

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
IN COLUMBIA FEBRUARY 18, 1953

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Warren with all members present, along with Director Richardson and Assistant Director Webb.

The appointment of Mendel Boozer as a Saluda warden was approved and the Secretary instructed to process the appointment.

Mr. Richardson read a letter from the Museum of Natural History asking permission to secure a turkey gobbler from the Francis Marion area and the matter was referred to him.

The Secretary was authorized to take two pages in the South Carolina Sportsman at a cost not to exceed \$100.

The Commission agreed to approve the allotment of \$12,500 for the Taw Taw creek project in Clarendon county to match \$46,500 in federal funds. Mr. McKeithan moved that Mr. Richardson be authorized and instructed to execute the necessary papers to carry into effect the act of the Legislature and forward the funds to the U. S. Treasurer.

Mr. Warren brought up the matter of the extension of the Santee-Cooper tail-race sanctuary and said he had received several protests.

Mr. Richardson pointed out that the Commission was not required to act under the law and read a letter from the Berkeley delegation approving the extension of the sanctuary. He said the extension of the sanctuary would improve the fishing in the lakes.

At this point a delegation from Charleston -- composed of Robert L. Holmes, Ernie Robbins and Sam Hall -- was introduced.

Mr. Holmes read several letters protesting the extension. It was agreed that the delegation should contact the Berkeley delegation regarding possible modification of the regulation and Mr. Warren suggested that Mr. Richardson make a further study of the probable effects of the sanctuary extension.

A delegation of Georgians, who had come over to discuss the possibility of a reciprocal agreement on Clark's Hill fishing was introduced.

(The proceedings of this are attached as the Georgians wished copies).

Mr. Smith then introduced Mr. Jenkins of Charleston who brought up the possibility of certain privileges being accorded persons who release certain amounts of game. He also discussed quail production on some large plantations.

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A concurrent resolution by Rep. Buck of Conway, which had been passed by the General Assembly, was approved. It requested the Commission to permit the sale of fresh water game fish tagged by the Departments of other states until July 1, 1953.

A letter from the Ashton Grange of Colleton county regarding fish stocking was referred to Mr. Richardson.

Also referred to Mr. Richardson was a letter from several Denmark residents requesting replacement of the Bamberg game warden.

Mr. Smith brought up the question of the sale of fish from private ponds and it was brought out that this was being considered in a bill being drawn up by Rep. Buck, in which he was to be assisted by Mr. Webb.

Mr. Warren brought up the need of blocking unwise legislation that had been introduced and said that he had asked Senator J. D. Parler to confer on all bills affecting wildlife resources. He said that he had been trying to arrange a joint meeting of the Senate and House Committees. (This meeting was later arranged for Feb. 25 at 3 p. m.)

Mr. Smith reported on the conference with Mr. Hanahan, who had refused to sell the Bear Island tract for less than \$200,00 and Mr. Webb said the appraisers had indicated they would set a figure less than \$100,000. It was agreed to wait on the appraisers' report and then make an offer based on that.

Mr. Webb stated that apparently all chance was gone of acquiring the Beach property and also discussed the plan to acquire 8,000 acres for public duck shooting between the Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers at a price of around \$211,000. He added that the state will lose \$100,000 unless it is spent for land before July 1.

After some discussion Mr. Webb was given authority to go as far as he liked toward acquiring the land.

Mr. Warren mentioned the bill allowing 4 1-2 inch mesh nets in Game Zone 7 during the winter months and Mr. Richardson said he opposed the bill.

The pending bill to repeal fishing permits was brought up and it was agreed that there should be a provision for a county license.

The best date for the bill to go into effect was discussed and the Commission agreed that it should be upon the Governor's signature and that licenses and permits already purchased could be applied on the new licenses.

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Mr. Warren stated that the entire program was endangered by several bills that had been introduced and that help was needed in blocking these and in securing adoption of the recommended program.

The Chesterfield warden matter was brought up by Mr. Oliphant and it was agreed that a hearing must be held but no date was set.

Mr. Oliphant brought up a reciprocal agreement for Catawba lake that had been proposed by North Carolinians but it was agreed the Commission had no power to arrange one at present. The Secretary was instructed to write Mr. McGuire to this effect.

The Secretary was authorized to buy all necessary projection and photographic equipment.

It was agreed to take no action on the matter of supervisors at present. Mr. Richardson said he was considering the recommended plan for setting up four districts.

The Commission approved, with minor changes, a closure bill proposed by State Forester Flory.

The Secretary was told to write the Sinking Fund Commission of the need of more office space.

Eddie Finlay