

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA MAY 8, 1957

All members of the Commission were present, along with Director Richardson, Jim Webb, Bob Lunz, Jeff Fuller, Jack Carroll and Dan McKeithan.

The Cherokee delegation--Senator McKown and Reps. Blanton and Fort-- presented a request for help in securing a public fishing lake for the county. Senator McKown said the county was badly in need of fishing waters and several sites were being studied.

Mr. Webb stated that what appeared to be the best site would provide a lake of 40 acres, or possibly larger.

Mr. Johnson suggested that priority for a public fishing lake be given Cherokee county and that a preliminary survey be pushed so that the county could know what the approximate cost of the project and its share would be. This was approved and Mr. Webb and Mr. Fuller were directed to proceed with the preliminary investigation and to set up a project for approval.

Chairman Warren brought up the pending bill to set up a 14-man Commission and several members expressed opposition, stating that it would increase politics and would be a definite step backwards.

Mr. McKeithan said that Federation directors had contacted some senators in opposition to the bill.

The bill introduced by the Union delegation providing for dismissal or moving a warden on the unanimous request of the delegation was discussed. (The bill has been amended to apply only to Union county).

Director Richardson explained the background of the bill and the Commission agreed with his stand in refusing to discharge the Union county warden without a hearing.

The bill to increase hunting license fees was discussed and it was brought out that this would more than take care of a 10 per cent raise for wardens.



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The continued employment of Chief of Law Enforcement M. C. Chandler was brought up and after some discussion it was agreed that he should be paid to July 1 but informed he would not be needed after that date, and should turn in his equipment.

The Commission voted to reappointment Director Richardson and Director Seabrook for one-year terms.

Mr. Lunz then explained some of his recent work, including his position on the Atlantic Fisheries Commission. He reported that Georgia had enacted a law that would do away with the catching of sponge crabs in Beaufort waters. He also discussed the recently inaugurated landing reports of commercial fisheries products in the State, which is providing very valuable information.

Mr. Lunz stated that the laws and the tax structure needed revision, adding that South Carolina was the only state taxing fisheries products.

Mr. Fuller stated that the Department could purchase trout more cheaply than they were being produced at the Cleveland hatchery, where the water supply was bad.

Mr. Webb pointed out that the federal hatchery near Walhalla was being enlarged and could provide the State with sufficient trout for its stocking needs.

After some discussion a motion of Mr. Oliphant was adopted that Mr. Hopkins investigate the situation and report back to the Commission. Mr. Richardson suggested that Mr. McKeithan get the ideas of the Greenville chapter.

Mr. Fuller also said that Missouri and North Carolina have asked for striped bass for experimental stocking in their lakes.



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Mr. Richardson read a letter from General Manager R. M. Jefferies of the Santee-Cooper Authority protesting against other states being given striped bass until all South Carolina waters were stocked.

After some discussion, a motion of Mr. Johnson was adopted that a reasonable number be offered to North Carolina and Missouri, not from Santee-Cooper waters, under arrangements drawn up by Mr. Richardson and Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Fuller was instructed to see Mr. Jefferies and explain the striped bass situation and the Commission plans.

The re-appointment of Warden Prickett of Calhoun was approved. The re-appointment of Warden Johnson of Georgetown was turned over to Mr. Huggins. The appointment of Mr. Leppert as a non-pay warden in Charleston county was approved.

A raise to \$3,200 for Howard Vise, who is in charge of the Spartanburg lake, was approved.

A proposal of Mr. Webb that the State participate in the cooperative southeastern study of deer diseases was approved, the project to cost approximately \$500 of state and \$1,500 of federal money.

Mr. Webb presented a proposal from the Marlboro delegation that a 14-acre strip of the Paul Wallace Lake project be sold to Dr. Kinney of Bennettsville. Mr. Huggins was appointed to study this matter, along with the matter of returning some four or five acres to a landowner who had lost it through a misunderstanding over the survey line.

*Eddie Finlay*

