

S. C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

THE CITADEL

JUNE 18, 1971

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission was called to order by Chairman Eltzroth at 10:15 A. M. on June 18, 1971. This meeting was held in the Board Room at The Citadel in Charleston. Commission members in attendance were Vice-Chairman Glenn, Commissioners Rhame, Mishoc and Eppes. Also in attendance were Major Cantey, Executive Director Webb, Pat Ryan, T. C. Welch, Brock Conrad, Charlie Bearden, Dr. Timmerman, Joe Logan and a reporter from The Charleston News and Courier.

On the motion of Commissioner Rhame, seconded by Vice-Chairman Glenn, the minutes of the May meeting in their corrected form were approved without objection.

The first order of business concerned the report and recommendations prepared and presented by Mr. Ryan concerning the proposal that the Department develop its own capability to provide radio maintenance. Mr. Ryan's recommendations, a copy of which is attached to the file copy of these minutes, states that at the present time it does not appear to be appropriate to develop this type of capability and that the required maintenance and installations can be done more economically by utilizing the various private service facilities. Chairman Eltzroth noted that the total costs contained in this report for the fiscal years of 1970 and 1971 did not include the officer's time spent or vehicle operational expense when seeking and receiving these services from the various private vendors. Mr. Ryan responded that he did not believe that this was a significant factor because of the distribution of these private service facilities and that most of the Department personnel requiring such service were located relatively close to such facilities. Executive Director Webb expressed the opinion that in all probability a greater amount of time and travel might result if we attempted to provide our own repair facilities.

Chairman requested that Mr. Ryan further study this problem and provide a more complete cost estimate of our present maintenance and installation charges, so as to reflect time and travel costs resulting from such maintenance and installation.



Commissioner Mishoe expressed the belief that we were most fortunate to have the service which is presently being rendered and at the cost as indicated. He believed that greater amount of monies would be expended if we attempted to provide our own capabilities. In response to a question by Chairman Eltzroth concerning preventive maintenance, Commissioner Mishoe stated he did not believe that there would be any significant savings in this area.

Vice-Chairman Glenn moved that the Commission accept the report and recommendations of Mr. Ryan, subject to further study and possible reconsideration at a later date. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Rhame and the motion was carried.

The second item of business concerned the study prepared by Dr. Stoudemire concerning supervisory levels within the Law Enforcement Section and Mr. Ryan's plan concerning implementation of portions of this study. Commissioner Mishoe, Chairman of the Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose of reviewing this subject, reported that his Committee had met in Columbia on June 2, 1971, had at length discussed the contents of the report with both Executive Director Webb and Director Ryan, had prepared the minutes of this meeting and distributed the same to each member of the Commission. At this time he asked for any comments that members of the Commission might have concerning this subject and in asking for these comments, acknowledged receipt of the recently mailed Arkansas study and observed that the recommendations contained in this highly regarded study were very similar to the recommendations presently being made concerning the subject of supervisory levels within the Law Enforcement Section.

With no comments being made by Commission members, Commissioner Mishoe then discussed that portion of the Committee's report and recommendations dealing with the supervisory structure as contained in the proposal.

Chairman Eltzroth inquired as to the possible date of implementation and how long it would take to make a selection of the unit leaders. He inquired if either Executive Director Webb or Director Ryan could tell with a degree of certainty when final recommendations could be made to the Commission. Director Ryan responded that implementation is going to require time and serious thought. He stated that the most important part of implementation would be the selection of personnel and further stated that within ninety days he could provide for the Commission a firm proposal, including those officers recommended for the positions which would be created by the implementation of this plan. He noted that the Personnel



Division had said that they could be prepared within two weeks to start interviewing applicants for the unit leader positions.

Further discussion concerned recommended salaries, steps to be taken in developing the final proposal and an interpretation of the action to be taken by the Commission at this time.

Commissioner Mishoe moved that the Sub-Committee's report concerning the reorganization of the Law Enforcement Division be adopted, with the complete plan for implementation developed for either the September or October meeting of the Commission and that implementation would be predicated on the approval of the final plan. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Eppes and was carried.

Chairman Eltzroth expressed the need for consideration of a courtesy system, that would require group leaders and supervisors be addressed with a suitable title. He believed that this degree of formality would be of tremendous value within the organizational structure.

Commissioner Mishoe made a motion that the remainder of his Committee's recommendations be adopted. This motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Glenn.

During the discussion of the motion, Commissioner Rhame raised the question if acceptance of the proposed motion also would accept and approve the map which was made a part of Mr. Ryan's report. In reply to this question, it was stated that the map was for informational purposes only to give an idea of the geographical distribution of our present Conservation Officers and their relationship to the existing Law Enforcement districts.

The proposed motion was amended to state that the map attached to the report is not a part of the report and that it was provided for informational purposes only. The motion was so carried.

