

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA MARCH 8, 1961

Present were Commissioners Warren, Cox, Cantey, Johnson, Tison and Oliphant, Directors Webb and Lunz, Crawford Billings, Chief of Boating Thomas Welch, Louie Schley, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson and Gordon Brown.

The matter of county game season extensions by the General Assembly was discussed and Mr. Webb said he planned to ask the two committees to object to such resolutions at future sessions.

Mr. Cox brought up an article from the Charleston Evening Post on seed oyster transplanting which he said was very good.

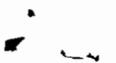
The recent promulgation of a shad tagging regulation by Dr. Lunz was approved. He requested Mr. Webb to send conviction records in shad cases to the Division of Commercial Fisheries so that a check could be made on whether the fine money is sent in by magistrates, since shad fines should go to the Division.

A motion of Mr. Cox was adopted that "The authority be extended to the chairman for the granting of unprotested oyster leases and that confirmation of actions so far be given."

Dr. Lunz said that he would like to offer his resignation, in view of a petition now being circulated, but his offer was declined.

After some discussion of the oyster survey mapping plan a motion of Mr. Johnson was adopted that: "The request of Dr. Lunz for the oyster bottom survey be granted from fishing pier tax money, with emphasis upon improving habitat for sport fishing, and that \$9,500 be expended for this work from the pier tax money."

Dr. Lunz said the mapping would be very valuable in checking the size and management of leases and would eventually result in a big revenue increase. The question of whether leases could be broken where the operator of a lease had more area than was shown in the lease agreement was discussed.



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The appointment and reappointment of a number of regular and non-pay wardens was approved.

The question of erosion at the Bonneau Beach property on Santee-Cooper was brought up by Mr. Webb, who asked authorization for construction of a launching ramp and some riprap work. The possibility of establishing a good launching area at the adjoining White Point Beach, possibly with help from the Highway Department, was discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Webb should make further studies and survey of the whole matter and report at the next meeting.

The Commission approved Mr. Webb's recommendation that the Dorchester fish hatchery be closed and the property be offered to the county as a recreation area.

Mr. Warren complimented the Department upon the annual report and on motion of Mr. Cox it was agreed that this compliment be put in writing and sent to the persons responsible.

Mr. Webb stated that construction of the striped bass hatchery at Moncks Corner had been started.

Mr. Cox said that he and Dr. Lutz had met with officials of the Health Department, who want the responsibility of patrolling polluted oyster areas taken over by the Division of Commercial Fisheries. He said that the Health Department wished to know what would be the attitude of the Wildlife Resources Department if it could secure the necessary funds (\$35,000) and turn it over to the Wildlife Resources Department for this work.

Mr. Welch stated that he understood that since the meeting the Health Department had purchased boats and equipment to start this work on its own.

Mr. Welch reported on boating registration through March 6 and said there had been 31,864 boats registered and revenue of \$161,242.



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At the request of Mr. Warren Mr. Nelson reported on the matter of a lady owning land in the Forks Game Management Area of the National Forest whose request to run cattle had been refused by the Service. He suggested taking the area out of the Game Management Area and turning it back to the Forest Service. No action was taken.

Mr. Johnson presented some information on the possibility of the Department getting back the gasoline tax paid by motorboat operators, something that has been achieved in a number of states. Mr. Webb said that he had talked with Highway Commissioner Pearman about the possibility of the Department getting the money now being refunded to individual operators. It was brought out that this would be very small in proportion to what could be secured by a one per cent flat return, the proposition suggested by the Outboard Boating Club.

Mr. Johnson also asked about the House resolution for an investigation of game law enforcement in Zone One.

Mr. Johnson then brought up the differing regulations and charges on Lakes Johnson, Oliphant and Wallace, going over a report that had been prepared by Mr. Webb at the request of the Commission. He said there should be standardization of fees and regulations.

There was considerable discussion of this and of revenue and operating expenses but at the request of Mr. Tison that he be given more time to study the situation the matter was passed over until the next meeting. Mr. Warren asked that information be gotten up better showing the actual operating expenses of the lakes.

The proposed lake in Hampton County was discussed briefly.

The appointment of two Hampton county non-pay wardens was approved, subject to the approval of Mr. Warren.

Eddie Finlay

