

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING AT BELMONT JULY 11, 1956

All Commissioners were present except Mr. Huggins and Mr. Oliphant. Also present were Chief Richardson, Jim Webb, Federation President Walter Purser and Bartow Culp.

Chairman Warren read a wire from Mr. Huggins stating he approved raises for the wardens.

Chief Richardson presented a proposed schedule of raises for wardens, excluding supervisors, members of the flying squadron and new men. He said that where wardens had secretaries this was being taken into consideration. He said that the raises ranged from \$100 to \$300 and totalled \$12,500 for the year.

Mr. Webb pointed out that before Plan Eight was adopted wardens were limited to \$2,400 and some delegations had provided salaries for wardens' secretaries as the only method of giving them raises. He also added that the Commission had instructed the Director not to consider raises for wardens who now have secretaries unless the raise exceeded the amount being paid the secretaries. In such cases the secretary could be eliminated.

After general discussion the proposed salary schedule was approved effective July 1, with the only change being that the salary of Warden Murray DeLoach's secretary was raised to \$600 a year. Mr. Richardson called attention to the fact that salaries for supervisors' secretaries were out of line, ranging from \$50 to \$100 per month. It was agreed to pay all supervisors' secretaries \$100 per month, except Mac Flood. He is given use of the Bonneau Beach house in lieu of a secretary.

The appointment of Alva R. Hammond of Hardeeville as a non-pay warden for Palmetto Bluff was approved.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Director Seabrook regarding the transfer of an oyster lease and the transfer was approved and the Secretary instructed to write Mr. Seabrook.

Mr. Warren said that certain river bottoms were being leased to phosphate mining companies by the sinking fund Commission and that Bob Lunz said their operations would have an adverse effect on oysters. He said that sooner or later there would be a contest between the phosphate interests and the holders of oyster leases. He added that it would be wise for Mr. Lunz to be able to come up with factual data. It was decided that any action taken should be instituted by the oyster people.

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Mr. Richardson stated that it was possible too much money was being spent on certain projects, in view of the future benefits to the public and consideration should be given as to how far these projects should be developed, particularly Bear Island.

Mr. Richardson also said it was difficult to secure state matching funds for federal aid allocations but perhaps counties could be interested in putting up money for projects.

A proposal of Mr. Gentry for a water control plan for lakes on Belmont, including the poisoning of the lakes, was approved and Chief Richardson was instructed to go ahead with it.

Controlled public deer hunting on the Francis Marion was discussed and on motion of Mr. Hopkins it was decided that Mr. Richardson should consider hunts on the Francis Marion, and also the Edgefield-McCormick area. The details were left to Mr. Richardson.

A suggestion of Mr. Johnson was adopted that all hunting would be on an application and drawing basis.

Mr. Warren said that he would like to be given authority to work out plans of getting a boat for the Commercial Fisheries that could be used for inspection work.

The possibility of boosting revenue from the Commercial Fisheries was discussed and Mr. Warren said the only way was through increasing fees and licenses or setting up a salt water license. It was decided that Mr. Seabrook should be instructed to rigidly enforce the laws, including the prerogative of seizing boats where the law allows.

Mr. Purser said that he was concerned over the wide-spread cutting of hardwoods of private and public lands and that this would be discussed at the Federation meeting in September, to which all Commissioners were invited.

Eddie Finlay