

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA NOVEMBER 29, 1968

Present were all Commissioners except Mr. Oliphant, along with Dr. Lunz and the Secretary.

Mr. Eltzroth said that the meeting would be dedicated to the late Commissioner Preston B. Jones and appointed a committee composed of Commissioners Cantey, Mishoe and Glenn to write a fitting memorial, and suggested that it be printed in the next issue of the magazine. The original of the memorial will be embossed and sent to the family.

Mr. Eltzroth also asked that the newspaper articles he had brought to the meeting be reproduced in a fitting manner and be preserved as a part of the meeting.

A November 21 letter from Director Webb outlining the proposed policy on Law Enforcement personnel, which had been sent to all Commissioners, was adopted as the policy of the Commission, to become effective December 1.

(Under the policy adopted each officer will be given one day free of duty each week, these days to be assigned by the District Supervisor so as not to have any conflicts and also to have staggered times assigned; and that each individual be allowed to have enough time on Sunday to attend church but that emphasis be placed on Sunday work other than during church time. Also, that each officer be encouraged to take at least one week per year annual leave, this to be cleared by the Supervisor and a record kept in the Columbia office. Also, that when an officer takes his assigned day off and his annual leave that he be required to park his State vehicle and not be in uniform during that period of time. Also, that no employee be allowed to haul shotguns or fishing tackle in plain view in a State vehicle and that when they go hunting or fishing that it be on the assigned day off or else substitute a day for the day off, or be required to take annual leave.)



The Secretary was instructed to see that personnel was advised of the Commission action regarding policies on leave, and related matters.

The recent policy adopted by the Commission regarding drinking by personnel was discussed, Mr. Mishoe stating that he did not believe there would be any complaints if the Commission stood firmly behind the policy adopted, saying that this had not been done with some previous ones.

Mr. Eltzroth said that if two or three persons are fired the adopted policy will work, adding that personnel must believe that things will be different from in the past.

Mr. Cantey mentioned a meeting Pat Ryan had had with the supervisors.

Mr. Eltzroth said that if a Commissioner should drive a state car while drinking he should offer his resignation to the Governor. He added that after a year or so of impartial enforcement, it might be possible to loosen up slightly. He also said that the situation had been brought about by a few making it hard for the rest.

Mr. Eltzroth said that all Commissioners had received copies of the Report of the Committee of Consultants on Marine Resources and Marine Sciences to the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

He said that the report followed closely the lines the Committee had been asked to follow and said he would be glad to answer any questions in regard to the report, after which Dr. Lunz would be asked to offer any criticism he might have.

Mr. Cantey said that he had two questions, or rather suggestions. First, it looked as if the federal government was backing off from putting up any more money; and second, he would like to know how South Carolina would help if everything looked reasonable.



Mr. Eltzroth said that he was very optimistic and that he hoped the Coastal Plains Regional concept will be continued, adding that he believed the Democratic control of Congress made this more likely. He added that the Marine Advisory Committee is going to recommend that \$68,000,000 for marine resources be asked for in the biennial budget that he hoped would be presented and passed by Congress.

He added that there are numerous other avenues that may be followed by additional help, and the Navy was not getting out of the marine field entirely. Also there were other possibilities that might be financed by Navy funds, although the Navy was curtailing its work in biological fields.

Mr. Cantey said one thing that was needed was a mapping of the ocean bottom out to the Gulf to assist in fishing and the Navy can use this information.

Mr. Eltzroth pointed out that state financing would be up to the legislature and he believes the Committee on Higher Education will support the proposal, as it believes research is needed.

Mr. Glenn suggested that the Highway Department tax on gasoline used in motor boats might be used.

Mr. Eltzroth said that this would lead to a fight with every county, as under an act passed at the last session this money now goes to the counties. He added that the Highway Department was still keeping much of the money.

Mr. Mishoe asked who paid for the boat ramps built in the various counties and a general discussion followed.

Mr. Glenn brought up the tax on shotgun shells as a possible source of revenue and Mr. Eltzroth said a bill was needed to provide for a distinctive stamp on shells so it can be told just how many are sold. He said the General Assembly was willing but the Tax Commission was deliberately confusing the matter.

Mr. Eltzroth then asked Dr. Lunz to present his ideas on the report.



Dr. Lunz said that he had had not time to make a thorough study of the report but did have some points at which he did not agree.

He said that he did not agree with the system of figuring used on Page 7.

Also he said that more sharks were sold in South Carolina than in any other southeastern state.

He also said that the figures on crab processing might be misconstrued, as much of the crab catch in South Carolina is processed in Georgia, which therefore has an enormous manufactured products figure. He said that processing plants had not come to South Carolina because they were not offered tax inducements.

