

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JANUARY 7, 1965

Present were Commissioners Johnson, Cantey, Heyward, Tison and Hopkins; Directors Webb and Lunz; Pat Ryan, Tommy Welch, Jeff Fuller and Frank Nelson.

Mr. Johnson said that he had received a letter about two autos assigned to Department personnel and that the matter would be taken up at the next meeting of the Budget and Control Board.

Mr. Johnson said that he had received a letter from Walt Gresh and that Mr. Gresh said he would be glad to meet with the Commission at a later date to discuss the possibility of the Department acquiring some land upstate for a field trial area and other uses.

Two policies on the Department plane were turned over to Mr. Webb.

Several bills which were part of the planned legislative program were discussed.

Mr. Webb said that the law governing hunting in flooded areas needed some clarification and also that the wording in the law on turkey blinds should be changed.

Mr. Johnson suggested some changes in the wording of the bill covering night hunting for deer and Mr. Webb said some trouble was being encountered in the wording of the bill covering carrying guns in cars.

The proposed manual of operations was then taken up with some minor suggestions for changes being made and Mr. Johnson suggested that it be studied further by the Commissioners, who might have some more recommendations.

Dr. Lunz said the matter of a resigned inspector had been about worked out and that the place would probably be filled by a Mr. Tuten from Beaufort.

Dr. Lunz said that a great number of oyster hearings were piling up and after some discussion it was agreed to hold the matter over until a later date.

Mr. Welch said that the state auditors did not go along entirely with the recommendations in the Andersen report, and would have a report ready at a later date.

He also reported that the old offices the State Ports Authority had been providing



were no longer available, the building being torn down, but that offices had been secured in the Municipal Marina at no cost except for painting and other minor work to adapt it to Division use.

Mr. Heyward suggested that Mr. Welch be authorized to spend necessary amounts in fixing up the new quarters.

The Secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks to Mayor Gaillard for Mr. Heyward's signature, expressing the appreciation of the Commission.

Mr. Johnson asked Dr. Lunz to write a letter outlining his troubles in getting the purchase of supplies approved.

Mr. Johnson said two deer were needed for the enclosure at Lake Johnson in Spartanburg and Mr. Nelson said he thought they could be secured.

The matter of license handling came up for discussion. Mr. Webb said that the Commission has the authority to change the present system but the Assembly could force a return to present system as it did before.

Several Commissioners expressed themselves in favor of the system whereby agents would order licenses direct and be bonded at a nominal cost, thus freeing wardens for other duties.

Mr. Ryan said the bond would be only \$5 on \$2,000 worth of licenses.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that a license bill be drafted for submission at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Heyward said that several persons he knew who had children off at school had complained over the fact that they had to get \$4.25 hunting licenses for them for the holidays. Mr. Webb said nothing could be done under the law and the solution would be to eliminate the county license and drop the state license to \$3.10.

Mr. Webb then discussed the proposed fishing license bill, which would provide for a \$2.10 license for everyone which would be good in all waters. He said this would



repeal all the lake permits. It would take effect January 1967.

At the suggestion of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Webb said that he could change the wording of the section dealing with the earmarking of funds to certain lakes from the effective date.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that Mr. Webb be authorized to go ahead with the legislation that had been proposed.

The question of landowner responsibility for accidents was discussed briefly and the Director was authorized to prepare a bill along the line recommended by National Association.

The question of fixing up the house at Belmont and providing for a labor foreman, who would be farm manager, was discussed. Mr. Webb said such a man was badly needed to stay with the laborers and supervise their work.

Mr. Johnson said he had discussed with Willis Cantey the possibility of getting a man to devote part time to handling publicity and news releases for the Department, saying the Department needed more publicity.

Mr. Ryan reported on the wardens' district meetings, saying they were working out well so far.

*Eddie Finlay*

