

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Warren with all members present except Mr. Smith and Mr. Oliphant. Also present were Dr. C. W. Watson, federal aid supervisor for the southeastern district; Assistant Director Webb, Bob Lunz, Director Alonzo Seabrook, Jeff Fuller, Chief of fresh water fisheries, Alex Quattlebaum, and Leonard Foote of the Wildlife Management Institute.

Mr. Warren invited Dr. Watson to discuss the federal aid program in the state.

Dr. Watson explained the setup of the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson programs and complimented the federal aid program in the state highly, saying that several of the projects were among the best in the southeast.

He said that it was estimated the state would receive \$132,000 in Pittman-Robertson and \$36,000 in Dingell-Johnson funds for the 1953-54 fiscal year.

He explained that the legislature must pass an enabling act that all receipts be used for fish and wildlife work and this protected state departments from diversion of their funds. He also explained that the federal aid funds could be used to buy and develop land, conduct research, lease private lands, etc., but could not be used for education, enforcement or hatcheries.

Dr. Watson said that South Carolina distributed more farm plants than any other state in the southeast and the Belmont plantation project was the most efficient nursery in the southeast.

He also said that Bear Island would probably become one of the finest waterfowl areas along the Atlantic coast.

He also referred to the Francis Marion turkey as the best he knew and one that was a model for other states to follow, citing the fact that when Texas wished to set up a similar project he had suggested that they study it.

In conclusion he said that the relationship with the state had been as smooth working as any in the region.

In regard to the possibility of acquiring land on the Santee delta and Winyah Bay, Mr. Webb said that the Bear Island project had intervened but that it was still being considered, adverse holdings were the biggest problem.

MINUTES OF MEETING July 29 (continued)

He said that the federal aid funds were being concentrated for developing and diking Bear Island and that the Department would be unable to go forward with others. He said that seven tractors were being operated in planting 12,000 pounds of millet and the possibility of acquiring adjoining land was being considered.

Mr. Johnson brought up the possibility of using federal aid funds to acquire private holdings in national forests up-state with the county delegations assisting. It was suggested that the government might acquire them and turn them over to the state under agreement.

Mr. Webb said that it was generally too expensive to own land for public hunting and it would be best to use federal land or that of the big timber companies.

Mr. Lunz distributed some letters regarding the oyster beds in the Santee area which might be opened up to let all oystermen have an opportunity to harvest, which he said would be very good public relations. These beds were closed by the board of health but have now been declared unpolluted.

Mr. Seabrook pointed out that oyster leases can be only from high water to one foot below low water and no leases could be issued on the deep water Santee beds.

Mr. Lunz said that this should allow Commission to manage the beds as it saw fit.

Mr. Johnson suggested that Mr. Lunz and Mr. Seabrook confer and make recommendations but that no publicity be given at the present. This motion was adopted.

Mr. Lunz then discussed the shrimp survey and said that some of his findings seem to support the views of the commercial fishermen rather than the sports fishermen. He mentioned the fact that the June shrimp catch had been the best since 1948 and explained how he arrived at his figures. He estimated the June catch at 133 pounds of shrimp per boat per day, which was 1 1-2 times greater than 1952, and meant a minimum value per day of \$21,014 for the fleet.

He then discussed the number of small fish destroyed by shrimpers and gave the Commission tables to show the ratio of small fish to shrimp in offshore and inshore waters at various seasons. He said inshore trawling does comparative little damage to small fish.

MINUTES OF MEETING July 29 (Continued)

The probability that there are vast beds of shrimp off the coast was suggested by Mr. Lunz, a great untapped reservoir if they could be located.

Mr. Lunz and Mr. Seabrook then discussed the question of the effect of trawling on bottoms and Mr. Lunz said the trawling may actually help.

Mr. McKeithan asked whether there was any way to get the shrimping figures for Georgetown, Horry and Colleton counties and Mr. Lunz said figures based on tax figures were valueless biologically.

Mr. Webb brought up the name of Doive J. Into, Sr., as a Jasper warden and he was approved subject to O. K. by Mr. Warren.

Mr. Webb reported on the Georgetown situation and said two part-time men had been appointed and Mr. Harrelson had been put on as a non-pay warden. Roy Besinger and James Besinger had been put on a part-time basis.

He said that Warden Harry Cribb was still under investigation and the matter of an alleged injury was still being investigated. He said the application of Mr. Bruorton was being held up pending settlement of Mr. Cribb's injury.

Mr. Johnson moved to adopt the report form for wardens and this was approved.

Mr. Hopkins brought up the matter of another warden for Union county and the Commission voted to put on a man to be approved by Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Oliphant wished the next meeting to be held at his place at Windy Hill the weekend before Labor Day and this was agreed to. (The meeting has been set for 10 a. m. September 5).

Mr. Cantey moved that Warden Mannie Tuten of Hampton be put on base pay and this was agreed to.

Mr. McKeithan said Mr. Harrelson wanted some compensation for working with Warden Parsons in Georgetown and it was agreed that he be paid while working with Warden Parsons.

The matter of the application of W. M. Hiott as a non-pay warden in Beaufort was brought up and this was approved, subject to the recommendation of the county warden and the approval of Mr. Richardson and Mr. Warren.

A motion of Mr. Johnson that it be the policy for down-state inspectors to use up-state wardens when needed was adopted.

MINUTES OF MEETING July 29 (continued)

A report on the Greenville quail hatchery by Supervisor Clyde Ross was received as information.

The possibility of securing some Eschmeyer nature books for schools was discussed and this was turned over to the Secretary and Doug Wade for recommendation.

A car or truck to be used by Gordon Brown in photographic work was approved with the understanding that this was not establishing a policy.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Eddie Finlay