

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA MARCH 21, 1969

Vice-Chairman Glenn presided in the absence of the Chairman. Present were Commissioners Rhame, Mishoe and Eppes, Major Cantey, Jim Webb, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Ed Latimer, Tommy Welch, Fred Ramage, Roger Seamans and Gene Howell.

Following an executive session, the regular meeting was opened. Mr. Glenn introduced Donald McChesney, distinguished ornithologist of Cornell and Beaufort, who spoke briefly. Also present was Jack Roach of the Charleston News and Courier.

A number of appointments and reappointments presented by Mr. Webb were approved.

Mr. Webb then read a letter from the physician who has been treating Conservation Officer Timmons, who was injured in a wreck some time ago, the physician saying that he would recommend that Officer Timmons be returned to limited duty. He is now drawing compensation. Mr. Webb also said there was a morale problem among some of the conservation officers of the area.

Mr. Mishoe said he did not think there was any morale problem except possibly some stirred up by a "sorehead." He suggested that Officer Timmons be placed back on active duty now things are rather slack, and if it was found that with hunting season he could not perform his duties properly he could be placed back on retirement compensation.

Mr. Glenn suggested that the matter be held over for review at the next meeting but withdrew his suggestion and Mr. Mishoe's motion was adopted, Mr. Eppes seconding.

Mr. Webb brought up the concurrent resolution introduced in the House by Reps. Wienges and Yarborough opposing current plans for dams and locks on the rivers below Columbia. He pointed out that the wording was not exactly what was needed, in that it referred to the Cooper and Santee rivers and not the Congaree but that this could be handled by amendment, following the hearing before the Agriculture



and Conservation Committee. This hearing has been set for 3 o'clock April 2 in the State House and he suggested that all Commissioners attend, and also that the meeting be publicized urging all persons interested to attend.

The Secretary then read the text of the resolution.

The matter of 50 acres on Parris Island that had been declared surplus by the Government was brought up and Mr. Webb said a study of the area should be made to determine if it will be of value to the Department. An application and request can then be filed to obtain the area without cost to the Department. After some discussion, Mr. Ryan was instructed to make an investigation and report and Mr. Webb attempt to acquire the land if he felt its use was justified.

Mr. Nelson was complimented on being named Wildlife Conservationist of the Year and Mr. Glenn read a letter to Mr. Nelson commending him.

Mr. Glenn mentioned the fact that at the meeting at Palmetto Bluff last fall it had been agreed that a general fishing license bill would be asked for, and he asked for a report on its progress.

Mr. Webb said that the Governor had had a conference this week with the Agriculture Committee and asked for both the hunting and fishing license bills to be sponsored by this Committee. He said he had met with the committee Wednesday afternoon and will have the two bills ready for presentation next week. He added there was more opposition to the fishing license bill than to the hunting license bill. He said most of the opposition came from coastal interests and persons complaining about the canepole fisherman having to buy a license.

The Secretary was instructed to get up list of the members of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee and the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee and send them to the Commissioners.

Mr. Seamans said the fishing report would be starting soon and there would be some changes from previous years.



Mr. Latimer said there were no pressing legal matters pending.

Mr. Rhame asked whether there were any plans for the Eutawville area, which he said was rather rundown.

Mr. Nelson explained that the area activity consisted mainly of farming for the goose population, which has been badly down for the past few years. He said this had resulted in postponing plans for controlled shooting. He said this decline was caused by the birds being held in Maryland and Delaware areas. The decline has occurred in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Mr. Glenn asked about Bear Island and Mr. Nelson said that the biologists did not have the answers. The use pattern of ducks is now reduced on the Edisto and Ashepoo area but the reason is not known.

After the meeting, it was announced that the appointment of a conservation officer for the Holly Hill area had been approved during the executive session, the man to be selected by the Director and approved by the Commission.

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