

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 1970

The September meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission was called to order by Chairman Eltzroth at 2 p. m. in the Commission room of the Columbia office. Present were all of the Commission members with the exception of Commissioners Thompson and Williams. Also in attendance were the following members of the Department: James W. Webb, Doctor James A. Timmerman, Jr., Ed Latimer, Charles Bearden, Pat Ryan, Gene Howell, Joe Logan, Frank Nelson, Fred Ramage, T. C. Welch, Brock Conrad and Jeff Fuller.

Chairman Eltzroth introduced Rudolph Mitchell, House member from Saluda County. Mr. Mitchell began his remarks by expressing his reluctance to come before the Commission, was certain that the subject for which he was concerned was the result of oversight and that he had found both the Department and its personnel most cooperative. The subject which he felt he must discuss with the Commission concerned the filling of a Conservation Officer vacancy in Saluda County. He reported on several telephone conversations which he had had with members of the Columbia office concerning the possible appointment of Mr. Walter Boozer. He felt that this would be a poor selection because Mr. Boozer lived near one of our present Conservation Officers and also he was the nephew of this Conservation Officer.

He stated that he had recommended instead of Mr. Boozer, that either Mr. Griffis or Mr. Coleman to be considered. His first choice did not meet the requirements of the Commission because of the lack of High School education.

He expressed further concern because of the procedure followed in an investigation of Mr. Coleman and felt that this investigation was biased.



He also stated that the three references submitted by Mr. Coleman were never contacted.

Mr. Ryan stated that the Department had received a number of applications for this vacant position and that all had been considered.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he had no objection to Luther W. Harmon, Jr., who was now being considered for the position, although Mr. Coleman would be his first choice.

Chairman Eltzroth thanked Mr. Mitchell for coming before the Commission and expressing his sentiments and assured him that the Commission would review the applicants and make a choice based upon the qualifications of each man and that the one having the qualifications best suited for the position would be appointed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the August meeting were approved without correction or additions.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Rhame inquired as to the present status of the catfish basket regulations of the Santee-Cooper. Executive Director Webb replied that he has received approval from all the Delegations, with the exception of Charleston County. He stated that he had just been informed by Senator Dennis that the Charleston Delegation's approval was sent to Senator Dennis rather than to his office and that the Department was now in a position to put the new regulations into effect, which returns the mesh size to one inch poultry netting and a minimum length limit for possession of six inches. The Chairman requested that this be done at the earliest possible date.



Seamans reported that discussions have been held with the Personnel Division regarding training sessions for raters to implementing the Performance Rating Program. The Personnel Division stated that they would have a training officer prior to the end of September and that our request for such training sessions would receive priority consideration. Chairman Eltzroth requested that every effort be made to get this under way as soon as possible and to continue to stay in contact with the Personnel Division until it is accomplished.

Joe Logan presented the report on catfish farming in baskets as requested by the Commission at the August meeting. A report was distributed and a copy is attached hereto for the record. After evaluating the material supplied by other states and fisheries personnel having experience in this form of catfish farming, he recommended that Mr. Hawkins' request for authorization to install such rearing baskets at the Seneca Marina would not be in the best interests of the State of South Carolina or the fisheries resources of Lake Hartwell. He made this recommendation on the basis of his concern over parasites and disease which might result from such an operation, enrichment of the lake resulting from this operation which could drastically alter the ecology of that portion of the lake and the possibilities of public resentment from permitting private utilization for commercial purposes of public water.

Commission Glenn moved that the U. S. Corps of Army Engineers be informed of this position and that the Commission objected to the issuance of a permit for this purpose. This was seconded by Commissioner Eppes and unanimously approved. A copy of the letter to the Corps of Army Engineers is to be forwarded to Mr. Hawkins for his information.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Rhame reported that he was still not in a position to make a report on the Anderson situation.

Copies of the memorandum from Pat Ryan, Director of Game and Fresh Water Fisheries, to Executive Director Webb, concerning regulations governing the use of state-owned lakes was distributed and reported upon. These regulations are recommended to continue as they are on state-owned lakes, with the exception of Lake Wallace which will be open to fishing at all times, including seven days a week. This is to be considered as an experimental undertaking in order to determine any problems that might arise from this type of use. At a later date, other uniform changes may be considered for the several state-owned lakes. Commissioner Rhame moved, seconded by Commissioner Eppes that the regulation as set forth in the memorandum dated August 18, 1970, be implemented. This was approved without objection. Copy of this memorandum is attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Commissioner Rhame inquired as to the status of Lake Cherokee. Executive Director Webb stated that this contract for construction has been advertised for bids and that no bids have been received as yet. When such are available, they then will be presented to the Commission for its consideration.

