

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA
SEPTEMBER 2, 1959

Present were Commissioners Warren, Johnson, Cantey, Cox, Huggins and Oliphant, Directors Webb and Lunz, Mr. Schley, Mr. Thrower, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Brown.

Mr. Warren took up a report from Mr. Cox on a hearing he had held August 26 at Murrell's Inlet regarding a protest against the granting of an oyster lease to Roscoe Bellamy, in which Mr. Cox recommended that the lease be granted as approved by the Director of the Division of Commercial Fisheries.

The Commission gave formal approval to Mr. Cox's report and voted that it "be confirmed in every part and made the judgement of the Commission," the Secretary being instructed to write Director Lunz to this effect.

Mr. Lunz then brought up an application for a lease in Horry county that had been accepted by his office, although a previous applicant had been persuaded to withdraw an application that he had made, since the Horry delegation and others had opposed granting of the lease. After a general discussion it was agreed that Mr. Lunz should request the applicant to withdraw his application, the sense of the Commission being that the lease should not be granted.

Mr. Lunz stated that the entire oyster lease system was a "mess" and that it was impossible to know exactly what areas were under lease. He added that he was prepared to use some funds of Bears Bluff to map the lease areas if other funds could be secured.

Mr. Webb said that a federal aid project had been submitted and approved for mapping the marshlands to determine what land was private and what belonged to the State, but that it had not yet been activated.



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He added that this would be a more ambitious project than the one Mr. Lunz had in mind and that when it was initiated it would take several years to complete.

Mr. Lunz brought up the matter of gigging cases pending in Charleston county, which apparently have been continued indefinitely, and wished to know what should be done about this. He was instructed to take no further action on cases already made and still pending before the magistrates.

A general discussion was held on several fisheries matters, including: an improved rate of crab tax collections; the high law enforcement costs; and the fact that inspectors living inland were running up travel expenses.

Two resolutions were adopted under the authority given the Commission under Section 28-174, Code of Laws of 1952, one authorizing the Division of Commercial Fisheries to get all licenses on an annual basis and the other providing the standard penalties set by Section 28-761 where the penalty is not provided under the commercial fisheries act. (This is a \$25 fine for first offense, \$50 for second offense and with increasing penalties for subsequent offenses).

The Secretary was instructed to file these resolutions with the Secretary of State, provide Mr. Lunz with copies and have them published as required by law.

The new waterfowl regulations were discussed after Mr. Warren had mentioned a letter he had received protesting the changed opening hour, and Mr. Webb distributed material from the Fish and Wildlife Service giving the reasons for the new regulations.



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Mr. Webb reported on the boating act, saying that the Coast Guard had approved the South Carolina system and the Division of Boating was ready to proceed with registration and numbering, probably beginning to receive applications in October.

He said that he talked with Mr. Welch regarding the latter's application for the position of Chief of Boating and was willing to recommend him for the job, provided he maintains his headquarters in Columbia and provides his own transportation from Charleston.

After some discussion a motion of Mr. Huggins was adopted that Mr. Welch be offered the position at \$6,500, starting October 1, the motion including an amendment of Mr. Cox that Mr. Welch sign a statement that he would have the right to terminate his employment, with or without reason, on 30 days notice and the Commission would have the same right.

The hiring of whatever clerical help necessary was approved, Mr. Webb stating that at first there would not be need for anyone except a secretary and a girl to run the IBM machine.

Mr. Webb then explained the registration and numbering systems and said applications would be put out by wardens in boating stores, most of which are already acting as license agents.

A motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that raises of \$300 be given Mrs. Cardwell and Mrs. Schley, subject to approval of the Budget and Control Board.

The reappointment of several regular wardens was approved, along with the appointment of several non-pay wardens.

William F. Murray was approved for appointment as a Game Warden at Dorchester county when one of the wardens now employed retires or resigns creating a vacancy.



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The matter of access areas from highway rights-of-ways was discussed and Mr. Webb and Mr. Fuller were instructed to look into the possibility of using federal aid money for access areas, and also to work with Mr. Thrower on an access area that was being planned.

Mr. Thrower extended an invitation to attend the Federation's annual meeting at Hendrix's Landing near Lexington, starting at 10:30 September 23.

Mr. Webb was given authority to sign a contract with WIS for attaching an antenna on the Columbia tower at the 380-foot level and space in their building for a radio station for a rental of \$30 a month, Mr. Webb being instructed to ask for renewal privileges.

Mr. Huggins invited all Commissioners to attend the state fox hunting trials in Camden the week of September 21.

Eddie Finlay