Dr. Lunz also said he would advise being a little bit careful about accepting figures on the value of sports fisheries, which he said were figured too high. For instance, he said, the person giving out the figure had figured in the expense of whiskey, and other incidentals. (Editor's note: I think it should be "necessities" and not "incidentals".)

On page 12 he said the report was in error in stating that a scallop industry could be developed, and there was no possibility of developing one.

Also, he said South Carolina production had increased more proportionately than the other Southeastern states.

Dr. Lunz also said that he did not believe that the Wildlife Resources Department should be a purveyor of education, although information might be provided colleges and universities. He also said he did not believe there should be funds for the purposes of the purveying of education unless the basic data are made available for such purposes as we might want to use them for.

He added that he did not think the grants should be made from any funds that we may have toward basic University research unless we designate what the research is to be. He said the state fisheries would benefit more from a direct grant to



applied research rather than for educational and academic setups.

Dr. Lunz also said that he did not understand some of the diagrams used in the report, and that the salary schedule was unworkable.

The question of a site for the proposed laboratory came up and Mr. Eltzroth said a site in Beaufort has already been promised, consisting of at least 100 acres at Port Royal.

Mr. Eltzroth said the report indicated the need for the Department to be allowed to go forward with planning funds granted by the State for establishment of a state-owned and state-operated laboratory under the Department and the organizational procedures "be such as may be worked out by the Commission with its Director." He said that for this reason he did not think the organizational diagram on Page 29 had much value and he was unsure what they had in mind.

He said that Plan Eight should have had "Marine Resources" instead of "Commercial Fisheries" and he would like to see the name changed to the Division of Marine Resources. He said it should encompass sports fishing and marsh protection, as well as commercial fisheries.

He said another thing he favored was having an Executive Director of the whole Department. In the past, he said, all chairmen have taken over this function, this often resulting in a difficult position.

He said the Director of Marine Resources and the Executive Director would have to work out things between themselves, including organizational setup.

He said he believed the Commission should do those things recommended in the report--within the framework of the law as it presently exists--and that it may be amended "with the understanding that they will be adopted to South Carolina's needs as we may find them as we proceed, thereby assuring us of some pliability."

Mr. Glenn then asked Mr. Eltzroth whether he planned to appear before the



Budget and Control Board and ask for approximately \$600,000 to get the thing started.

Mr. Eltzroth explained what he would tell the Budget and Control Board, saying that he would ask for \$1,000,000 rather than \$600,000, since he did not believe the latter figure was adequate. The Commission would then justify it to the Assembly at a later date. He also said he would ask the Board to allow the employment of a person capable of going into the implementation of this as Marine Resources Director.

He added that money was available to fund this man for the first six months with \$30,000 of the Budget and Control Board money and with \$30,000 which has been secured from the Coastal Plains Regional Commission. He then further outlined what would be his approach to the Board, and added that he thought Speaker Blatt would support the program.

Mr. Mishoe asked what would happen if the Board decided it could not recommend the appropriation for this particular year.

Mr. Eltzroth said that in that event he would offer his resignation.

In answer to a question from Mr. Glenn, he said that the Commission would be better prepared later in the session to justify the need for the \$1,000,000.

In answer to a question from Mr. Cantey, Mr. Eltzroth said most expenses had already been cared for.

Mr. Mishoe then offered the following motion which was adopted: "That the Commission accepts the preliminary draft of the Committee of Consultants and adopts the recommendations contained therein as the policy of the Commission with refinements and changes and will make additional recommendations and reports as the occasion develops to fit the needs of South Carolina under the laws now in existence". (The phrase "with reservations" was knocked out of the original



motion on suggestion of Mr. Glenn.)

Dr. Lunz asked whether the Commission, when it went before the Budget and Control Board, was planning to cancel the budget for the Division of Commercial Fisheries and Bears Bluff.

Mr. Eltzroth said that he would recommend that the Division of Commercial Fisheries be part of the Marine Resources Branch as of July 1, 1969, and that he would also recommend the continuance of financial support for Bears Bluff in part by the State, although it would not be tied in directly to the new setup. He added that refinements would have to be worked out.

The problem of finding a suitable man for the new position was discussed, particularly in view of the fact that any person approached would like to be assured of the continuity of the position.

Dr. Lunz said he feared retrenchment by the federal government and Mr. Eltzroth said he did not believe the federal government would retrench along lines that would affect the program, particularly since it was aimed at eventually providing more food for the population.

Dr. Lunz said there was an erroneous opinion in some quarters that he was drawing money from Bears Bluff Laboratories and this was not so.

The Commission then adjourned with the December meeting set for Thursday, the 19th, instead of the customary third Friday.

(The meeting date was later changed to Wednesday, the 18th, at 10 o'clock.)

Eddie Finlay