All appointments as mailed to the Commission by Executive Director Webb were approved, subject to the concurrence by Commissioners Thompson and Williams for those appointments within their Congressional districts. The appointments of Howard Lee Denton and William Henry Cleveland, Sr., which were not mailed prior to the Commission meeting, were approved. Also, the appointment of the Conservation Officer within Lee County was confirmed.



Vice-Chairman Glenn expressed the concern for himself and his Finance Committee on the inability to obtain an understandable financial report. He noted that during the tenure of this Finance Sub-Committee, he had asked Mr. Ramage for such a report, had engaged the services of J. W. Hunt and others. Each of these has failed to provide any assistance in meeting the objectives of the Committee. He stated that this has been an expressed need for a long period of time and that the Commission must have such a report to be able to visualize the finances of the Wildlife Resources Department. Chairman Eltzroth concurred in this position, emphasized that such a report must be provided and questioned why the June financial report did not contain a comparison of the comparable period in 1970.

Mr. Welch discussed the problem which has evolved over the use by private concerns of certain investigative reports prepared when a boating fatality occurs. He stated that insurance companies were making requests for these reports which are prepared by his personnel relative to the facts leading up to and causing these fatal accidents. He noted that these reports were initiated so that information could be gathered as a means of reducing such fatal accidents and providing the Boating Section with basic information upon which they could make recommendations. He noted that this information could contain errors from time to time because of delay in time between the date of the accidents and the making of the report and the lack of suitable witnesses who could be interviewed.

Mr. Welch had asked for guidance in this matter from Mr. Latimer and Mr. Latimer prepared an opinion concerning this matter. A copy of this opinion is attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Mr. Welch also expressed concern that if these investigative reports were made available to private concerns, he believed that there would be a greater demand upon personnel within his Section to be called as witnesses when certain legal cases were being considered.

Chairman Eltzroth, reflecting on this question as a lawyer, noted that he believed that there might be less demand upon investigating officers if the parties interested in such information could view the investigative reports and determine thereby how much information was available. He noted that if these investigative reports were not made available, the private party could subpoena the officer and through testimony given by the officer obtain the same information. He noted that by existing statutes,



certain reports by law cannot be made available.

Mr. Ryan stated that this question was placed on the agenda so that the Commission would be made aware of the existing problem and to ask their guidance. Mr. Welch also noted that he was interested in knowing whether these types of investigations should be continued. To this question, Chairman Eltzroth responded that he believed that it was most important to make such investigations if we are truly interested in boating safety.

Commissioner Mishoe concurred in the belief that such investigative reports be made by the Department and that such reports be available upon request. He noted that the Department cannot guarantee its contents as to accuracy and that they are solely the observations and judgments of the investigating officer.

Commissioner Mishoe moved that the accident reports as prepared by Department personnel be made available upon request. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Eppes and the motion was carried.

Commissioner Mishoe requested that Mr. Welch prepare a summary of the investigative reports that have been made to date and if possible, provide the Commission with recommendations based upon the findings of these reports.

Because of the need to meet the time schedule for the serving of meals at The Citadel and to be able to accept the very kind invitation of Colonel James Woods to lunch with The Citadel campus, certain items were taken up at this time out of order as they may be found on the agenda.

" The request of the South Carolina Field Trial Association to use the Belmont Game Management Area for two field trials during the year was discussed. The discussion on this question also included the possibility of alternate sites that could be made available for this purpose.

Vice-Chairman Glenn, with a second by Commissioner Mishoe, moved that Chairman Eltzroth act as a Committee of one, to work out a suitable site for the use by the South Carolina Field Trial Association for its two field trials held each year. The motion was carried.



Chairman Eltzroth noted that sometime ago the Department discontinued the use of the point system as a method of evaluating Conservation Officer performance. This policy decision was made at the time that the Performance Appraisal procedures were adopted. He expressed the opinion that the procedure of giving weighted points for various cases made did not fairly indicate the value of the officer. He noted that it was his belief that it was still being compiled and that this should be terminated.

Commissioner Mishoe noted that he did not believe that this long established procedure was detrimental and that it was good for informational purposes. He noted that it was not used as a basis for advancement and that he had made the request for the information and was receiving it.

Executive Director Webb responded that this is not generally distributed and that he has found it useful to judge officers if there was marked monthly changes in the summary.

Commissioner Mishoe moved that the compiling of points as the result of making cases be discontinued but that a report be provided which lists the cases made by each officer. This was seconded by Commissioner Rhame and the motion was carried.

Vice-Chairman Glenn complimented Dr. Timmerman for the public relations work that he is doing in relation to Marine Resources and the developing Center. He noted that these appearances and remarks had received considerable attention on both television and in the press. These remarks by Mr. Glenn were seconded by the entire Commission.

Chairman Eltzroth expressed sincere thanks to The Citadel for the opportunity of again meeting in its most pleasant surroundings, for the many courtesies which were extended to the Commission and for the sincere interest which The Citadel has in the Department's goals and objectives.

