

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING IN COLUMBIA JUNE 10, 1963

Present were Commissioners Johnson, Cantey, Heyward, Hopkins and Tison, along with Directors Webb and Lunz, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson and Ed Latimer.

Mr. Webb said that Senator Roddey of Lancaster has asked to be notified of the next meeting of the Commission and had planned to appear before the Commission to protest the transfer of the hatchery man from Greer to take charge of the Heath Springs hatchery, but had called stating that he was sick and unable to attend the meeting. The Commission agreed to postpone the transfer until he could be heard.

Mr. Johnson said that he thought it would be well for all Commissioners to reread and study the Wildlife Management Institute report, many of whose recommendations had not been acted upon. He said that in view of this it might be best not to ask the WMI to make another study.

In regard to the suggestion in the report that hunting and fishing licenses run concurrently, Mr. Webb said that there were some points in favor of this but it would require the hiring of additional personnel to help handle the rush work.

Mr. Latimer and Mr. Nelson said nothing had been heard from Attorney Rosen at Georgetown regarding getting a letter in writing from Mr. Samworth stating that all conditions and stipulations had been met at Dirleton. They were instructed to pursue the matter.

Dan Breedin of the Alester G. Furman company then appeared in regard to the requested policy on the Department plane. Mr. Tison said he did not approve of several provisions of the policy and the phrase "determined by the company" and "up to" should be eliminated. Mr. Breedin said that he would report back with a policy carrying the suggested eliminations.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that the matter be handled by Mr. Johnson and Mr. Cox and Mr. Tison and not taken up by the full Commission.

There was a general discussion of several questions brought up at the previous meeting, including garage rental, and the question of who is entitled to drive state



cars at state expense. It was agreed that a policy on car use was needed and Mr. Webb said that he would investigate the matter and report back at the next meeting. A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that the Commission at the next meeting take up the question of garage rental and the matter of state-owned cars and their use.

Mr. Wolling explained the voucher system and said it was possible to save time by writing one check for several bills, this accounting for a duplication of voucher numbers.

Mr. Johnson, in discussing liability insurance carried on Department cars, suggested that a rider should be attached that the company would not use immunity as a basis for defense unless requested by the Department.

The question of the Arthur Anderson company making a study of accounting and reporting procedures was brought up and the following motion of Mr. Cantey was unanimously adopted: "That at the convenience of both parties--the auditors and the Commission-- and on the basis of a letter from the auditors they be employed to make a study and recommendations on the procedures and practices used by the Department, this being subject to the approval of the Budget and Control Board."

Mr. Johnson stated that both Governor Russell and Auditor Jim Smith favored the study.

Mr. Fuller reported on a request from Admiral D. P. Polatty of the Greenville Wildlife Federation for the securing of a truck and tank for transporting trout to inaccessible streams. It was brought out that the truck, with tank removed, could be used for patrolling areas inaccessible by car. A motion of Mr. Hopkins was adopted that the matter be left up to Mr. Fuller with the approval of Mr. Webb to get the necessary equipment to do the job.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the work of Lloyd Webb on the Clemson project and Mr. Nelson explained the value of it. The projects have included a study of the possibilities of having quail hunting along with pasture land in the Piedmont,



deer road counts and a study of deer repellants on orchards. One study has involved a day-by-day study from a tower of two coveys of quail, the primary purpose being to determine when and how mortality occurs over the year. He said he considered the projects well worthwhile.

Mr. Johnson inquired as to what was being done to help the shooting preserve operator, who he said helped the Department financially and provided shooting opportunities. Mr. Nelson said that the USFWS had turned down a project study designed to help the shooting preserves. Mr. Webb stated that the FWS will not approve federal aid for research on pen-raised game released on a put and take basis.

Mr. Johnson, citing the WMI report, asked what had been done about setting up district biologists and Mr. Nelson said there are now three with another on the way. He said federal aid policy prevented them being used much to help private landowners.

Mr. Johnson also brought up the matter of an assistant director, as mentioned in the WMI recommendations. Mr. Webb said that he had been appointed assistant director under Director Richardson and at the time he was appointed director the position was temporarily abolished but that the work load had increased so much an assistant director will probably be necessary.

There was some discussion of the failure to pass recommended legislation at the past session of the General Assembly and Mr. Johnson said work should start now on preparing laws whose passage should be sought. Mr. Tison suggested a November meeting to decide upon a legislative program and it was agreed that this would be wise.

There was a general discussion of liability insurance on wardens' cars and Mr. Tison suggested that liability coverage on cars driven by wardens should be increased to 20-40 thousand from the present 10-20 and also there should be an



increase in the \$500 medical allowance. The Commission favored this and Mr. Webb was asked to work out something and report at the next meeting.

