

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN ANDERSON JULY 18, 1969

Present were Commissioners Eltzroth, Thompson, Eppes and Williams, Major Cantey, Jim Webb, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Charlie Bearden, Ed Latimer and Gene Howell.

Following an executive session, Chairman Eltzroth issued a statement saying:

"The Commission has determined that certain promising lands have been made available at Fort Johnson by the Medical University and the College of Charleston and that if sufficient lands are made available for the purpose of establishing a marine research center, the Commission will build the marine center at Fort Johnson.

"The Commission has also authorized the Executive Director to sign for the Commission and for the Department all state and federal contracts and or documents, with the authority to deputize other Department personnel to act for him.

"The Commission has also authorized the Chairman and the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with Jones and Fellers for engineering and architectural services for the marine center.

"The Commission has also approved a plan submitted by the Executive Director with amendments by the Commission of an organizational structure of the Commission and its Departments. This would follow generally the structure approved at the Belmont meeting, with certain exceptions as follows:

"Bears Bluff Laboratories will report directly to the Executive Director.

"Under the Division of Game and Fresh Water Fisheries will be established an office of Chief of Game and Fish Management under the Director and responsible to him; and the Executive Director's recommendations for the establishment of an office of Chief of Planning and Development was approved."

The minutes of the July 11 meeting were approved.

Mr. Webb then mentioned plans that had been made for an anadromous and fresh water fish research facility to be established near Bonneau of Lake Moultrie.



Mr. Fuller then discussed the need for the proposed facility, citing the striped bass and hybrid programs as ones that would be among the most important. He said the facilities for experimental research were badly needed, but that all the facility would not have to be constructed at one time. He added that the facility could serve as headquarters for other activities and responsibilities of the Department.

Mr. Fuller said that most of the land required could be acquired by lease from the Forest Service for a very small amount and the few acres for which direct ownership would be necessary could be acquired. Total and eventual cost would be around \$1,000,000, which could be spread out over some year.

Mr. Webb asked approval to go ahead with planning and engineering with the understanding that all contracts would be brought before the Commission for approval. The approval was given on motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Eppes.

The appointment of an Aiken county conservation officer to be paid entirely from funds credited to the county was approved, as were some non-pay appointments subject to the approval of absent Commissioners.

The proposed seasons for the management areas were turned over to a committee composed of Commissioners Williams, Thompson and Eppes to handle directly, the Commission standing bound to approve their recommendations.

Mr. Webb brought up a problem that is developing on Santee-Cooper in the area of the federal refuge, where a private land development is expected to lead to an increase in boating activity. He said the federal authorities wished to curtail boating activity during the waterfowl season on certain areas where the waterfowl would be disturbed. There are 318 acres in the water areas involved and the closing would be from November 1 through March 15.

After it was brought out that there was no hurry in making a decision, the Chairman appointed a committee of Commissioners Glenn, Mishoe and Rhame to study

the situation and report back at the next meeting, the Secretary being instructed to inform them of this.

The question of opening the sounds to shrimping was brought up and Mr. Bearden said the shrimp population was such that the season should be opened, which was agreed to on motion of Mr. Eppes. Mr. Bearden was instructed to go ahead with the advertisements tentatively setting the opening for July 23. Mr. Eltzroth said that he would give the information to the press at a conference scheduled for later in the day in Columbia.

Mr. Webb said that he would to appoint Frank Nelson as Chief of Planning and Development and Jeff Fuller as Chief of Game and Fish Management, which was approved by the Commission.

Mr. Eltzroth asked Mr. Latimer his opinion about the authority of the Commission to open the sounds to shrimping and he said there was no doubt in his mind.

The Commission instructed the Director of the Division of Game in regard to a disciplinary problem that had arisen to either accept the person's resignation or terminate his employment.

Mr. Eltzroth then discussed the appropriations that had been made available to the Department through the General Assembly and said the Department would have recurring revenue of around \$1,250,000 annually, with additional money for research facilities and for construction and operation and maintenance.

Eddie Finlay

