

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA NOVEMBER 17, 1965

Present were Commissioners Parler, Cantey, Hopkins and Oliphant; Directors Webb and Lunz; Assistant Director Ryan; Tommy Welch, Gene Howell, Fred Ramage, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson and Allison Fickling. Also present were W. K. Stringfellow and Jack Carroll of the Advisory Committee.

The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved, with a request by Dr. Lunz that the sentence regarding the pollution study be made to read that: "Bears Bluff is making bioassays of the mud from the bottom of the Ashley River for the U. S. Public Health Service."

Recent stories in the News and Courier unfavorable to the Department's management of the Francis Marion area were brought up, after which the Secretary read a letter Mr. Webb had written Farley Smith of the News and Courier. Mr. Parler said that he would contact Mr. Smith and ask that Mr. Webb's letter be published.

Mr. Parler also brought up another story in the morning's News and Courier regarding a petition for investigation of the Francis Marion area and its game management program, saying that he believed the names of the persons involved in getting up the petition should be published.

Mr. Webb then explained the history of game on the Francis Marion, saying that in the early years much effort and money had been expended in building up game population. He said that now a stage had been reached where there were too many deer and the herd should be reduced so that the range would not be overcrowded.

Mr. Parler asked whether there was a similar problem upstate and Mr. Webb said it had been headed off by the setting of doe seasons and it was hoped this would keep the herd under control. He also discussed the Zone Six situation, where in counties where no doe seasons have been set a bad situation has developed, with deer dying from disease and being generally in poor condition.

Mr. Webb went on to say that there always had been some poaching on the Francis Marion and there probably always would be some. He added that no deer or turkeys had been trapped

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in the past three or four years and that a heavy harvest of deer was needed. He also described the physical condition of deer on the Francis Marion, which is generally very poor. Mr. Webb distributed a paper describing the poor physical condition of deer on the Francis Marion, which had gone to wardens and legislators of the Low Country and also to some newspapers. It was agreed that a news release should be sent out on this, along with a note stressing the importance of reducing the herd.

The Secretary then read a letter from Congressman Rivers and one from an Admiral in which it was stated that Navy regulations would make it impossible for surplus ships to be sunk for fishing reefs offshore. Mr. Parler said, however, that Congressman Rivers was still working on the matter.

Mr. Cantey then asked about news stories in which the efforts of the Commission of Forestry to have the remainder of the Sand Hills Area turned over to them were discussed.

Mr. Webb said the letter written to Washington had evidently been suggested by the Commission of Forestry and that it contained some misinformation. He added that the Commission of Forestry had done little or nothing for the game on the area. He also said that he had contacted some of the top people in the FWS, stating that the Department could develop the area for the people of the state.

Mr. Parler then suggested that Mr. Webb take the matter up with the Governor, explain the situation and get the Governor to see what could be done in regard to getting "any or all" of the land. At the suggestion of Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parler said that he too would contact the Governor.

Mr. Oliphant suggested that the various Divisions might make quarterly reports to the Commission instead of monthly as at present but after some discussion it was agreed to continue with the present monthly reports.

Several appointments and reappointments were approved, including that of Mr. Hutto in Dorchester county.



Dr. Lunz said he had a letter from Attorney Henry Gaud on the Atlantic Shellfish matter saying that something would have to be done and Mr. Parler said the matter was being taken of.

Dr. Lunz also brought up some trouble he was having with a Georgetown magistrate regarding mailing in fines and forfeited bonds, and it was agreed he should talk with the Attorney General.

Dr. Lunz also brought up the question of bonds, stating that the State Auditors had mistakenly stated that none of the persons in his Division was bonded. He said all were under bond, although he was not under bond for Bears Bluff.

He then reviewed the problem of siltation in Charleston Harbor, saying that all the proposals had now been boiled down to three, of which one was the most feasible. He said that Congressman Rivers--as well as the Commission--were opposed to the Price's Inlet proposal for Santee-Cooper waters. He said that a plan to divert the water west of St. Stephens would be much cheaper but would necessitate a power house.

Dr. Lunz also said he would like the backing of the Commission in opposing the Price's Inlet proposal and that he had told the Engineers he favored the St. Stephens proposal.

Mr. Webb said he would like to see further studies made before the Commission went on record as favoring the St. Stephens plan.

Mr. Fickling then reported on a talk he had had with the Attorney General.

Mr. Webb said he believed it was necessary to reduce the Francis Marion deer herd even more and the Commission approved suggested changes in the hunt schedules: Putting the Wambaw hunt November 24-27 limit at two buck deer and either sex on the 27th with a total limit of two, and two deer of either sex on the Waterhorn hunt December 8-11. He also said further relaxation of regulations might be necessary.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Belmont December 1-2, getting down before lunch Wednesday with the meeting that night.

Eddie Finlay