Mr. Heyward brought up the question of retirement for Wardens Grimball and Mimms, both of whom are now over 65. It was agreed that Mr. Grimball be retained until October 1 so that he could get additional retirement but no longer. No action was taken on Mr. Mimms.

The meeting then recessed for lunch.

Mr. Webb presented a report on federal aid that has been approved under the accelerated public works program.

Salary schedules for the Division of Game for the coming year were presented by Mr. Webb. All these were approved and also some spot raises were added to the list.

Raises were also approved for Gordon Brown and Art Buehler if this could be managed through the Budget and Control Board.

The reappointment of a number of wardens was approved.

Mr. Webb was asked to investigate reports that a Williamsburg warden had been acting as guide to hunting parties.

Mr. Webb reported on a meeting with Georgia officials regarding ways of working together on the Savannah river. He recommended the employment of a warden to patrol the river with a Georgia man so regardless of which side of the river a violation took place a case could be made.

After some discussion a suggestion of Mr. Johnson that the employment of another warden be delayed and that one of the present wardens be assigned this duty until all details have been worked out.

It was agreed to employ Robert O. Smith a Jasper county warden to be paid from county funds for three months.



Mr. Cantey asked for a progress report on the Hampton county lake and Mr. Fuller said that approval was needed from several state agencies to go to the FWS.

Mr. Johnson asked how the lake would be managed after it was constructed and Mr. Fuller replied that this was up to the Commission but that he would recommend not putting on a caretaker. He did not favor having a person at the lake to sell licenses.

Mr. Fuller said an agreement was being worked out with county officials on the Lee lake under which the county would take care of policing etc., and the Department handle fish management and weed control.

The Commission approved Mr. Webb's action in accepting the resignation of Georgetown Warden Johnson.

Dr. Lunz said that he was concerned about an oyster lease on the Santee that had been granted in error and that he would like the Commission to cancel the lease right now. It involves 45 acres below the low water mark. The suggestion was made that it might be best to let the lease run to its December expiration date and fight it out then. He added that the man getting the lease had never planted any shell.

Dr. Lunz said that he would like a hearing Commissioner appointed for three hearings where immediate action was needed and several which are in dispute.

Mr. Johnson said that he had talked with Attorney General McLeod at lunch and that Mr. McLeod thought it possible he could arrange for his office to handle the hearings.

In regard to an act passed providing for "sets" for shad netting on the Savannah river Dr. Lunz said his division had no money to mark the sets.

He said that he was concerned about a raise of \$600 for Chief Law Enforcement Officer Fickling which has gone through the Assembly but which might not be approved by the Budget and Control Board.



Mr. Johnson said that a policy should be set regarding the wardens keeping their cars in good condition and Mr. Webb was requested to have a policy drawn up for presentation at the next meeting. Dr. Lunz said he had seen rules used in Florida and would try and get a set.

It was suggested that Mr. Latimer could draw up rules for car operation.

Mr. Cantey brought up a report he had received from Greenville complaining of actions of a warden in making a case and in calling up jurors after the case was lost. Supervisor Ross was called in and gave details of what had happened, saying that he personally had called up one of the jurors to inquire as to why they had turned the defendant loose and to ask the jurors if they believed the warden (Wolfe) was telling the truth. His explanation was accepted as satisfactory.

Mr. Webb stated that a law raising the non-resident hunting license provides half of the increase be given to Ducks Unlimited for work in Canada and half be retained for work within the State, and asked instructions on the use of these funds.

Mr. Webb said \$4,543.50 was now available from the sale of non-resident licenses for use in Canada and there might be a moral obligation to give it to Ducks Unlimited.

A motion of Mr. Hopkins was adopted approving that the funds be given Ducks Unlimited with the provision that the money be expended on a project "as far East as practical."

Mr. Webb then presented a long-range program adopted by the Commission in 1954. Mr. Johnson suggested that it be revised and mimeographed and sent to each Commissioner.

It was agreed that Mr. Latimer and Pat Ryan make recommendations on car control and operation.

A letter was read from Tommy Welch asking that the Commission set a policy in regard to the use of the "Matt", the recently-acquired Department Boat. Mr. Johnson



said that the Director should authorize use of the boat.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in connection with the Wardens School. (The meeting has been set for Tuesday, July 9, the Commissioners taking lunch with the wardens at noon, meeting in the afternoon and attending a dinner with the wardens that night. If there is any change the Commissioners will be notified).

Eddie Finlay

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