The appointment of Conservation Officers, as contained in the correspondence mailed to each Commission member, was approved except for those appointments falling within the districts represented by Commissioners Thompson and Williams. These appointments will await the approval of the



two absent Commissioners.

The non-pay Conservation Officer appointments of John Freeman of Hampton county and Albert Rudisill of Greenville were approved. The four appointments for employees of Mental Health in Columbia are delayed until further consideration could be made of these requests.

Doctor James Timmerman submitted a Progress Report for the Marine Division. His remarks were the same as his Report dated September 9, 1970, a file copy of which is attached hereto. In his remarks, he complimented Mr. Bearden for his cooperation, knowledge and assistance in preparation of reports, project statements and the carrying out of the investigational work presently underway. He also expressed hope that the I&E Division could cooperate fully with the Marine Division in giving publicity to projects as they are approved or completed.

Commissioner Glenn moved that Doctor Timmerman be authorized to employ Thomas L. Rourke of Lockwood Greene Engineers, Incorporated, as a consultant to review the problem of the bulkhead at the boat slip and to make recommendations as to what we should do to correct this situation. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Eppes and approved.

Executive Director Webb reported that he had been informed that the index and text for the game and fish laws had been completed and ready to solicit bids for their printing. Commissioner Rhame moved and seconded by Commissioner Eppes that this be done. This motion was carried.

Mr. Ramage provided a report which compared the last two months income from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses with a similar two months period in 1969. These figures indicated a favorable position.



Chairman Eltzroth stated that the recommendations and transcript for John Culler for the position of Editor of this Department's magazine had been reviewed and was approved.

Brock Conrad presented the recommendations for the waterfowl seasons for the management areas at Pee Dee, Bear Island, and Santee-Cooper. Several points were discussed, including the 16-shell limit and the reasons for permitting waterfowl hunting for the first time at Santee-Cooper. Mr. Conrad stated that for a number of years the geese had been given protection on this area, that the flock had decreased in size and now appeared to have stabilized at a lower level, that if the geese did leave this area they would only go to the Federal refuge which would offer protection and that he felt South Carolina hunters were entitled to some recreational opportunity from this resource. Commissioner Mishoe moved and Commissioner Rhame seconded that the proposal as presented be accepted for the 1970-71 season. This motion was carried. A file copy of these recommendations are attached hereto.

At this time the Commission went into executive session.

Following the executive session, Chairman Eltzroth stated that the Commission had formulated a policy which the Secretary is instructed to circulate to all professional employees and appointees of the Department and the Commission. This policy statement is as follows:

"In the future any consultant work or professional work accepted by any such employees or appointees will be with the approval of the Commission only and will not be for more than one day per week."

Chairman Eltzroth also stated the following: "You might let the record also show that the Commission is honored to have offered the



position of Secretary to Mr. Roger Seamans and he has seen fit to accept and that he will be the Secretary of this Commission from today forward."

Chairman Eltzroth further stated that the Commission had acted in regard to the recommendations made by the Chief of Law Enforcement, the Director of Game and Fresh Water Fisheries and the Executive Director and has approved the issuing of the commission to Conservation Officer Luther W. Harmon, Jr. He stated that the Commission did this after full study of the record, after hearing from Representative Rudolph Mitchell of Saluda County and that they felt the record discloses that Mr. Harmon is apparently the better qualified candidate.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p. m. and the next meeting of the Commission will be on October 16, 1970.

Submitted by Secretary

Attachments

RS:jc



SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 9, 1970 MEETING

Testimony Presented:

