

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JANUARY 7, 1959

Present were Commissioners Warren, Johnson, Cantey, Cox and Huggins, Director Richardson, Director Seabrook, Jim Webb, Bob Lutz, G. G. Thrower and Jack Carroll.

Chairman Warren stated that the first order of business was action upon the suspension of Warden Mendel Boozer for improper handling of confiscated game.

Director Richardson read affidavits from other wardens regarding the incident and said that he had suspended Boozer after receiving a report from Supervisor Bundrick. He said that Boozer admitted his mistake and was very repentant. Mr. Cox said that he believed Boozer had been punished enough and it was agreed that Boozer be restored to duty at the discretion of Director Richardson.

Several non-pay wardens were approved and several regular wardens reappointed. The appointment of several wardens from Chairman Warren's district was approved, subject to receipt of their applications.

The appointment of H. Fedand Price as a Dillon warden was approved, subject to investigation and approval by Director Richardson.

Mr. Webb brought up the matter of 20 turkeys promised to Texas and Louisiana for national forest land and said that now around 30 were wanted. On motion of Mr. Johnson it was agreed that Chief Richardson and Mr. Webb go ahead on the commitment for 20 turkeys at their discretion.

A request from North Carolina to swap deer for turkey was also discussed and it was decided to take no action until further information was secured, and to bring the matter up at the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson mentioned the planned visit of Ralph Seaman of the Carling Conservationist to Santee-Cooper and the value of such promotion.

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The planned legislative recommendations regarding commercial fisheries were then brought up.

Mr. Cox stated that he was unable to give a specific item by item report at this time but would go over the general recommendations of the special committee which he headed. He brought up the federal act regarding state registration of power boats, under which, if the states took no action, the Coast Guard would take over April 1, 1960, with a \$5 registration fee. He pointed out the revenue possibilities if this were turned over to the Department.

Mr. Warren brought up the work that has been carried on by the special legislative committee and said that he talked with the committee chairman, Senator Allen Legare of Charleston. He said Senator Legare had told him that at the meetings there appeared to be opposition to turning the boat registration and safety enforcement over to the Department, and that this view was also held by the committee.

It was agreed to hold any action in abeyance until the legislative committee had presented its recommendations to the General Assembly.

Mr. Cox said the meeting in Charleston November 19 had been well attended by the industry and that, generally speaking, all segments were cooperative. He said there seemed general agreement that the pier fishing tax should be diverted to the Division Commercial Fisheries and it was brought out that this amounts to around \$10,000 annually.

Mr. Cox also said the committee had agreed that any tax over three per cent would be unfair to the industry and that this has been considered in the discussion of all taxes.



[The text in this section is extremely faint and illegible. It appears to be a multi-paragraph document, possibly a letter or a report, but the specific words and sentences cannot be discerned.]

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He said that raising the shrimp taxes would put the impost far above the rate of other states and suggested the possibility of raising the tax on boats and gear, although pointing out that these are already higher than other states.

There was some discussion of how shrimpers could be forced or induced to land more of their catch in the State and it was pointed out that the high severance tax was the main reason the catch was taken to other states.

Dr. Lunz pointed out that if a boat fishes South Carolina waters and lands the shrimp in South Carolina it means \$2,000 per boat annually in the purchase of fuel, ice, etc. It was also brought out that under the law there is no way boats fishing South Carolina waters can be forced to land their catch in South Carolina ports.

Mr. Warren said South Carolina shrimpers were disturbed over the way out-of-state boats were trawling South Carolina waters in great numbers but there is little that can be done to prevent this.

Mr. Cox said the Code limits out-of-state licenses to 100 with preference to boats that have fished here in previous years.

All agreed that fines for trawling violations should be increased to at least a \$25 minimum.

Mr. Warren read an act originally written for Charleston county and there was some discussion as to whether it was applicable on a state-wide basis. Director Seabrook said this was a very good act and also said that something should be done to make plane evidence admissible in court.

Mr. Cox said the oyster and crab industry representatives were perfectly willing to accept increased taxes and licenses.

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

In addition, the document highlights the need for regular communication and collaboration between all departments. This ensures that everyone is on the same page and that any potential issues are identified and resolved promptly.

Furthermore, the document stresses the importance of staying up-to-date with the latest industry trends and regulations. This allows the organization to adapt to changes and maintain a competitive edge in the market.

Finally, the document concludes by reiterating the organization's commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. It encourages all employees to take ownership of their roles and contribute to the overall success of the organization.

The document also includes a section on the organization's vision and mission statements. These statements serve as a guiding light for all activities and decisions, ensuring that the organization remains focused on its core values and long-term goals.

In conclusion, the document provides a comprehensive overview of the organization's current state and future aspirations. It serves as a valuable resource for all employees and stakeholders, providing clarity and direction for the path ahead.

The document is intended to be read and understood by all employees. It is a living document that will be updated as the organization evolves and grows. We encourage all employees to provide feedback and suggestions to help improve the document and the organization's overall performance.

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He added that with a one-cent per bushel tax on oysters, which should bring in \$18,000, annually, it would be possible to eliminate all other taxes on oysters. He said that a 3 1-3 cent per bushel or 10 cents per 100 pounds tax on crabs could also take the place of all crab taxes, except on pots and the export tax.

It was agreed that the county treasurers should be eliminated from the license picture, and that something should be done to protect the leasees of oyster beds from abuse of the two-bushel law.

After a general discussion of some other points, Mr. Warren suggested that the recommendations be put in writing so that they could be taken up item by item and that proposed bills should be presented at the same time. After the recommendations were passed upon by the entire Commission a meeting could be held with the Senate and House committees.

Mr. Cox stated that he could get up the written recommendations within two weeks and send them to the Commissioners for study.

Jim Verner brought up the pending litigation over damages from the breaking of the Bennettsville dam but the Commission decided to take no action until something more definite was known.

A motion of Mr. Johnson was adopted that hunting on Bear Island be restored to the status previous to the prior motion that had been adopted and that the matter be left to the discretion of the Director and the Federal-Aid Coordinator.

Eddie Finlay

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