

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA OCTOBER 18, 1968

Vice-Chairman Cantey presided in the absence of Chairman Eltzroth. Present were Commissioners Oliphant, Mishoe, Jones and Eppes, Directors Webb and Lunz, Pat Ryan, Ed Latimer, Gene Howell, Buck Buchanan, Fred Ramage, Jeff Fuller and Hilton Phillips.

Dr. Lunz said that he had been so busy working on the Division budget and other matters that he had not had time to prepare an agenda, but did not have many matters to take up.

He said that the holder of the Jasper Seafood Company lease had not planted it in three years and the normal procedure would be for the Commission to hold a hearing on the revocation of the lease. He added that he believed the matter could be followed a little further and that he might send a certified letter saying that if a satisfactory reply was not received the hearing would be held on revocation. A motion of Mr. Eppes was adopted that the matter be turned over to the Department Attorney to prepare the necessary papers giving the lease holder notice.

Dr. Lunz said that a two-year-old dispute over an oyster lease had been settled by agreement just before the special committee of the Commission was ready to begin hearing.

Dr. Lunz also said that he would like to leave the license-handling matter that had been discussed at the last meeting unacted upon for the present. He said that he had received a letter from Mr. Webb making several suggestions but that he had not had time to fully study them and that there were some problems still to work out. It was agreed that the matter be carried over until the next meeting.

The crab mortality problem was brought up and Dr. Lunz said he and others were still working on it. He said that \$7,000 had been made available for a study and that it appeared the federal government would make \$75,000 available



for the two Carolinas, Georgia and Florida of which South Carolina would get \$25,000. He said that it looked as if he might have to administer the program.

Major Cantey asked about the progress and status of the fishing reefs and Dr. Lunz said they were all coming along all right except for one at Beaufort, on which BOR money had been sought, which had caused some delay. He also said the reef had been slightly mislocated in the application. He added that the reef put in by the Division of Commercial Fisheries was doing very well and was being examined regularly.

Mr. Latimer said that Senator Grimes had told him he had had trouble locating the reef off Georgetown.

Dr. Lunz also said that all contracts should be studied so that the Department could not possibly be held liable for upkeep and repair of the reefs, including marking.

Mr. Webb said that John Spinks had resigned and his recommendation that the post of Chief of Information and Education be filled by Roger Seamans was approved by the Commission, a motion of Dr. Jones being approved that Mr. Seamans be transferred from his present position as District Biologist to Chief of I&E.

Dr. Jones commented on the excellent work done by Conservation Officer Higgs and others at the upstate fairs and Mr. Webb was requested to commend Officer Higgs and other personnel who had worked on the fairs.

Major Cantey presented some correspondence between Ed Johnson and Mr. Eltzroth regarding the possible closing of Lake Johnson during the off season. Mr. Fuller was asked his opinion and he said that he recommends letting the lake remain open, adding that he did not believe the few fishermen would interfere with the ducks using the lake. A motion of Mr. Eppes was adopted that the gate be left open during the year.

Mr. Webb brought up a wreck in which Supervisor Flood had been involved, the



car being demolished. He said that an investigation had been made but that some information had been impossible to obtain. The committee composed of Mr. Ryan, Mr. Ramage and Mr. Howell reported that in view of the information it had been able to obtain the accident was unavoidable and Supervisor Flood should not be penalized. This recommendation was adopted on motion of Mr. Mishoe.

A number of appointments and reappointments were approved, those of the absent Commissioners being approved subject to their later approval. Bobby Joe Smith was approved as a Spartanburg Conservation officer, subject to approval of the county delegation.

Mr. Webb said there were two vacancies in Williamsburg county, brought about by the resignation of Conservation Officer Moore and injuries sustained by Conservation Officer Timmons. After some discussion a motion was adopted that Mr. Webb be authorized to appoint two officers for the county with the approval of the Commissioners from that district.

Mr. Latimer asked how many non-pay conservation officers there are and Mr. Webb said that no list was kept of the non-pay men, but that one could be gotten up if needed.

Mr. Webb brought up the fish kill in the Pee Dee river, saying that study had been completed and the report describing the kill and making recommendations had been presented to the Commissioners. He added that the J. P. Stevens Company and Attorney Goldberg had been told they would be informed of the Commission position. Mr. Webb also said he had talked with Mr. Eltzroth who was of the opinion that after the Commission had received the report that a copy be sent to Mr. Goldberg and he be told the Commission would be glad to consult with him before taking further action.

The Commission then agreed that it receive the report as information and that a copy be sent to Mr. Goldberg with a statement that the Commission would be



glad to discuss the matter with him before proceeding with further action.

Mr. Mishoe said that when a pollution kills fish or game the Commission should be ready to proceed against the guilty party.

In answer to a question, Mr. Fuller said the \$29,000 estimate of the damage by the pollution did not take into account the time and expenses of Department personnel in making their investigation and he was asked to figure this up and add it to the cost in the report to Mr. Goldberg.

Mr. Oliphant moved that Department personnel and Mr. Phillips in particular be commended for the excellent investigation and report.

Mr. Latimer and Senator Dennis had contacted the Division of Boating regarding a rule and regulation for the operation of boats on a certain canal in Berkeley county so that they keep their speeds below that which would make a wake. He said that he and Mr. Welch had drawn up the rule and regulation and asked the Commission to approve it. This was done on motion of Mr. Mishoe and Mr. Webb was instructed to sign it.

The trapping of porpoises in the waters of the state was brought up, the Secretary reading a letter from Mr. Eltzroth to Senator Edgar Brown regarding a request from Mr. Chalmers S. Murray of Edisto Island for legislation prohibiting the molesting of porpoises in South Carolina water. The Commission went on record as approving a state-wide act that would accomplish this.

Mr. Mishoe brought up the possibility of bringing the game and fish laws up to date and properly indexing them, saying at present there is much confusion and a real need for revision.

Mr. Ryan said that he had contacted the legislative council and that Tom Linton had agreed to study the laws and make revisions and recommendations for changing some laws and also for reindexing.

Mr. Latimer agreed there was need for this, as well as for a wildlife protector's manual, and Mr. Ryan said work was being done on this.



Dr. Jones brought up the laws regarding the disposal of the carcasses of doe deer, saying that quite often persons were killing to pay the fine--which varies from \$25 to \$50--and then buy the doe at auction, often for \$1. He said this led to the deliberate killing of doe deer and suggested higher fines and doing something about the auctioning off of the carcasses, which might be worth much more than the fine.

Eddie Finlay

