

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA, APRIL 16, 1954

All members of the Commission were present, along with Mr. Richardson, Mr. Webb, Mr. Wade, Mr. Fuller and Assistant Attorney General Verner.

Mr. Dillard was welcomed to the Commission by Mr. Warren.

Mr. Warren stated that a concrete statement of aims and policy should be drawn up and suggested that every Commissioner write up for presentation at a future meeting his ideas of what he thought the Department should do to accomplish the objectives for which it was created.

(Later in the meeting the following resolution was adopted: "That each Commissioner and both Directors and Webb, Wade, Fuller, Finlay and Lunz at the next meeting of the Commission submit to the Commission a brief statement of a long term program for the consideration of the Commission.")

He added that he had met with Mr. Seabrook and Dr. Lunz recently and had discussed a number of matters with them, including the improvement and development of off-shore fisheries, an increase in clam output and the establishment of new oyster beds.

Too many persons have the idea, he said, that the Commercial Fisheries Division is concerned only with enforcement when actually the aim is to foster and develop the fisheries industry.

The question of better boat facilities for Bears Bluff was discussed, preferably through having surplus government boats allocated.

Mr. Webb said these could be secured only through educational institutions and Mr. Richardson said some years ago he had obtained a boat with the help of U. S. Senators. Mr. Webb said he had written Senator Maybank asking that surplus property be made available for biological purposes.

Mr. Warren said a 65-foot T-boat and an 85-foot Q-boat were needed for the Fisheries Division and Bears Bluff, as well as buoys, cables and anchors.

Mr. Webb was instructed to find out how other states had obtained boats and he said that he would do this at a meeting to be held in Atlanta, April 26 with Fish and Wildlife Service officials.

Mr. Warren then asked for general suggestions and Mr. Cantey stated that several things had been approved but have not been followed through.

Mr. Johnson suggested that Mr. Fuller report on his activities and Mr. Fuller said that the matter of putting rock fish in Lake Greenwood was being held off until more information could be secured.

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He discussed the Santee-Cooper rock fish study, including the tagging and the net operation in the locks.

Mr. Oliphant asked about the condition of the hatcheries and whether Dr. Bost has raised more bass than were needed.

Fuller said that he (Fuller) was in charge of the hatcheries and that the high number of bass raised this year was so that they could be placed in Lake Greenwood, where more predator fish are needed.

Mr. Hopkins moved that Dr. Bost be retired when he reaches the 20-year service date, and after some discussion the following motion was approved:

"Dr. Bost, having reached the age of retirement, and having stated to the Director that he would like to remain with the Department until the expiration of his 20-year period of service in August 1954, it be the sense of the Commission that his request be complied with by the Director and that in August 1954 he be retired."

At the suggestion of Mr. Oliphant, Mr. Fuller was authorized to recommend a successor to be approved by the Director and the Commission and Mr. Fuller was instructed to confer with Mr. Webb on the selection of a man. It was agreed that the man hired should have technical training.

Mr. Dillard asked whether the Lake Greenwood survey was a good representation of the whole lake and Mr. Fuller said further studies were planned for May and for the fall and then concrete recommendations could be drawn up for a long term program.

Mr. Oliphant mentioned the many farm ponds over the state and suggested that Mr. Fuller might hold meetings for pond owners in every county.

Mr. Fuller said that at the last meeting the hiring of a farm pond man had been approved but due to the Department's financial condition nothing had been done. The Commission agreed that such a man was needed and the holding of the meetings would be of value to the pond owners and would create much good will.

Recent press publicity and the possibility of more press trips were discussed, including the possibility of a joint trip showing the work of the Commercial Fisheries and Bears Bluff.

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It was brought up by Mr. Warren that the legislative committee had been approved to make a study of the commercial fisheries laws and he said that its members had not yet been appointed.

Mr. Oliphant suggested meetings with commercial fishermen at Beaufort and Georgetown but no action was taken.

Mr. Richardson read a letter stating that he had been requested by the Commission to make a study of what wardens could best be dropped after July 1 and after conferences with the supervisors and the chief clerk had drawn up a list of 16 wardens who could be dropped with the least harm to the Department. He added that he would be glad to revise the recommendations at the suggestions of the Commission, and then went over the 16 wardens listed, a few of whom had already asked to be placed on leave of absence or had been transferred to other payrolls.

Mr. Warren read a letter from the president of the Sumter Game and Fish Association regarding a report that J. P. Broughton was to be dropped.

Mr. Richardson said he had already written all wardens their commissions expire July 1 and the force will be reorganized and reduced.

The question of when to give notice was discussed and this was held in abeyance.

It was agreed that the wardens' clinic would be held again with the same setup as last year and the same personnel in charge of arrangements.

The present payroll was discussed and Mr. Johnson asked whether a farm pond man could be tied in with lake expenditures and Mr. Richardson said this was doubtful.

Mr. Webb reported that the Spartanburg quail hatchery was the only one being operated.

Mr. Dillard said more information on laws should be furnished fishing license purchasers and suggested putting out a booklet. He agreed to give Mr. Richardson some suggestions on this.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Mr. Seabrook regarding enforcement of the shad laws as to sports fishermen and said he had told Mr. Seabrook that until further notice he should consider shad caught by sports fishermen in fresh water out of his province. This was approved by the Commission.

Mr. Warren asked Mr. Verner to write Mr. Seabrook about the suit brought against Inspector Curtis Barwick.

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The following non-pay game wardens were approved and the Secretary instructed to process their appointments: George C. Seigler, Cordesville; Paul Gowder, Charleston Heights; Wesley W. Fulmore, Jr., St. Stephen, and G. R. Quattlebaum, Pineville.

Henry B. Watson of Salters and G. H. Chandler of Hemingway were approved subject to the final approval of Mr. McKeithan. The appointment of T. M. Peeples was held in abeyance.

Mr. Wade showed the Boy Scout patches and codes and the expenditure of \$168 for them was approved.

Mr. Richardson produced some figures showing the comparative cost of supervisors driving state cars and operating their own cars at state expense and the Commission approved the purchase of four cars for supervisors, which had been offered at cost.

The Secretary was instructed to write a letter to Inspector Richardson, who had been hurt on duty, expressing the regret of the Commission.

Mr. Richardson was asked to instruct all wardens to caution fishermen on safety.

The meeting adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

Eddie Finlay