

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA

FEBRUARY 8, 1955

All members were present, along with Director Seabrook, Bob Lunz, Jim Webb, Jeff Fuller and Frank Nelson.

A. M. Scarborough of Berkeley county was approved as a fisheries inspector after Mr. Seabrook explained the need of a man with bookkeeping ability. Mr. Scarborough replaces Mr. Cox.

Commissioners announced the following appointments to the liaison committee: Alex Quattlebaum, Florence, Sixth district; Bartow Culp, Charleston, First; Marlin H. Bruner, Clemson, Third; Jerry Settle, Inman, Fourth; Crawford Billings, Lancaster, Fifth. The member from the Second district will be named later.

There was a general discussion of the recommendations to be presented to the special legislative committee studying the commercial fisheries laws, which was to hold a hearing in the afternoon along with the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry committee and the House Agriculture and Conservation committee.

The recommendations of Mr. Seabrook and Mr. Lunz were taken up and Mr. Warren pointed out that it was important that there be general agreement in the recommendations that would be presented. All agreed that the Department should have the authority to set regulations for the harvesting of marine resources.

Matters discussed included closed seasons for shrimp, the need of sanctuaries, the effects of dragging on bottoms, conflict between sports fishermen and shrimpers, mesh sizes, the 55-count law and areas for trawling.

Mr. Warren said he had received a request from Sterling Harris of the Blue Channel company asking that nothing be done regarding the oyster laws at present, since the industry was studying the matter and wished to agree upon recommendations. He added that there was general agreement the two-bushel oyster law should be repealed.

The reappointments of Wardens Boozer of Saluda and Parsons of Georgetown were approved.

The selection of a warden for Kershaw county was left up to Mr. Oliphant and Mr. Richardson, with the suggestion that the delegation be asked if it could agree upon a man under the age requirement--and if not go along with the man they favor, who is over the age limit.

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A warden for Spartanburg county was approved, subject to the approval of Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Richardson.

*It was voted to close down all quail hatcheries.

The meeting then adjourned to attend the meeting in the State House.

After the meeting with the legislators a brief meeting was held attended by Mr. Warren, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Cantey, Mr. McKeithan and Mr. Webb.

It was agreed to turn over to the Forestry Commission some land at the old Table Rock hatchery in exchange for some 450 acres of land at Camp Croft, adjoining the lake property. The furniture and equipment at Table Rock was not be included in the transfer.

Payment of \$500 attorneys fees for the defense of Wardens DeLoach and Williams and Supervisor McKerley was approved, subject to the approval of the attorney general.

It was agreed to give Mr. Cummings an easement for a spur line on a narrow strip on Bears Island after Mr. Webb said this would not affect the property. The term was to be for five years, subject to renewal.

A two-month leave of absence was approved for Warden Tate so that he and his wife could visit her family in England, with the understanding he be paid for two weeks vacation.

Eddie Finlay

*Note: The actual motion was on closing the Spartanburg hatchery but it was the understanding of all of us here that it also meant closing all quail hatcheries.