

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA JUNE 20, 1956

Present were Commissioners Warren, Johnson, Hopkins, Huggins, and Oliphant, Director Richardson, Jim Webb, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Crawford Billings, Marlin Bruner, and Jack Carroll.

Senator Paul Wallace of Marlboro discussed the progress of the Bennettsville project and the county's contribution. He said that he had not understood that the entire loan of \$26,000 from the county to the Department to secure land would not be repaid and the county was out around \$5,000. He pointed out that the county had spent around \$75,000.

The Commission voted to reimburse the county to the full amount of the \$26,000 loan and to increase the state's share from \$10,000 to \$15,000 to accomplish this.

Mr. Warren said that he had made arrangements for putting in shrimp area markers at a cost of \$2,200 compared to an original bid of \$9,800 and this was approved by the Commission.

The recent recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Wildlife Federation that Commercial Fisheries be divorced from the Department was discussed and Mr. Warren expressed his opposition. He stated that considerable progress was being made and that he feared that if the present program were disturbed it might lead to exploitation of the commercial fisheries resources. The question of how the Division of Commercial Fisheries could be made self-supporting was discussed. It was decided to take the whole matter under advisement.

The tenure of office of the advisory board was taken up and it was decided that their terms would be concurrent with those of the Commissioners appointing them.

Director Richardson submitted a list of supervisors, wardens, and other personnel whose terms expire June 30. All were approved except Sam Webster of Dillon, except that those

in the Second and Third districts were subject to final approval of the respective Commissioners.

Mr. Huggins presented a letter from Senator Powell of Dillon regarding another warden and the Commission approved a successor to Mr. Webster, subject to approval of the Director and Mr. Huggins.

Mr. Johnson said that he and Mr. Hopkins had been much impressed by the ability of Chief M.C. Chandler of Chester when he addressed a recent wardens' meeting and said he seemed to be well qualified for the position of chief of law enforcement. Mr. Chandler was approved for the position, subject to the approval of Director Richardson.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that Director Richardson was much underpaid in comparison with other department heads. A motion was adopted that "subject to the approval of the Budget and Control Board, the salary of the Director of the Division of Game be \$10,000 effective July 1, the increase to come from Department funds."

It was decided that no clinic would be held at Clemson this summer, in view of the district meetings that have already been held.

Several non-pay wardens were approved.

The Commission went on record as opposing the plan to separate fisheries from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Director Richardson stated that he would write members of the Congressional delegation and others expressing opposition.

On recommendation of Mr. Fuller, a raise of \$300 to \$4,600 was approved for Jack West. A raise for Roland Morris, assistant on the Santee-Cooper project was approved to the maximum raise under the wardens' salary scale.

Mr. Warren issued a general invitation to the Hampton Water Melon Festival July 12 and barbecue at his home.

It was decided to hold no meeting during the summer unless the need for one arose and Vice-Chairman Johnson could call it in the absence of Chairman Warren.

Eddie Finley