

COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA APRIL 18, 1956

All members of the Commission were present, along with Director Richardson, Director Seabrook, Bob Lunz, Jim Webb, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson and Francis Taylor.

Mr. Warren welcomed Mr. Huggins as a new Commissioner and explained the program and procedures followed.

George C. Seigler, Berkeley, and Paul Gowder, Charleston, were reappointed as non-pay wardens. The following non-pay wardens were appointed:

J. M. Sikes, Calhoun; M. W. Chaplin, Colleton, and J. B. Harter, Allendale.

The appointment of Howell Platt, Richland, was not approved.

Mr. Warren explained the shrimp legislation that had gone through in the closing days of the session. He stated that Bob Lunz had drawn up a draft and turned it in to the special legislative committee, which had introduced it as a bill, which was passed and enacted into law. The bill contained a repealing section that made it lawful to catch shrimp in waters not proscribed in the act and this, in effect, repealed the laws relating to trawling in sanctuaries and prohibited areas. He added that this was not the intent of Mr. Lunz or of the General Assembly and that he had written letters to the Senate and House in the hope that something could be done to correct this.

He added that Senator Legare had introduced a bill that reinstated the sanctuaries in Charleston County and that an amendment prohibiting trawling within one-half mile of piers in Georgetown and Horry counties had been adopted. He said that the matter was now sufficiently clarified and Director Seabrook should enforce the sanctuary laws as established by the new bill.

Mr. Lunz pointed out that the bill contained some errors and would have to be rewritten next year. He added that the shrimp and oyster bills gave the Commission powers to extend or shorten seasons.

Mr. Seabrook presented a letter from the Salmons Dredging Company estimating a cost of \$8,900 for putting in 11 pilings called for in the shrimp act as markers. Mr. Seabrook was instructed to see about lower bids

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and on motions of Mr. Johnson it was agreed to defer action until money becomes available to put in the pilings.

Mr. Warren said that he had received reports of illegal fishing and hunting in certain AEC areas and that he had written the General Manager to see whether something could be worked out on enforcement, especially in the Lower Three Runs area.

Mr. Webb said that a meeting with AEC officials had been held three years ago and that he believed the wardens at present have authority to operate in AEC areas outside the fence.

Mr. Warren said that he would refer his reply from the General Manager to Mr. Webb, who could inform the wardens.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Director Richardson regarding the law under which Union county is electing a county game warden, saying that it struck at the foundations of the Commission's powers.

It was agreed that Mr. Richardson should get a ruling from the Attorney General on all questions he might have regarding what should be the relations between the Department and the county warden.

It was agreed to take no action on an offer from the Missouri Conservation Commission to furnish at a price some Cotinax quail for raising and release in the State.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the offer might be referred to a game breeder in Union County but Mr. Webb pointed out the offer was made only to the State.

Mr. Fuller was asked to report on the proposal from York County that some ponds be built and he said that it would be much better to build one or two large ponds--at least 50 acres--than the several smaller ones suggested.

A motion of Mr. Oliphant was adopted that Mr. Fuller confer with the York delegation and locate a site of at least 50 acres near the center of the county.

The question of employing a farm fish pond man was discussed at some length and it was agreed that such a man was badly needed. It was agreed

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that Mr. Warren should confer with the Budget and Control Board regarding the filling of the position, and also ascertain from the Board the prospects of getting money for the shrimping pilings.

Mr. Huggins brought up the need for a short-term, non-resident fishing license and added that in the future some provision must be made for pond owners disposing of the fish in their ponds. It was agreed that efforts should be renewed to secure legislation providing for a short-term, non-resident license.

Mr. Johnson reported that the fishing rodeo had been a big success and showed some newspaper clippings.

Mr. Huggins brought up a request he had received for additional equipment for Williamsburg wardens and this was turned over to Director Richardson.

Cars for the Secretary and Education Assistant were approved and Director Richardson said that it could be handled.

Mr. Webb invited all Commissioners to attend the wardens school at Moncks Corner April 23-24.

Mr. Lunz discussed the off-shore fishing research.

Eddie Finlay