz said there should be some way to utilize the oysters from these areas for the benefit of the State.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that: "A committee composed of Mr. Cox, Mr. Heyward and Director Lunz go before the appropriate committee with a bill designed to see that the State may receive a reasonable return on the value of its oyster lands and that they take appropriate steps in drawing up, presenting and pushing for passage of the bill."

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that Mr. Cox be chairman of the committee.

Director Lunz was asked to present a recommendation for filling the position of law enforcement chief of the Division of Commercial Fisheries at the earliest possible time, and the possibility of filling the position from personnel of the Division of Game was brought up. Mr. Heyward then suggested that discussion of the matter be postponed until Director Lunz could come up with recommendations.

There was a general discussion of the pollution problem on oyster lands.

Mr. Welch said there were no present problems in administration of the Boating Division, adding that over 39,000 private boats were now registered.



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Director Webb said plans for the Hampton County lake were progressing but some engineering work was still needed.

Eddie Finlay

