

MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA MARCH 11, 1965

Present were all Commissioners, along with Directors Webb and Lunz, Assistant Director Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Gordon Brown and Van Newman of the Newman Public Relations Agency.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved, after the Secretary said he was correcting the minutes of the previous meeting on Page Four to read that Dr. Lunz had not opposed the hiring of a biologist but had opposed the passage of the bill dealing with licenses for fishing in Zone Seven.

Major Cantey reported on the meeting he had had with Dr. Lunz and presented a letter he had received from Dr. Lunz, outlining recommendations, which he approved.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that: "The action taken as outlined in the letter of February 23 be approved as the action of the Commission."

Dr. Lunz said that a hearing might be necessary on the recommendation regarding the McIntosh-Toomer matter and Mr. Cox said he could hold the hearing in the near future. Mr. Johnson suggested that if Mr. Cox were unable to hold the hearing it might be handled by Major Cantey, and Mr. Cox then suggested that Major Cantey go along to the hearing with him. Dr. Lunz was requested to set a date.

The Secretary was requested to write a letter to Dr. Lunz informing him of the action of the Commission in the protest of Dr. Peeples, so that Dr. Lunz might notify him.

Mr. Cantey asked what could be done about hurrying up the Attorney General's office in ruling on several pending matters.

Mr. Ryan said that the Manual had been completed and 200 copies could be printed for around \$1,000 and he asked approval of this, which was granted on motion of Mr. Hopkins.

Mr. Webb said that the license-handling bill was in the hands of a sub-committee of the Agriculture and Conservation committee and no action had been taken as yet, but he would check next week.

A matter from the previous meeting--where funds were coming from to pay various



wardens--was then brought up and Mr. Webb said the material gotten up so far was not sufficient but he would revise it for a later meeting. Mr. Cox suggested that Mr. Webb mail his revision to the Commissioners as soon as it was completed.

The question of using decals on Department vehicles was then discussed at some length. Mr. Hopkins said the Department was missing an opportunity to advertise. A motion by Mr. Hopkins was then adopted that: "Department trucks moving fish be identified with big letters and that when the truck was sold or traded the letters be removed."

Mr. Cox said that this might be misrepresenting the facts, since the trucks might be being used for some other purposes.

It was then agreed that Mr. Fuller should see that signs were put on the tanks used in moving fish and that the trucks should have decals stating they were Department property, which should be removed when the trucks were sold.

It was also agreed that all Department trucks should have identification.

Mr. Heyward suggested that wardens' cars not have an identifiable color. After some discussion this matter was left in abeyance.

The question of office space was discussed briefly by Mr. Webb.

Mr. Johnson brought up the possibility of acquiring some land in Chesterfield county now owned by the federal government with the Forestry Department having a lease on a considerable part of it.

Mr. Webb said that he had discussed the matter in Washington with the top officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service with emphasis on the possibility of Department acquiring the area if the refuge is closed. He said federal action was being held up until Congress acted on appropriations. He also said the FWS had spent considerable sums in the past year in improving the area for game and fish.

Mr. Webb said that something should be done to try and get the land if it were available, but that it would be best to wait and see what Congress does. If the FWS loses the land then every effort should be made to try and secure it.



Mr. Johnson said if the Commission thought it would help he would be glad to call Walt Gresh. Mr. Johnson also suggested that negotiations might be started with the Forestry Department.

Mr. Tison moved that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Webb take up the matter with the State Forester Tiller, the motion later being amended to include Major Cantey.

The meeting of the committee of nine which is studying the Commission setup is set for Wednesday, March 17, at 3 o'clock and the question of Commission appearance was discussed. It was agreed that all Commissioners should attend the meeting, and hold a meeting that morning to go over a presentation. It was later agreed this meeting should be at 11 o'clock.

The appointment of several non-pay wardens was approved.

Mr. Webb brought up the question of possible replacement of Supervisor Caskey with another warden in Fairfield county. He said the man recommended by the delegation was 40 on his last birthday in September and he would like a definite statement from the Commission as to whether this would put the man over the 40-year-limit set by the Commission. A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that: "When a man has had his 40th birthday he no longer be considered eligible for employment."

Mr. Webb said Mr. Goldberg had called him from Bennettsville saying a broadcasting company wished to lease four acres of Lake Wallace land for \$500 a year on a 10-year basis. The land would be used to construct a 350-foot broadcasting tower.

A motion was adopted that Mr. Tison and Mr. Webb investigate the matter and report back to the Commission.

Frank Nelson said that a proposed cooperative project by southeastern states to conduct a duck and goose banding program called for \$2,060 annually for three years, federal funds paying 75 per cent of the costs. A motion was adopted authorizing this expenditure.

Major Cantey brought up the question of marsh ownership and Doctor Lunz said under the present law the state was giving away land too cheaply and the proposed



legislation was bad. He said the bill now pending would hurt fishing, hunting, boating and recreation for the public and he had opposed it at a meeting in Charleston, as well as in the General Assembly.

Mr. Tison suggested that Doctor Lunz write a letter to this effect to both legislative committees and that the Commissioners sign the letter.

Mr. Johnson suggested that Doctor Lunz write letters to the Commission stating that --"at your request I give my views on the bills now pending, etc."

It was brought out that game matters were also involved and that Mr. Webb should also give his views.

Mr. Webb said that the Governor had designated the Department as coordinator for the outdoor recreation plan. He said although not many of the details were not known it would call for the immediate employment of one person and one secretary and may require more as the work progresses.

Mr. Johnson said the Department could not divert money from fish and game purposes and money must be furnished from somewhere if the Department took on these duties.

Mr. Tison said he wanted definite information on the program and approximate costs and Mr. Ryan said Florida was planning to spend \$2,000,000 in drawing up a plan, with no idea of the total cost of the program.

Mr. Cantey suggested that Mr. Webb confer with the Governor as to what he had in mind and Mr. Cox suggested that Mr. Johnson might do this instead. This was then embodied in a motion of Mr. Tison that: "Mr. Johnson take up the matter with the Governor, including the question of where the money was coming from."

Mr. Cox said that a letter he had written the Governor some time back explaining how Department money could not be diverted to other purposes would be useful.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Webb to get him the Code provisions dealing with diversion of funds, and also a copy of Mr. Cox's letter.

Mr. Johnson said he would meet later in the day with Van Newman to go into



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information on the costs of handling publicity.

Mr. Johnson then brought up the question of charging for the magazine, saying that if it were worth anything at all it should be worth charging for.

Mr. Hopkins then asked Mr. Brown his ideas on whether the magazine should be charged for and Mr. Brown said that if the magazine continued as a quarterly it would not be feasible to charge for it.

Mr. Cantey suggested that an insert be placed in the next magazine asking the person receiving it if (1) they wanted to continue receiving the magazine; and (2) would they be willing to pay for it.

The Commission then went into executive session.

Following the session the Commission directed Mr. Webb to present Mr. Heyward with the pistol now assigned to him and also with the chair he had used "in recognition of his faithful service to the State and to the Commission."

*Eddie Finlay*

