

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JULY 11, 1969

Present were Commissioners Glenn, Eppes, Rhame and Thompson, Major Cantey, Jim Webb, Pat Ryan and Gene Howell. Mr. Glenn presided in the absence of Chairman Eltzroth.

Mr. Webb reported on the financial outlook for the Department in view of legislative action in the Deficiency Appropriations Act. He pointed out that the increase in the state hunting license would mean an additional \$220,000 and the county license \$50,000-\$60,000 in new license revenue, these being approximate figures. He added that if the fishing license increases had not been knocked out that the Department would have received between \$1,000,000 and \$1,100,100 more than the old amount.

The federal options on the seasons were then discussed. It was agreed the marsh hen season should be set so as to include as many high tides as possible late in the year. It was agreed that it should be for the 70 days prior to and including December 15, meaning the season would start on October 7.

Mr. Webb said that the annual visit to Palmetto Bluff had been set for September 2-3, the Tuesday and Wednesday after Labor Day.

There was a rather general discussion of the dove season and finally a suggestion of Mr. Rhame was adopted providing for three seasons: September 13-October 4; November 17-November 29; and December 12-January 15.

It was agreed that the woodcock and snipe seasons should be set as late as possible, both ending on January 31--the woodcock being for 65 days and the snipe for 50 days.

It was agreed that all dates agreed upon might be subject to minor revision before final official approval and notification of Washington.

Mr. Webb brought up the season on sea ducks, which would have to be set now instead of with the regular waterfowl time, and it was agreed that the entire matter



should be left up to Mr. Webb.

Mr. Thompson said he was getting quite a few inquiries as to where people could apply for permits for the AEC hunts. Mr. Ryan said they had not yet been printed but should be available around August 1 through the Department.

Mr. Glenn said that he had been forced to change his plans about going to Florida next weekend, at which he would have represented the Commission at a meeting of Southeastern Commissioners. Mr. Rhame agreed to take his place.

Mr. Thompson then brought up the regular July meeting of the Commission which has been set for Anderson. It was agreed that the meeting will be held Friday morning July 18 on a cabin on Lake Hartwell at 10 o'clock. All persons attending are invited up to spend Thursday night on Hartwell and should meet at the Howard Johnson restaurant on I-85 at the Clemson turnoff at 6 o'clock Thursday afternoon. Conservation officers will be on hand to direct persons to the site on Hartwell.

Mr. Webb said that he had received a call from Charlie Bearden regarding the possible opening of the shrimp season, which is provided for under a legislative act. Mr. Webb recommended that the Commission authorize the opening of the season as soon as it can be done legally. (Mr. Bearden called up after the meeting and said that he was meeting Chairman Eltzroth this evening and would bring the matter up).

Mr. Rhame suggested that Commissioners visit the National Campers Association Camporee at Rocks Pond near Eutaw Springs, which opens Sunday. Mr. Rhame also said that a Highway Patrol captain had asked about a fish fry at the Department cabin for Patrolmen and Conservation Officers working with the Camporee. Mr. Webb said that it would be possible for the Department to handle the expenses, which would be nominal, and Mr. Rhame was asked to work out details. He invited all Commissioners to attend.



Mr. Ryan said he had received a call from Dan Upton at Rocks Pond Campground regarding a belief that non-resident children under 12 would have to have fishing licenses. Mr. Webb said that this belief was in error and that no child under 12 would have to have a license. It was agreed that word should be sent to Mr. Upton to correct this impression.

*Eddie Finlay*

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