

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA, MAY 21, 1954.

All members of the Commission were present, along with Directors Richardson and Seabrook, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Webb and Mr. Wade.

Mr. Warren said that he had received a letter from Sol Blatt regarding the removal of bream from the Barnwell hatchery by Dr. Bost for upstate ponds and had asked Mr. Fuller to investigate.

Mr. Warren said Dr. Bost had been instructed not to return to the hatchery and that Superintendent Owens was now working directly under Mr. Fuller. He said that he had written Mr. Blatt that the Commission had accepted Dr. Bost's resignation effective August 1. On motion of Mr. McKeithan, Mr. Warren's action was approved.

Mr. Fuller said that a replacement for Dr. Bost was coming in during the afternoon and he wished the Commission to set a policy so that a man in control of the hatcheries would have complete authority with the right to hire and fire.

A resolution was adopted that the superintendent of hatcheries would be responsible for the operation of the hatcheries and the personnel, and would have the right to select or remove employees under him after clearing the same with the Director and the Chief of Fisheries, subject to the approval of the Commission.

It was agreed that if the new man replacing Dr. Bost should come before August 1 he would supplant Dr. Bost who would be paid until August 1.

After the hiring of the new hatchery man had been approved it was agreed that an inventory of all hatchery equipment should be taken by him and Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Warren brought up a request from the Beaufort delegation for the expenditure of \$4,000 from the county's funds for construction and repair of public landings to be used for fresh and saltwater fishing, marsh hen and other hunting, the money to be turned over to the County Board of Directors to be expended under the County Public Landing Committee.

Mr. Richardson said that under a previous ruling of the Attorney General there was doubt as to whether this could be done legally. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Richardson should contract with the Board of Directors for the construction of the landings, which should be approved by him and with the understanding payment would be from funds credited to the county.

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Mr. Johnson suggested that a regular design for the landings should be agreed upon that would be followed by all counties doing similar work and that they be credited to the Department by signs.

Mr. Richardson then presented a list of the wardens he was recommending for re-commissioning. He asked whether prior to July 1 he should write each delegation and ask whether they were willing to continue paying those wardens now being paid under county or lake funds.

Mr. Warren suggested that the Commission act on the recommendations and then let Mr. Richardson take this up with the delegations, pointing out that wardens being paid by county funds, if continued in office, must be paid with the approval of the delegations under provisions of the appropriations act. It was decided that a letter to this effect should be written after the second primary.

Mr. McKeithan asked whether those men not re-hired would be given 30 days notice or 30 days pay in lieu of the notice but no action was taken on this.

Mr. Richardson said he would need approval or disapproval for the list before June 1. All recommendations were approved by districts, except that Mr. Richardson and Mr. McKeithan should confer about one man.

Mr. Richardson said it would unnecessary to re-commission the non-pay wardens.

It was brought out that dues in the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners had been paid.

Mr. McKeithan brought up the matter of another warden having been requested for Dillon county and it was agreed nothing could be done before July 1. A telegram on this matter was referred to Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Webb reported on plans for the Marlboro fishing lake and said he would like for the Commission to approve it, subject to the approval of the Fish and Wildlife Service, with a provision that the maximum cost to the Department of state funds would be \$10,000.

It was voted that the progress report from Mr. Webb be approved and the project itself approved subject to the approval of the Fish and Wildlife Service, provided that the Department expend not in excess of \$10,000 and that all other requirements of the Department be met.

Mr. Webb was instructed to confer with the Marlboro delegation so that they would understand that the county would have to make up any differences in cost above the Department's \$10,000.

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Mr. Warren discussed the legislative committee setup to study and rewrite the commercial fisheries laws and said its membership would not be appointed until after the election, and that the presiding officers of both houses had agreed to confer with him.

Mr. Johnson said the Department was not operating under the most efficient system and that the warden's pay setup should be straightened out.

A list of all the payroll of the Division of Game was gone over and the secretarial help of some wardens was discussed.

A motion that after July 1 no wardens' secretaries would be paid from state funds was held in abeyance.

Mr. Johnson asked whether any raises for wardens were coming up July 1 and Mr. Richardson said some were. He was requested to get up a list of wardens according to the salary scale and the revisions. Mr. Richardson agreed that the revisions would not apply to those receiving secretarial help.

It was agreed to put Warden Manny Tuten on the regular merit scale with the minimum salary of \$200 a month.

Mr. Oliphant asked about the current county deficits and Mr. Richardson said they were being made up.

The necessity for informing delegations of the amounts of funds to their credit was discussed.

The Commission expressed itself as favoring the making of a film or films and discussed the possibility of the Division of Game paying for or supplying some clerical help in the Administrative Division with help that could be spared after the July 1 reorganization.

Several expenditures of current funds of the Administrative Division were approved, including part-time employment of Dr. Freeman and the making of some folders and drawings.

Mr. Fuller introduced Mr. West, the new hatchery superintendent.

Action toward securing boats for Bears Bluff and the Division of Commercial Fisheries was discussed and Mr. Warren was appointed a committee of one to handle this.

Mr. Richardson, Mr. Webb and Mr. Wade were instructed to proceed with plans for the clinic and it was agreed that a split session would be held at Clemson.

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It was agreed that action on the long-term recommendations should be held up until the next meeting, which was set for June 10 in Columbia at 10:30.

Mr. Wade suggested that all the recommendations be studied and put together for consideration, which would be better than having each considered separately.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Eddie Finlay