

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION:

SEPTEMBER 12, 1952, IN MEETING ROOM OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

All members were present except Commissioner Johnson. Also present were Director A. A. Richardson, James W. Webb, Leonard Foote, Senator James Morrison and Representative James Moore of Georgetown.

Mr. Warren said that the Commission had been invited to attend a meeting of the Commercial Fisheries Advisory Board September 17. He later read an opinion by Attorney General T. C. Callison, who had been asked for a ruling on the powers of the board. The ruling was that the Commission "has complete control over the enforcement of all laws relating to game, fishing, and commercial fisheries with no overlapping authority by the board"; that the board can act "only in advisory capacity on such matters as may be referred to it," and "has no initiative in dealing with any matters pertaining to the enforcement of laws regulating commercial fisheries."

A report from Director Alonzo Seabrook on enforcement activities was received as information.

Senator Morrison was recognized and he brought up the game warden situation in Georgetown county, asking that Mr. Barnhill and Mr. Cribb be re-employed as wardens. He said the two men were recommended by both the delegation and the Georgetown Game and Fish Association.

Representative Moore also asked this:

Mr. Warren stated that their reappointment had not been finally disapproved and reviewed the policy that the Commission had followed.

Mr. Richardson explained that he had not recommended the two men because they were not on the state payroll but had later recommended them.

Mr. McKeithan said that he would make a report on the two men and the Georgetown situation later.

Mr. Smith stated that another man was needed for Anderson county and brought up the names of two applicants and Mr. Richardson said he would recommend the man Mr. Smith suggested.

Mr. Warren then recognized W. D. Workman and said he was very pleased with the press and radio reception given the Commission's efforts to make the state game conservation conscious.

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The Commission approved Mr. Richardson's recommendation for salaries to be paid game wardens in accordance with the scale set up by Leonard Foote, effective September 1.

Also approved was a recommendation that wardens handling licenses be allowed travel expenses up to \$100 a month; and a salary raise of \$400 per annum for Dr. J. E. Bost to bring his salary up to \$4,200.

A recommendation that Dr. Bost take over the supervision of the Orangeburg and Newberry fish hatcheries was help up after it was decided that a study of the whole hatchery setup be made by Bill Garth. It was also agreed, on the recommendation of Mr. Richardson, that Mr. Foote make a survey of the quail hatcheries and make the Commission some recommendations.

Mr. Richardson recommended that it become a permanent policy that fish from the hatcheries be placed on first priority in public waters with the surplus for private ponds. He said the present policy is to give a good percentage to private waters but the demand is greatly exceeding the supply. This recommendation was withdrawn and it was agreed to have this matter come under the study to be made by Mr. Garth.

Mr. Richardson announced that Warden Metts of St. Stephen had been discharged after his conviction of fishing in a sanctuary. Mr. Warren said that he had received reports that other persons, including wardens, had been fishing in the sanctuary. Mr. Richardson said he had heard that some highway patrolmen had been fishing there and that Chief Highway Commissioner McMillan had warned all patrolmen that this would bring immediate dismissal.

Following a discussion of plans for supervisors and an assistant director, Mr. Richardson was authorized to select an assistant at a salary not more than \$6,000.

A letter was read from Dr. Poole of Clemson College inviting the next wardens' clinic back.

The matter of violation of commercial fisheries laws was brought up and Mr. Warren said Director Seabrook might need more inspectors.

Mr. Warren agreed to prepare a report and recommendations to the General Assembly.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 1952, MEETING (continued)

Mr. Warren read a letter from Senator Hester of McCormick opposing a reciprocal agreement with Georgia on Clarks Hill. Mr. Smith said that a member of the Georgia Commission had asked for a joint meeting and Mr. Richardson was authorized to write and arrange such a meeting, if he thought one were needed. He added that the state fishing laws were being enforced and a number of cases had been made.

Mr. Webb pointed out that Georgia was anxious for some sort of agreement but it was difficult to arrange in view of different laws on sizes and limits and Mr. Richardson said the respective laws must be amended before any agreement could be reached.

The whole Clarks Hill matter was postponed until a later date.

The Commission then went into executive session.

It was decided to carry over the Georgetown matter until the next meeting.

Mr. McKeithan stated that the Commission had been invited to attend a meeting of sportsmen's clubs in Darlington November 5.

Mr. Johnson was elected vice-chairman.

The meeting was adjourned with the date and place of the next meeting to be decided by Mr. Warren.

Eddie Finlay