

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MARCH 23, 1955.

All members of the Commission were present, as well as all members of the Advisory Committee except Jerry Settle; also Charlie Brice, Director Richardson, Jim Webb, Jeff Fuller and Frank Nelson.

The Commission went into an executive session.

Mr. Hopkins showed some decals that he suggested should be displayed on Department boats and vehicles. His motion was adopted that subject to approval by Wade and Finlay all vehicles and boats owned by the Game and Fish Division, including supervisors cars owned by the State, display on the outside a decal and that the circular decal be the official seal of the Department. (My understanding was that the long decal be used only on boats and the circular decal on all vehicles.)

Mr. McKeithan brought up the possibility of Darlington county securing some of the equipment from the abandoned quail hatchery equipment.

The appointment of W. A. Graham as a non-pay warden in Charleston and Sidney S. Hill as a regular warden in Colleton was approved.

Mr. Johnson brought up the matter of wardens' trips to Columbia and it was agreed that no expenses would be honored for trips to Columbia except those authorized by the Director or a supervisor.

Mr. Hopkins brought up the matter of an outboard motor with self-starter bought by Warden O'Dell but action was deferred temporarily.

The possibility of a Wimbee creek project to check salt water in the Combahee river was brought up by Mr. Warren, who said that landowners had raised \$8,000 as a contribution, which would be half of the state's share in the estimated \$65,000 cost of repairing and rebuilding the salt bank. He said the project would reinstate 25 miles of fresh water fishing.

Mr. Nelson showed two maps of the area and explained the two possibilities--one the salt bank and the other a dam across Wimbee Creek. For waterfowl, he said, both would be desired. The salt bank cost was estimated at \$60,000 and the dam at \$30,000.

It was agreed that a project be drawn up and submitted.

The reappointment of Mr. Richardson as Director of the Division of Game and Fish was announced by Mr. Warren.

The possibility of improved cutting of timber on Belmont was brought up by Mr. Warren.

The Director was authorized to handle this matter, including arrangements with the Forestry Commission for selective cutting and replanting and providing for sealed bids after advertisement.

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He was also directed to get an opinion from the Attorney General.

Mr. Warren stated that authors of the bill providing for a reorganization of the Commission had agreed to kill it. He also said that the Finance Committee had agreed to provide \$5,000 more for Bob Lunz' shrimp survey.

The legislative committee set up to study and rewrite the commercial fisheries laws had not acted on the recommendations presented to it, he said, and probably would not do so at this session.

Mr. Warren added that Mr. Lunz had worked up a formula regarding the movement of shrimp and would write up a report showing the exact times shrimping should be allowed in the sounds, as well as recommending seasons.

Mr. Webb presented the lease agreement between the Chester Aeronautics Commission and the Department for the Chester public fishing lake, which was signed by the Commissioners.

Mr. Hopkins stated that actions like that of Warden O'Dell in purchasing a motor without proper approval were breaking down the chain of command. After some discussion it was agreed that Warden O'Dell's purchase of the motor should be disapproved and the motor returned, with the Department assuming the loss if there should be one. Mr. Wolling was instructed to notify Warden O'Dell to this effect.

The agreement to transfer certain land at Table Rock to the Forestry Commission was approved.

The application from York county for Commission approval of spending \$5,000 of the county's fund for construction of a lake near York was brought up. Mr. Fuller stated that the project was not feasible as a managed lake and Mr. Oliphant said that he was opposed to it.

A motion by Mr. Oliphant was adopted that the Commission desired to go along with the delegation if a site for a controlled fishing lake could be secured, preferably in the central part of the county, but that the Commission could not approve expenditures for the pond near York. Mr. Warren voted against the motion.

Mr. McKeithan moved that the same practice in regard to summons being used by the Division of Game be extended to the Division of Commercial Fisheries and this was approved.

Mr. Quattlebaum extended the appreciation of his Scout Council for the help offered by Department personnel at the Explorer Scout outing at Camp Shelor.

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The sale of quail hatchery equipment was brought up and the Director was authorized to sell all surplus quail hatchery equipment and return the proceeds to the county.

The matter of regulations for Lake Croft fishing was turned over to Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Webb and Mr. Fuller.

Eddie Finley