

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA MARCH 15, 1968  
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All Commissioners were present except Chairman Eltzroth and Mr. Glenn, Major Cantey, vice-chairman, presiding in the absence of Mr. Eltzroth. Present were Directors Webb and Lunz, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Tommy Welch, Fred Ramage, Ed Latimer, Gene Howell and Kirk Stringfellow of the advisory committee.

Dr. Lunz presented a sheet of notes but said none of them required action at this time and they were received as information. They included a contract between the Chairman and the Murrell's Inlet--Garden City Fishing Paradise Association which he thought might require Commissioner Glenn's signature; the status of oyster grounds formerly under lease to the Atlantic Shellfish Company and to L. P. Maggioni and Company; and the fact that 425,000 less pounds of crabs had been harvested during the first eight months of the fiscal year.

Mr. Webb said a meeting has been scheduled with the Governor for Monday at 2 p. m., at which time the Department's attitude toward the Charleston-Columbia navigation channel would be expressed. Chairman Eltzroth, Director Webb and Jeff Fuller will appear for the Department.

Major Cantey asked about the tidelands bill that had been introduced in the Senate and Dr. Lunz said that he and the Department had successfully opposed similar legislation in the past. He said one of the worst features of the proposed legislation was that proof of ownership would not be upon the man claiming ownership.

After Mr. Mishoe said the bill was in committee and he did not think it would be reported out during the current session, but if it were steps could be taken to oppose it.

The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with.

Mr. Webb said that trouble had arisen regarding legislation to limit the size mesh of catfish baskets to 1 1-2 inch, this size being difficult to get. He said that delegations around Santee-Cooper wished to make this one inch, which



can be done by the Director with the approval of the delegations. On motion of Mr. Mishoe this was approved.

Mr. Webb then presented some correspondence regarding the proposed navigation channel from Charleston to Columbia up the Congaree, which he said would materially affect the striped bass population, as practically all the stripers in Santee-Cooper are spawned in the Congaree above the junction with the Wateree. It was agreed that the Commission should take the position it was not in sympathy with the proposal, unless it could be guaranteed that the striped bass would not be affected.

Mr. Webb said a plan to prevent flooding of the swamps, which had been strongly opposed by timber interests, would be extremely expensive and was the principal reason the Corps of Engineers had dropped its plans earlier.

It was agreed that the Department would oppose the plan of a series of navigation dams.

Mr. Webb read a letter suggesting that the widow of Warden J. D. Smoak be allowed to have the outboard motor and homemade boat which had been assigned to him. After some discussion the Director was authorized to see if this could be worked out with the delegation.

The Commission recommended approving the finding of the accident committee regarding an accident in which the car assigned to Biologist Lloyd Webb had been damaged, after the committee reported that faulty brakes were responsible.

A number of warden appointments were approved, those from Commissioner Glenn's district being approved subject to this approval.

Mr. Oliphant said Mr. Stringfellow had some suggestions regarding the seasons on the Broad River Management Area. Mr. Stringfellow said that he thought it would be a good idea to close the small game season February 1, since this would protect the turkey and deer from illegal hunting. It was agreed that Mr. Webb and Frank Nelson should make a study of the situation and see what could be



worked out.

Mr. Latimer said that the officials of Santee Resorts had sworn out warrants for two persons who had crossed a cable blocking a cove into their land near Santee and that a trial had been set for Monday night. He suggested that the Department should be represented at the trial, as the Department had the responsibility of seeing that such waters should remain free for use by the public.

The prevalence of netting in Santee-Cooper was brought up by Mr. Eppes and Mr. Mishoe said this was so profitable that it was very hard to break up, since if a violator were caught the fines were extremely small. He said it was best for the wardens just to cut all nets found rather than to spend so much time trying to catch the violators.

Dr. Jones asked whether the catfish recently released in Hartwell were classified as game fish for their protection. They are not now classified as game fish.

Mr. Cantey presented a book on South Carolina history by Mrs. Mary Gilmore Sims Oliphant and the Secretary was asked to read the sections dealing with the work of the Commission in conserving game and fish. A motion was adopted instructing the Secretary to draw up a resolution of thanks and send it to Mrs. Oliphant.

Dr. Jones expressed his appreciation for the help given by Pat Ryan and Tommy Welch in searching for the victim of a drowning in Lake Hartwell, which he said had resulted in much good will for the Department.

Mr. Webb said the two Department radio stations at St. George and at Edgefield were almost ready to start operation and suggested that when they were complete a dedication ceremony should be arranged in honor of two late Commissioners--J. D. Parler and Joseph W. Cox.

Major Cantey brought up the possible use of wardens in the event of trouble with demonstrators. Mr. Webb said that SLED had requested permission to train



30 Conservation Officers for such work. Mr. Latimer said he understood a riot control school would be held in Greenville during April.

Mr. Mishoe said that although the Governor had the undisputed right to call upon all law enforcement officers in emergency, it might be good for the Commission to go on record as pledging its fullest support if this became necessary. The Commission went on record as supporting the Governor in such emergency with all resources available.

Mr. Ryan said that he had investigated the suggestion that the names of Conservation Officers and their phone numbers and addresses be placed in the yellow pages of telephone directories but that the telephone companies had rules against this. He said that since the Officers are fairly well known he would recommend that nothing more be done. The Commission approved his recommendation.

*Eddie Finlay*

