

MINUTES OF MEETING WILDLIFE RESOURCES

COMMISSION JANUARY 28, 1953

IN COLUMBIA

All members were present, along with Director A. A. Richardson, M. R. Wolling, Jim Webb, Attorney General T. C. Callison and Assistant James S. Verner.

Mr. Warren read a letter from State Forester Charlie Flory discussing legislation to allow the closing of hunting and fishing seasons during period of forest fire hazard and the letter was referred to Mr. Richardson.

A letter from the Richland County Wildlife Federation expressing support for the Commission program was received as information.

Mr. Warren read a letter from the Horry Game and Fish Association asking the establishment of fish sanctuaries on the Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers. Mr. Richardson suggested that Mr. Webb and Mr. Garth investigate this and make a report. He pointed out that the sanctuaries could be established under the present law.

The Secretary was instructed to answer the letter and say the matter had been referred to Mr. Richardson.

The Secretary was instructed to process the commissioning of Maxie Parsons as a Georgetown game warden.

Mr. Webb explained plans to acquire a 7,000-acre tract in Colleton county for a public shooting area, to be set up as a federal aid project. He recommended that the tract was well worth \$150,000 for which it might possibly be secured, although the asking price was \$200,000.

He described the property and said the main question was whether the state could put up option money as a binder when the project might not be approved. He said that a Mr. Politzer, a Beaufort real estate agent, had a 30-day option.



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MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 1953 MEETING (continued)

Mr. Smith suggested that some members of the Commission visit Mr. Hanahan, one of the owners and Mr. Politzer and see whether a verbal contract could not be secured.

Mr. Callison and Mr. Verner discussed the question of using Department funds for a binder and Mr. Warren said he believed Act 898 gave that authority.

Mr. Richardson said that he was opposed to putting up any money until the project had been approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Smith's motion was adopted and Mr. Smith, Mr. Oliphant, Mr. McKeithan and Mr. Webb were named as the committee.

Mr. Richardson read a letter from the Edgefield delegation stating that Warden Joe E. Hammond was unable to give full and effective service due to his health and asking that he be retired and a younger man appointed.

Mr. Richardson said he had no recommendation to make and Mr. Smith moved that Mr. Richardson make an investigation before any action is taken.

The present method of handling licenses was brought up and Mr. Smith stated that the present system was not only costly but also took up too much of a warden's time. Mr. Johnson also opposed the present system and Mr. Richardson said it could be improved on.

The Commission adopted a motion by Mr. Smith that: "A separate license division be set up in Columbia with agents putting up bond or paying cash, those paying cash to be reimbursed for their unsold licenses and the bonded agents receiving no more licenses than were covered by the amount of their bond. The unsold licenses received by those paying cash would have to be turned in within 30 days after the end of a license period for them to be redeemed."

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MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 28, 1953 (continued)

Mr. Wolling was instructed to draw up a plan. Mr. Wolling was also asked to study the desirability of having both hunting and fishing licenses run on a calendar year.

The state-wide fishing license was discussed and the Commission agreed that there should be a \$1 county fishing license, although no formal vote was taken.

Mr. Smith asked whether persons fishing in a private pond where fees were charged would have to have fishing licenses and was told that they would.

The Secretary reported on his meeting with the trustees of Bears Bluff Laboratories regarding possible state acquisition and said the trustees were not in favor of this, although they wished to cooperate in every way with the Commission.

It was agreed that Mr. Lutz could present the views of the trustees on this at a later meeting.

The Secretary also said that Mr. Lutz and the trustees did not approve of the method of giving the Bears Bluff appropriation through the Division of Commercial Fisheries but that it should come as a direct appropriation from the Commission.

Mr. Johnson moved that Mr. Richardson accept applications for supervisory positions as recommended in the Gabrielson report and Mr. Richardson was asked to formulate a system of supervisors based upon recommendations in the report. A minimum salary of \$4,000 was set.

The Commission approved Mr. Richardson's recommendation of Mr. Webb as assistant director.

*Eddie Finlay*



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