

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA
SEPTEMBER 21, 1955

All members of the Commission were present, along with Director Richardson, Jim Webb, Frank Nelson, Jeff Fuller, Doug Wade and the following advisory committee members--Charlie Brice, Jack Carroll and Crawford Billings.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Senator Mars of Abbeville requesting a hearing for Mr. Suttles, whose license handling privileges had been taken away. Mr. Warren was authorized to inform Senator Mars that the matter was closed, in view of the investigation that had been carried out.

Mr. Warren stated that the Beaufort Board of Directors wished help in constructing a walkway for fishing on the Hunting Island bridge, estimated to cost \$4,000. The county has only \$1,700 to its credit, which is earmarked for warden salary. Mr. Warren said that the Department could do nothing but he would recommend to the highway department that the walkway be constructed as a safety measure for pedestrians.

The appointment of J. S. Cherry as a Fairfield warden was discussed and Mr. Oliphant said a different procedure should be used in handling warden vacancies. Mr. Oliphant recounted what he had been told by Rep. Walter Brown of Fairfield regarding events leading up to the appointment of Mr. Cherry and Mr. Webb told of conversations he had had with Rep. Brown and Senator Martin. There was a general discussion of the proper method of filling warden vacancies.

It was agreed to take no action in regard to the controversy between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Santee-Cooper Authority regarding the closing of certain areas to shooting, since the matter was already settled.

It was agreed to place Edward Wrenn on the Santee-Cooper fish investigation project at \$200 a month and expenses not to exceed \$30 a month to be paid from Santee-Cooper funds. The payment of \$50 a month from county funds to Mrs. Rourke for assisting with licenses was approved.

The sale of the Spartanburg quail hatchery was ratified.

On motion of Mr. Johnson the matter of acquiring waterfowl lands on the Cooper river was passed over.

The proposal of Missouri to secure some rockfish from Santee-Cooper was discussed. Mr. Wade pointed out the public relations value of furnishing the fish. Mr. Webb said that action should be deferred until the success of the Greenwood transfer project was determined.

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Mr. Fuller was instructed to write a letter to Missouri suggesting that any action await further information on the success of the Greenwood project but not closing the door to later approval.

It was voted to name the lake at Camp Croft Edwin Johnson lake.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his conference with Director Clyde Patton of North Carolina regarding someone qualified to analyze the State's law enforcement setup, along with what the office of chief of law enforcement should embrace and the qualifications for the office. He also related his talks and correspondence with Gilmer Jones of Franklin, N. C., attorney and former chief of N. C. law enforcement who had been recommended by Mr. Patton.

Mr. Johnson read a letter from Mr. Jones regarding what the survey would entail and the probable costs.

Mr. Warren stated that some persons had apparently got the wrong idea about the proposed survey and the contemplated action had engendered some fears as to its intent, which might be reflected in adverse legislative action.

Mr. Johnson said his sole idea was to get Mr. Jones' ideas on what should be expected of a chief of law enforcement and also how the law enforcement setup was functioning. He said he did not believe there was a close enough check on wardens.

Mr. Dillard said the supervisors do not have enough authority over wardens and Mr. Hopkins said supervisors should have the authority to fire wardens subject to review by the Director and the Commission. There was a general discussion of the reporting system, the supervisor-warden relations and other related matters.

Mr. McKeithan moved that "Mr. Gilmer Jones, attorney and former chief of law enforcement for the North Carolina Commission, be employed to make a field survey of our law enforcement setup and an analysis of same and make suggestions to the Commission for improvement of same."

Mr. Brice expressed his appreciation for the help given at the Federation meeting, following which the meeting adjourned for lunch.

Mr. Richardson brought up regulations regarding the use of lights on Clarks Hill and reports that Georgia wardens were not enforcing this law. Mr. Johnson moved that the prohibition against the use of lights be abolished.

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The following non-pay wardens were appointed or reappointed:

J. Mays Nelson and P. D. Tankersley, Jr., Greenville; Edward Bates, Berkeley; W. H. Cercopely, Charleston; Oscar Craven, W. C. Smith and J. M. Padgett, Colleton; J. Waymond Wilson, Georgetown; James Ellis Brown, Colleton; Dewey Thornbrew, Clarendon. The appointment of Mr. Sampayrac was approved subject to recommendation by Mr. Richardson.

It was agreed that Mrs. Claude Tankersley be paid \$50 monthly for assisting with secretarial help for the Greenville warden.

Mr. McKeithan brought up the matter of securing a farm pond man but, in view of the financial situation, the matter was held in abeyance.

Mr. Johnson discussed his negotiations regarding information on a radio setup for law enforcement and said it might be possible to set up a system around the lakes with lake funds, particularly around Santee-Cooper. He suggested that the man coming down should first talk with Director Richardson and Mr. Webb.

The following resolution was adopted: "That the Director be instructed to see that supervisors hereafter make detailed reports on each warden and definitely state any lack of cooperation or inefficiency on the part of any warden and make recommendations to the Director as to the suspension or dismissal of any warden not doing his duty; that all wardens be instructed to refer all complaints directly to their supervisor, with a copy to the Director, and the supervisor to take up the complaint with the Director."

The question of alligators endangering life and property was discussed.

The budget for the Administrative Division was tentatively approved.

No action was taken on a suggestion that another meeting place be secured so as to provide more space for the Administrative Division.

Eddie Finley