

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA JULY 9, 1963

All Commissioners were present, along with Directors Webb and Lunz, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Pat Ryan, Tommy Welch, Gordon Brown and Allison Fickling. Also present was Regional Director Walter Gresh of the FWS.

The minutes of the previous Commission meeting were corrected to state that a contract was being signed by Dr. Lunz with the Office of River Basin Studies to expand work on the relative abundance of fish, shrimp and crabs, the work to be conducted in an area not now being covered by the Shrimp Survey of Bears Bluff Laboratories.

It was stated that the matter of extra severance pay being sought by a former inspector of the Division of Commercial Fisheries was before Attorney General McLeod and nothing should be done until the ruling was handed down.

Mr. Latimer reported that Mr. Samworth has signed the release regarding his satisfaction with the Department's work at Dirleton.

The question of the plane insurance policy came up and after some discussion it was agreed that the company should be asked to come back with a substitute policy. (Mr. Johnson is to get Mr. Breedin to send an original and three copies of the new policy to him so that they can be considered by members of the committee appointed, the other two members being Mr. Cox and Mr. Tison.)

Mr. Johnson said the Budget and Control Board was meeting the next day (Wednesday) and would consider the Commission's request for the employment of the Anderson agency to study the accounting system of the Department.

Mr. Fuller said that the truck authorized at the last meeting for use in trout stocking would be available by next stocking season.

The question of the disposition of three Department cars assigned to office personnel was brought up. A letter was read from Mr. Buchanan stating that the car used by him was needed in license work. A motion of Mr. Cox was adopted that: "On the showing of Mr. Buchanan and with the possibility of greater service the Buchanan car should be kept for business and such other use as the office may determine."



A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that the car assigned to Mr. Wolling be appraised and that he have the privilege of buying it at the average appraisal. A motion of Mr. Heyward was then adopted that the car assigned to Mr. Ramage be handled in the same manner.

The question of preparing the budget for next year was brought up and the Secretary was instructed to check about the special committee that had been appointed to go over the proposed budget of the various divisions before presenting it to the Budget and Control Board. (The special committee, composed of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Cantey and Mr. Cox is to meet before the September meeting to study and pass on the proposed budgets of the various Divisions).

The matter of a Williamsburg warden taking out hunting parties was held over until the hunting season for investigation.

The Commission then took up liability insurance on wardens' cars. Mr. Webb said he had found the \$500 medical for the driver did not apply to employees injured in line of duty.

Mr. Ryan presented prepared recommendations on car operation. Dr. Lunz said that he would not like it to apply to his Division until he had a chance to study it.

Mr. Heyward said he thought the first paragraph of the recommendations should be amended, saying that it should be relaxed. After some discussion a motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that: "The use by any officer, agent or employee of the Division of Game for any private purpose of any type or description shall be governed by the supervisor in that it shall not exceed a reasonable amount of travel."

A motion of Mr. Cantey was approved that the liability coverage be increased from 10-20 to 20-40 and that individual wardens can get increases at their own expense on the master policy.

Mr. Webb was instructed to find out more about the \$500 medical and to report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Welch presented a report on the Boating Division and on motion of Mr. Cox it was accepted.



Mr. Webb presented a letter regarding the buying of supplies and equipment and after some discussion it was agreed that approval should be secured from the Purchasing Division for all purchases. A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that: "All purchases over \$50 must be approved by the Purchasing Division."

The meeting resumed after adjournment for lunch and approval was given Mr. Nelson for delay enroute to the Atlantic Flyway Council meeting.

The qualifications for the employment of fish hatchery superintendents were approved.

A number of warden appointments and reappointments were approved.

The question of the resignation of a Dillon warden came up and Mr. Webb recommended that he not be replaced. A motion of Mr. Tison was approved that: "Mr. Webb's action in accepting the resignation of the Dillon warden and not appointing a replacement be approved."

Mr. Tison said that Senator Scott of Dillon has recommended a man over 40 years of age and has said he plans to file charges of political activity against the remaining warden. A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that: "Mr. Webb follow the usual procedure in advising the Senator of a hearing if he desired one and the procedure to be followed."