At this time, the Chairman brought up the subject of the petitions which had been circulated and were forwarded by Senator Carter regarding the proposed changes in the game management portions of the Francis Marion National Forest. Mr. Eltzroth directed Mr. Ryan to make a full reply to Senator Carter, with such reply providing the Senator with the reasons why these changes were being made and what the Department expected to accomplish as the result of these management changes.



Chairman Eltzroth also noted that there was a real need for a much improved public relations effort on the part of the Department. He stated that if such an effort had been made, it is reasonable to believe that these petitions would not have been circulated. The Chairman stated that no program can succeed without prior public relations effort and that this part of the Department's activities must be given immediate attention.

At 12:00 noon the meeting was recessed for lunch.

Following a very enjoyable lunch period, at which time members of the Commission and the Staff had an opportunity to meet many of the counselors and campers and Chairman Eltzroth expressed some most appropriate thoughts for the entire group, the Commission returned to the consideration of the unfinished business on the agenda.

The first item following lunch related to the subject of game management area permits and procedures.

Mr. Ryan noted that he had forwarded earlier to the Commission certain recommended procedures to be followed and that he was recommending that the charge for the game management area permit be \$5.00.

Chairman Eltzroth stated that he had suggested to Mr. Ryan that serious consideration should be given to an adjustment of this proposed permit fee so as to reflect the possible differences in management which would occur on U. S. Forest lands and private lands.

Mr. Ryan explained in detail the proposal and also reported on the meeting which was held in Columbia on June 14th with representatives of the U. S. Forest Service and most of the private companies which will have land in the program. Questions raised at this meeting concerned owners liability, how much could be offered to the private landowner and the benefit in public relations that timber companies will receive from the program.

Further discussion concerned the policy to be followed concerning the waterfowl management areas and the charges to be made where drawings are held for waterfowl hunting privileges.

On the motion of Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Vice-Chairman Glenn, the Commission approved a \$4.25 general fee for the permit to hunt on all game management areas and that an additional daily fee of \$3.00 be charged for waterfowl hunting opportunities on the management areas maintained for this purpose.



Dr. Timmerman briefly presented his monthly progress report concerning the various activities within the Marine Resources Division.

Dr. Timmerman was authorized to decide as to the buoys marking the various offshore artificial fishing reefs are to be identified.

Dr. Timmerman reported on his search for a suitable Director for the Office of Marine Research and Education. He noted that the applications which he had received had been narrowed down to Dr. Herbert Windom of Skidaway and Dr. Edwin Joseph of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences. He felt that the final interview with these two candidates could best be carried out by meeting with them at their present laboratory facilities and reviewing the type of operations which they administer.

On the motion of Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Commissioner Eppes, Dr. Timmerman was authorized to further review these candidates and to employ the individual he believes to be best qualified to fill the position.

The legislative report as prepared by the Secretary was distributed to the members present. There was no discussion on this report.

Committee reports were partially made as a part of the scheduled agenda. Vice-Chairman Glenn for his Finance Committee, made a report when the general finance report was discussed. No report was made on Lake Hartwell or Chester Lake because Commissioners Thompson and Williams were not in attendance. There was no report from the Legislative Sub-Committee and the Oyster Block Leasing Committee reported that it had a most successful meeting with oystermen in the McClellanville area and reconciled all points of friction that had occurred.

Chairman Eltzroth read a letter addressed to Mr. Ryan from Mr. Bill Babb, Outdoor Editor of the Augusta (Georgia) Chronicle. It contained certain comments relative to positions taken or not taken by the Wildlife Resources Department when past programs or projects are proposed which would have an impact upon natural resources, fish and wildlife or the environment.

The Commission again expressed that its policy shall be that the Department will provide information relative to fish and wildlife to agencies having responsibilities for the making of decisions. Furthermore,



the policy shall be that decisions will be made by the Wildlife Resources Department concerning these matters when the Wildlife Resources Department has been designated as the agency to make those decisions.

Chairman Eltzroth asked if it would not be appropriate to provide a Sub-Committee of the Commission which would concern itself with the game management area permit systems and to work closely with Mr. Ryan on this matter. He noted that there were going to be numerous problems which would constantly require decisions and with the opening of the hunting season on August 15th, unnecessary delays in making such decisions could not occur.

Commissioner Rhame moved, seconded by Commissioner Mishoe, that the Chairman appoint a suitable Sub-Committee for the purpose of working with Mr. Ryan concerning game management area permit systems and for this Committee to act for the Commission. The motion was carried.

The proposed Budget for the fiscal year 1972 was accepted by the Commission as information.

At 2:10 P. M., the meeting of the Commission adjourned and the Commissioners continued in Executive Session. At the end of the Executive Session, there was no further material to be added to the minutes of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



ROGER A. SEAMANS, Secretary
Wildlife Resources Commission

RAS/pal

