

COUNTY COMMISSION ROOM - COUNTY COURT HOUSE

July 18, 1954

President Woody Upthegrove called the meeting of the Air Boat Conservation Club of Palm Beach County to order at 8:20 p.m.

Secretary DeWitt Upthegrove read the minutes of the previous meeting which were amended and approved.

DeWitt Upthegrove read a report on the trip to Zephyrhills by himself and Alfred Henschel. Said report was made a part of the minutes.

Alfred Henschel reported on the above mentioned meeting and gave his views of what was accomplished by his and Mr. Upthegrove's attendance. He urged all air boat men to be good sportsmen and not abuse the use of air boats by violating game laws and the rights of others. He stated, that in his opinion, the frogger, the fisherman and the sportsman would get and hold the admiration and good feelings of all and be supported by the members of the Florida Wildlife Federation in so doing, and the air boat would continue to be a growing attraction. He said that we should not underestimate the Federation's powers and that we must continue to work with them and keep their support.

DeWitt spoke briefly on other interesting things of the meeting in Zephyrhills and explained events not mentioned in the written report.

The Club was notified by DeWitt of a meeting of the Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission to be held at the Alcazar Hotel in Miami, tomorrow, which will be Monday, July 19th. He stressed the importance of this meeting explaining that it would be the first official meeting of the Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission in this end of Florida; that they would set the dates for next seasons hunting and discuss air

boat rules and regulations. It was urged by Mr. Henschel and DeWitt that some of our members attend. Discussion followed.

President Woody appointed DeWitt to attend the Miami meeting and asked that as many other members as could to go. Truman Padgett, Porter Yaun and Ray Rotenberger volunteered to accompany DeWitt and the trip was arranged for all to leave early Monday morning.

At this time, bills were presented by Jim Ramsey and DeWitt Upthegrove for expenses to and from Zephyrhills. This created quite a discussion. Robert Ahrens moved the bills be paid, seconded by Porter Yaun and carried. Upthegrove's bill - \$25.00 - and Jim Ramsey's for club stamp - \$1.73.

Alfred Henschel introduced the following guests: Mr. William S. Waddell, manager of Lake Worth Chamber of Commerce; Mr. David Barnes and Mr. Frank Post and Bob Rabe, representatives of the Lake Worth Leader (publication). President Woody Upthegrove welcomed the guests and invited them to attend any future meetings they desired.

President Woody said he would like the officers and directors, or as many as could, to meet with the Air Boat Club as soon as arrangements could be made to work on the proposed law to regulate air boats.

Mr. Waddell gave an inspiring talk and related the thrills he and a party of friends from Lake Worth (including a staff from the Lake Worth Leader) experienced today on a trip through the Everglades by air boat with Ray Rotenberger, Alfred Henschel, Robert Ahrens, Jimmie Land, Porter Yaun, and others. He said that he was not exaggerating when he stated that the beauty and thrills were out of this world. He said that Air Boating was a coming attraction for Florida and had not been publicized enough; that the Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Worth Leader and other groups of Lake Worth

would support and publicize this great attraction.

He said that we first should sell ourselves and our people of Palm Beach County on this so that they would join with us in this great adventure. Mr. Waddell said he could not over-emphasize the importance of the air boat, its use commercially to farmers, froggers, fishermen, hunters, tourists, and its great advantages in rescue work in case of disaster, such as hurricanes, air plane crashes and other things that time would not permit to mention.

Mr. Waddell asked all to help promote industry in Florida so our young graduates from High School and College would not have to go to Chicago, St. Louis or other places to seek jobs. He stated the Lake Worth Leader wrote up a good story supporting our Club and assured us that the Chamber of Commerce was behind us.

David Barnes told how to get cheap beef from cattlemen. He said that he was in the cattle business and if the Club would deal with the cattlemen, they could get meat cheaper. He also told of some good hunting dogs that he had and offered to go with the hog hunters.

Mr. Frank Post spoke of a feature story that the Lake Worth Leader was preparing to print on air boats and the Everglades with the great future for tourist attraction.

He had been on the tour through the Glades today and just could not say enough on how wonderful it was.

The Screening Committee reported favorably on the applications for membership of Mr. William S. Waddell, 178 Bryn Mawr Dr., College Park, Lake Worth; Mr. Frank A. Post, 14 Gulf Stream Rd., Lake Worth and David Barnes, Rt. 1 Box 366N, West Palm Beach. R. N. Upthegrove moved to accept the memberships of these gentlemen, seconded by Jimmie Land and carried.

David Crowe reported on the insurance for the barbecue required by the County for use of Lake Osborne, stating the policy to cover the property and liability would cost \$17.50 for the one day. Robert Ahrens reported on the insurance and stated that insurance for each air boat would cost \$114.00 per year, but would cover from \$100,000. to \$300,000. This was considered too high and each boat owner was advised to take care of his own insurance.

On motion by Porter Yaun, seconded by Bob McLester, David Crowe was authorized to spend the \$17.50 for his insurance policy but to have it meet with the County Commissioners' specifications and to have the County attorney approve it. Motion carried.

David Crowe reported that he had printed 1500 tickets for the barbecue at no cost to the Club, courtesy of Honorary member H. M. Dreisbach, 3508 S. Dixie.

Motion was made by Robert Ahrens and seconded by Truman Padgett to have the secretary mail two complimentary tickets to Mr. Dreisbach. The motion carried.

David Crowe reported on and displayed signes and bumper stickers that he had had printed which would be ready in a few days at a cost of about \$100.00 to the Club. Motion made by Earl Wellman, seconded by Porter Yaun to advance Crowe \$100.00 for advertising, carried. Treasurer Jim Ramsey drew a check in this amount to Mr. Crowe.

Arrangements for the Barbecue were discussed by committees; all committees working with everything apparently under control. Ray Rotenberger to furnish tables; Alfred Henschel, truck to haul tables, wood and any other necessary equipment and DeWitt offered his trailer for use of the Club during the Barbecue. Tillman Thompson reported that he had plenty of Australian pine wood and Norman Padgett and Earl Wellman, committee members of the butchering detail, were ordered to get busy.

Truman Padgett reported that the refreshment committee would be ready. Bob McLester and his cooking committee would be on the job, he said, and ready to go and Jimmie Land's salad committee was working and everything was in hand.

It was brought out that the treasurer had about depleted the Club's funds with all the recent withdrawals and money would be needed to finance the purchase of potatoes, pickles, bread and other things for the Barbecue.

Motion by Bob McLester, seconded by James Halbig to use the money from the sale of tickets where needed, was made and carried.

David Crowe was instructed to collect the money from ticket sales and pay the bills as they occurred.

Jimmy Land, seconded a motion by Jim Ramsey to take up a collection for gas and oil used by the hog hunters in getting the pork. The motion carried. Earl Wellman passed the hat and collected \$18.25 which was turned over to Al Henschel for this purpose.

Motion by Robert Ahrens, seconded by Ray Rotenberger to set the day of the Barbecue for 2 P.M. Sunday, August 15th, at Lake Osborne on the East shore, carried.

Robert Lamb volunteered for the cooking committee.

There being no further business, Ray Rotenberger moved to adjourne, seconded by Jimmie Land. The Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned by President Woody Upthegrove at 10:45 p.m.

There were thirty-two members present.

Respectfully submitted,

DeWitt Upthegrove  
Secretary