Mr. Webb presented a proposed contract among the Fish and Wildlife Service, The Extension Service, the Health Department and the Wildlife Resources Department regarding predator and rodent control.

Mr. Gresh said that the whole matter was a complicated subject and recommended that Mr. Webb confer with him. The Commission voted for Mr. Webb to study and consider the matter further.

Mr. Webb then reported on the Accelerated Public Works projects that had been approved and there was general discussion of some of the projects. Mr. Webb said South Carolina was getting half a million dollars out of \$6,000,000 for the entire United States and had been allocated \$122,000 addition for the present fiscal year.

Mr. Heyward suggested improvements at Belmont and Mr. Cantey asked about signs



at the various projects, being told that they were to be placed at all.

Mr. Nelson then outlined the various projects of the Division of Game and their leaders, mentioning the addition to the Belmont area which would allow some public hunting. He cited the possibility of some additional management areas being set up.

Mr. Johnson said that the projects were fine but that, in his opinion, they were out of proportion for the people who keep the Department going with their license money--the rabbit, squirrel and quail hunters.

He also said something should be done to help the preserves, which take much of the hunting pressure.

Asked about followups on bicolor lespedeza use, Mr. Webb said that a three-year study had been made.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Gresh what could be done toward making Belmont a show-place and demonstration area for what could be done with small game.

Mr. Gresh said getting information to landowners is very valuable and there is a big need for spreading information, and Belmont could be used as a study and experimental area. He said there was little that could be done for the rabbit hunter except to increase food and cover for the rabbits.

Mr. Tison asked what could be done about Belmont and Mr. Gresh said the first thing would be to make it livable but a thorough study should precede any recommendation.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that the Department should proceed to build a house for a biologist at Belmont and staff the project adequately with a man able to manage game, primarily quail.

Mr. Johnson thanked all personnel who had written giving their suggestions, saying that they had been most valuable.

There was a general discussion of what could be done about I&E salaries.

It was agreed that the I&E Division needed a secretary and that the possibility should be considered of placing the Division under the Division of Game so that salaries could be increased. It was also agreed that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Webb



should confer with Jim Smith regarding the possible shift.

The question of getting additional space was also brought up and Mr. Webb was asked to explore the possibility, to confer with Jim Smith when he returned, and to get information by the next meeting.

The question of regular staff meetings was discussed and it was agreed they should be held very two weeks as a starter.

The suggestion of Mr. Nelson for a booklet on standard operating procedures was taken up.

Mr. Heyward suggested that a study should be made of all letters and they be put in one form and this was agreed to.

Mr. Cox was named chairman of the committee to get up an operational procedure booklet. Members of the committee would be Mr. Webb, Mr. Brown, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Latimer. The letters and recommendations received would be turned over to this Committee which would present its report at a later meeting of the Commission.

Mr. Webb was also asked by the Chairman to come up with a suggestion for an assistant at the next meeting.

It was also agreed that Mr. Nelson needed an assistant and should report at the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson said someone was needed to analyze the cost of cars, car operation, etc., and if more men were needed for this they should be employed.

Mr. Heyward said the salary for starting wardens was too low and some good men were being missed. He suggested a starting salary of \$4,000 and \$6,000 for supervisors.

Mr. Ryan said that someone to be second in command to supervisors was needed.

Several suggestions were made as to how the work of the wardens could be improved, including the authority to switch wardens to where a vacancy occurred, having the wardens get around more and meet more people, and giving warnings instead of making borderline cases.



A letter from Mr. Webb was read in which he asked that his authority and responsibilities be better defined and it was agreed that this could be done in the booklet on operation procedure.

Mr. Johnson suggested that a list be kept of everyone shooting or visiting at Belmont and a Commission policy should be set on restricting guests.

Mr. Welch asked about using the Department boat on public service cruises and Mr. Johnson said this was justified and should be left up to Mr. Welch's discretion.

*Eddie Finlay*

