

## COLUMBIA

Present were Chairman Warren and Commissioners Cantey, Hopkins and Dillard, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Webb, Senator R. M. Jefferies, Reps. Marshall Saunders and I. A. Smoak, Charlie Brice and a group of Colleton sportsmen.

Mr. Warren stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to consider the request for waiving the age qualification in the case of Mr. Ralph Poole, an applicant for the position of Colleton game warden. Mr. Warren reviewed the steps that had been taken from the time the application was first received by Mr. Richardson. He added that the 40-year maximum age limit had been adopted because of the experience of other states and other departments of government, and the basic idea was to get younger men on the force.

Senator Jefferies spoke in favor of Mr. Poole's appointment. He stated that Colleton county had had excellent law enforcement and that the local wildlife club had always worked to promote this. He added that Mr. Poole was thoroughly capable and interested and had consented to serve as a public service after being asked to serve by the local club. He also said that no politics were involved and because of Mr. Poole's qualifications the age qualification should be waived.

J. J. Padgett then introduced several members of the club who spoke in favor of Mr. Poole.

Mr. Saunders said that he had heard no complaints about Mr. Poole and said that he would appreciate the Commission's consideration.

Mr. B. R. Smith stated that Colleton had two topnotch wardens and that what had been accomplished should not be broken down by putting a new man over them. He added that he did not think a man of Mr. Poole's age could do the job as well as a younger man.

Mr. Jefferies asked whether all wardens are now on the same level and Mr. Richardson replied that one warden in a county gets more salary and travel, since he handles the licenses.

Mr. Moye Padgett said that a man was needed to handle education work and that Mr. Poole was well qualified for this.

Mr. Peter Jackson said that he endorsed what Mr. Smith had said as to the work being done by Wardens Crosby and Williams and did not think anyone should be put over them.

MINUTES COMMISSION MEETING AUGUST 11, 1954

Mr. F. E. Baldwin also said the two wardens were doing an excellent job and added that Mr. Poole was the best qualified of around 30 applicants.

Mr. Dillard said the Commission was 100 per cent in favor of wildlife chapters working for the benefit of all concerned and the Commission was doing its best to work with them and appreciated their interest.

Mr. Smoak stated that he was asking the Commission to abide by its own rules and pointed out that some of those attending the meeting were not in favor of Mr. Poole's appointment. He said he had nothing against Mr. Poole but did not consider the Colleton situation as emergency warranting waiving the age qualification. He added that he did not want anything done that would hurt the incentive of the present wardens.

Mr. Warren said that the idea of the Commission was to train wardens in all phases of their work and, although all wardens were not fitted for educational work, others were active in this. He added that no one had any idea of supplanting either Mr. Crosby or Mr. Williams and that he believed they would work with anyone appointed. He said that he had understood Mr. Smoak was in favor of appointing Mr. Poole and Mr. Moyer Padgett said that at the time he saw Mr. Warren he had had the same opinion.

Mr. Richardson said that after the 40-year limit had been established it had been waived in case of emergency but later the Commission voted to waive it under no circumstances. He said that if it were waived he would investigate Mr. Poole as he would any applicant.

Mr. Brice said that he was pleased with the interest and the progress made in Colleton county. He also said that he considered the age qualification for wardens fundamentally sound, although at times there might be exceptions.

Mr. Jefferies then said there was no idea of putting Mr. Poole over the other wardens but that he thought he should be appointed in response to the wishes of a majority of the people of the county.

Mr. Richardson said that even if Mr. Poole were appointed he would go in like any other warden at a salary of \$2,400 and would not take Mr. Ackerman's place.

The matter was taken under advisement and Mr. Warren thanked the visitors for their interest.

MINUTES COMMISSION MEETING AUGUST 11, 1954

(The Commission later went into executive session, after which it announced that the age qualification had been waived in regard to Mr. Poole. A statement was issued in regard to this, a copy being attached to these minutes.)

Mr. Warren read a letter from Director Farley of the Fish and Wildlife Service to Senator Maybank regarding the two boats that were to be turned over to the Department.

Mr. Warren announced that the next meeting would be held Saturday morning, September 4, at the Windy Hill home of Mr. Oliphant.

The question of the appointment of Robert Wyndham as a Charleston warden was brought up and Mr. Richardson said the question was whether Charleston would have funds to pay him, the Charleston delegation having agreed to pay him out of available county funds. He said that Charleston now has five wardens, all paid by the state.

The Commission authorized Mr. Richardson to put on Mr. Wyndham after a regular investigation.

Mr. Warren said he had received many complaints about the marsh hen season and was turning these over to Mr. Richardson, who said that regardless of the season set there would be complaints.

Mr. Richardson then read Mr. Webb's report on the Spartanburg quail hatchery. The question of suspending operations was brought up and it was agreed to defer action until the next meeting.

The Secretary was instructed to draw up a list of legislative recommendations for consideration at the Windy Hill meeting.

*Eddie Finlay*