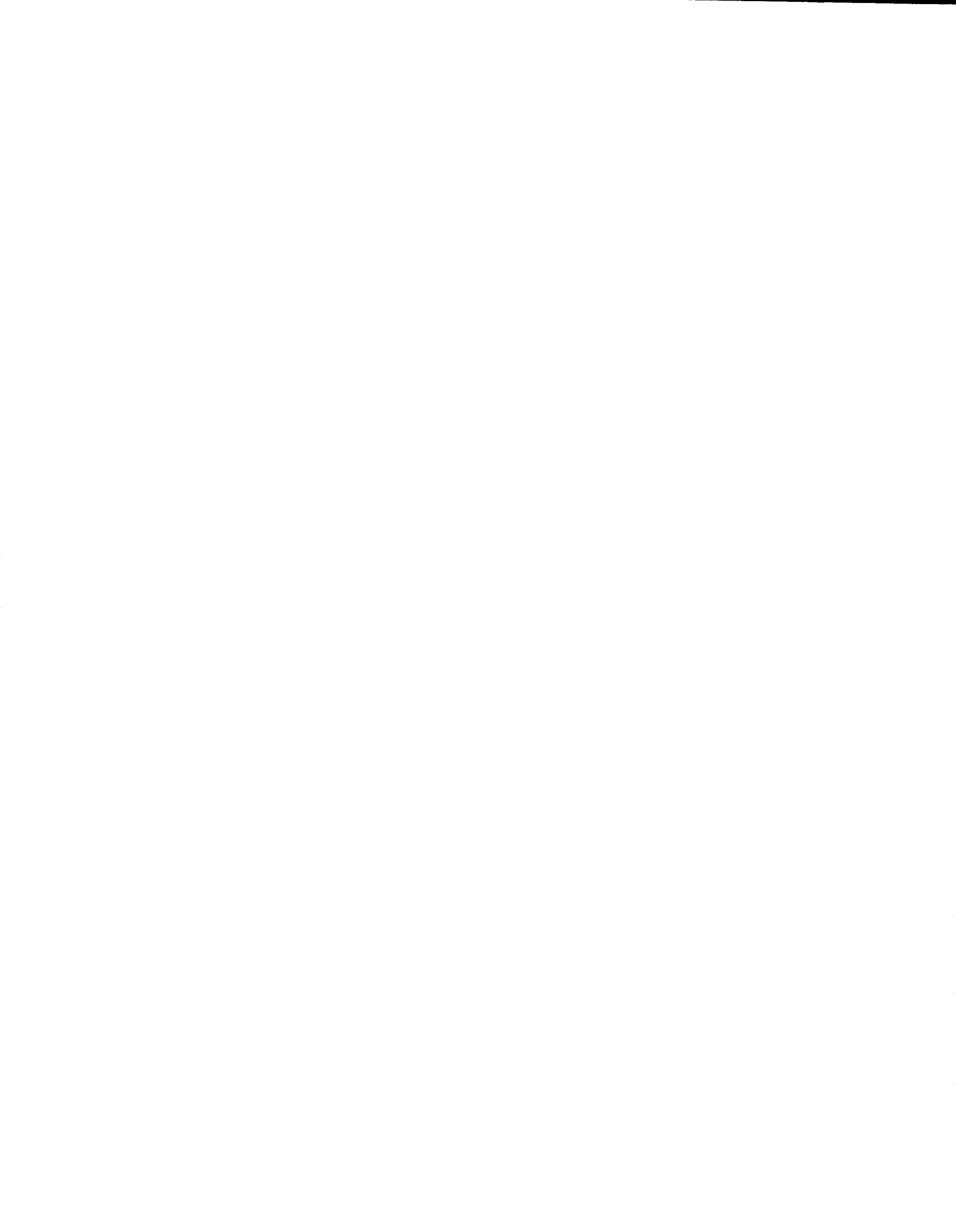
Rudolph Mitchell, House member from Saluda County, regarding Conservation Officer appointments.

Reports Given:

1. Status of catfish basket revision. Ready to implement.
2. Rating training for performance raters. Awaiting availability of Training Officer in Personnel Division.
3. Joe Logan's report on catfish basket farming. Not recommended.
4. Commissioner Rhame. Anderson situation - not ready.
5. Lake Cherokee - out for bids.

Action Taken:

1. Revised state-owned lake regulations. Approved.
2. Hawkins' request for catfish farming in Lake Hartwell. object to issuance of permit and so inform Corps.
3. Employment on consulting Engineers to review Fort Johnson boat slip bulkhead repairs. Approved.
4. Solicit bids for game and fish laws and index printing. Approved.
5. Employment of John Culler as Editor of Magazine. Approved.
6. Waterfowl regulations for Pee Dee, Bear Island and Santee-Cooper. Approved.
7. Formulated policy regarding employees serving as consultants.
8. Appointment of Roger Seamans as Secretary to Commission.
9. Selection of Luther Harmon, Jr., to fill vacant Conservation Officer position in Saluda County.



Assignments:

1. Implement revised catfish basket regulations. Mr. Webb.
2. Expedite training of performance raters. Seamans.
3. Inform Corps relative to Hawkin's application with copy to Hawkins.
4. Investigate further for non-pay Conservation Officers for Mental Health. Columbia.

