MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JULY 13, 1965

Present were Commissioners Parler, Cantey, Glenn and Hopkins; Directors Webb and Lunz; Advisory Commission Members Clyde Eltzroth and W. K. Stringfellow; Pat Ryan, Tommy Welch, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson and Fred Ramage.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Parler and on motion of Mr. Cantey the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

A number of appointments and reappointments that had been mailed out to the Commissioners were approved.

The Commission also approved the appointment of Guerry Lee Hill as a Colleton county warden and the reappointment of W. E. Garren of Belton as a non-pay warden. Also approved was the appointment of Karl Bankhead of Blackstock as a Fairfield county warden.

Mr. Webb said that some especially well-qualified men were not interested in accepting positions after they learned the starting salary was only $3,600 with a raise to $3,900 after six-months satisfactory service. He said this starting salary was too low and he would like some discretion in setting salaries for particularly well qualified men.

A motion was adopted that former law enforcement experience be taken into consideration and that new men with this experience could be started at a salary up to $4,200 at the discretion of the Director. A motion was also adopted that Warden Hill be started at this salary.

Mr. Webb said that a thorough investigation of charges against Warden Clement Craven had been completed and he recommended that he be dismissed with 30 days pay. A motion of Mr. Cantey approving this was adopted.

The federal regulations for some game species were then taken up, Mr. Webb saying that frameworks had been set within which the individual states could select their seasons. He made recommendations which were unanimously adopted as follows: Marsh hens--Sept. 17-Nov. 25; woodcock Dec. 11-Jan. 29; Snipe Nov. 27-Jan.15 and doves Sept. 13-Oct.9 and Dec. 4-Jan.15.

Mr. Webb said he had met with a group in Allendale county recently and a tract of 6,499 acres would be turned over to the Department for a management area, on which controlled hunts could be held. He said the owners were retaining some of the upland for the quail hunting but that the acreage turned over had excellent deer and turkey range. His action was approved by the Commission.

Dr. Lunz asked for and received approval for lowering the bond for license handling on W. R. Sprott from $20,000 to $5,000. He said that the bond was unnecessarily large in view of the fact that Mr. Sprott never had more than a few thousand dollars in license money at any one time.

The Commission also approved a request of Dr. Lunz asking transfer of pier tax money to a direct account with the Comptroller General marked "fisheries research". The purpose would be to avoid double bookkeeping.

Dr. Lunz also said he was concerned about possible damage to the salt water fisheries resources, particularly the oyster beds, from explosions made by surveyors for oil. He said he had talked with Attorney General McLeod about this and they agreed that thorough studies should be made and no hasty action taken in signing agreements. He then distributed some suggested rules and regulations to be filed with the Secretary of State regulating the discharge of explosives in the marine tidelands, marshlands and waters of the state.

He also said he was much concerned about protecting the marshes against phosphate leases and had discussed this with state officials.

Dr. Lunz also said that he would like a committee from the Commission to work with him on his budget before it was submitted to the Budget and Control Board and Mr. Parler suggested that Commissioners Cantey and Heyward work with him, along with Mr. Eltzroth. It was later agreed that Mr. Parler could appear before the Budget and Control Board to explain the budget.

The fish kills in the Charleston area were then discussed, Mr. Parler relating negotiations that had resulted in teams of investigators being sent from Ohio and from

the University of Georgia. He said the investigators appeared about to pinpoint the trouble.

The question of uniforms for the fisheries inspectors was then brought up by Mr. Parler, who said they should be dressed as well as the wardens. He asked Dr. Lunz about available money, and what he thought the uniforms should cost. After considerable discussion of ways in which the money could be made available it was agreed that $2,000 should be transferred from the pier tax fund for uniforms. It was agreed that Dr. Lunz should confer with Mr. Webb about ordering the uniforms and this might result in some savings, since they could be part of a big purchase.

Dr. Lunz outlined the status of the case of a Beaufort oysterman who had attacked a fisheries inspector, saying the oysterman had been indicted by the grand jury.

Mr. Webb showed certificates of service that were to be awarded at the banquet that night.

Mr. Fuller said that it was planned to drain Lake Johnson and draw Lake Oliphant half way down, putting the big bass from Lake Johnson in Lake Oliphant in hopes of getting it back in balance. He pointed out that Lake Johnson was badly out of balance and draining and restocking was necessary. This was agreed to with the suggestion that Mr. Fuller get Mr. Oliphant's approval.

Mr. Fuller also suggested a plan of doing away with the daily permits on the Department lakes and requiring that anglers in the lakes have either an annual permit, costing $3.10, or the state-wide fishing license costing the same amount. He added that this should simplify the management of the lakes and result in no revenue loss. The suggestion was approved, subject to approval by Mr. Tison and Mr. Oliphant.

Mr. Fuller reported that he had been contacted by Chief Justice Taylor, who had suggested that when Lake Johnson was drained a fish fry be held honoring Ed Johnson around August 30 or 31. Attendance would be by invitation and the Commission would take care of the costs of the fish fry. After some discussion of the problems that might arise, it was agreed that the Governor should be consulted and also that Mr. Webb talk with Justice Taylor and work out details.

Eddie Finlay