MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT CLEMSON COLLEGE AUGUST 3, 1952

All members of the commission were present, along with Director A. A. Richardson and James E. Webb and Douglas E. Wade of the department; Walter A. Gresh, acting regional director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta; Harold Steele, Columbia, and William C. Lehmann, Charleston, game management agents, Fish and Wildlife Service; C. R. Gutermuth, vice-president of the Wildlife Management Institute, and Leonard E. Foot, southeastern representative of the Institute.

A report was made on the meeting with the Water Pollution Control Authority which had been attended by Mr. Cantey, Mr. McKeithan and Mr. Johnson.

A general discussion was held on the subject of game wardens.

The Oconee warden suggested by Mr. Smith was approved. Another warden for York county was disapproved.

A letter was read from a group of Allendale citizens asking another warden for the county to cut down on illegal deer hunting in the Savannah river area. (There is only one warden at present.)

The use of up-state wardens in this and other troubled spots was discussed but no action taken.

Mr. Johnson moved that each commissioner be furnished a list of all present wardens, their counties and mailing address, along with a list of all wardens who had not been re-employed and their counties and mailing address.

Mr. Warren pointed out the present wardens should not be considered the permanent staff but a temporary working organization to take over enforcement of the laws.

Mr. Smith suggested setting up some temporary qualifications for the employment of new wardens if the commission was not ready to set up permanent standards.

Mr. Gutermuth and Mr. Foote discussed this and said that if the Commission acted too hastily and set hard and fast rules it might lose its flexibility.

However, Mr. Gutermuth said basic standards could easily be set.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Mr. Richardson in which he stated that he had been using six county wardens on a statewide basis and asked whether their salaries could be raised to $300. These wardens could be used as a "flying squadron" to take care of trouble spots.

These wardens were: L. C. Bundrick, West Columbia; Clyde Ross, Greenville; Eugene Howell and Woodrow Lewis, Columbia; D. L. Yarborough, Timmonsville; and Sydney Lee, Laurens. Lee would be also used for supervising the wardens on Murray, Wateree and Greenwood.

Mr. Richardson asked to withdraw the suggested plan for seven combination supervisors and bicolor men and substitute the above plan. He said that the best law enforcement men might not be suited to the bicolor work and it would be impossible to find seven men who fitted both qualifications.

The Commission approved this on a temporary basis.

Mr. Johnson read a letter from the Spartanburg delegation on regarding a fishing lake at Croft State Park and the Department was so authorized to complete a 40-year lease with the Forestry Department and set up a federal aid project.

Mr. Webb said the lake would be operated by the Department on a small fee basis, sufficient to be self-maintaining. He also said the delegation would appropriate $5,000 and the county would furnish the clearing labor. Federal aid would provide the rest of the funds.

The Commission disapproved a Clarendon county project that consisted principally of road building.

Mr. Richardson then read the federal seasons which he had suggested for the shooting of migratory birds and the commission approved this.

The seasons are:

Doves: Sept. 15-29; Dec. 27-Jan. 10; Ducks: Nov. 17-Jan. 10; and marsh hens: Oct. 1-Nov. 29.

Mr. Warren then brought up the question of whether the deer season could be

shortened this year, saying shorter seasons would be suggested to the next legislature but he believed something should be done regarding the present season.

Mr. Richardson said there was no authority for shortening a season except for 10 days in periods of high water.

It was agreed that nothing could be done before the meeting of the legislature and Mr. Warren stated that the Legislative Council was now working on a new set of laws. Mr. Johnson then asked that copies of the present game laws be sent to all commissioners.

Mr. Warren then mentioned that he had been asked to reconsider the failure to re-employ Warden Mabry of Beaufort and said that he had said that he personally had disapproved the appointment.

The questions of standards for the employment of all new wardens was then brought up and the following standards were agreed upon:

a. The applicant must be between 21 and 40 years of age.

b. He must have a doctor's certificate that he is in good physical condition with no handicapping disability.

c. He must have a high school education or the equivalent and be qualified through experience, training and moral background.

d. He must agree to give full-time service.

e. He must agree to work anywhere in the state.

f. He must agree to attend all training schools.

g. Training school records will be considered.

h. He must undergo a six-month probation period.

It was agreed that the filling of Allendale and Georgetown vacancies would come under this.

The appointment of T. W. Delk to fill a Lexington county vacancy caused by death was approved.

On motion of Mr. Warren a resolution was adopted recognizing the visitors and expressing the appreciation of the Commission for their presence and their work.

Mr. Gresh brough up the matter of the state's participation in the South Atlantic and Gulf Fisheries pact and its attendant research project. This matter was received as information pending the report of the Wildlife Management Institute.

The recommendation of Alonzo Seabrook for the appointment of Mr. Barwick of Williamsburg as a fisheries inspector at Georgetown was approved.

It was voted to allow Dr. J. E. Dest $10 weekly additional for secretarial assistance.

The question of application forms for new wardens was discussed and Mr. Richardson said it would probably be 30 days before they would be available.

The Chesterfield matter--involving Rep. James Spruill and alleged threats made by Warden Rombert Jones--was discussed and it was agreed to grant the hearing requested by Mr. Spruill and to have Mr. Jones present. Mr. Richardson was asked to inform Mr. Spruill of the hearing and to notify Mr. Jones to be present. He was also asked to invite Rep. Arant and Senator Leppard.

The Commission then took up a Spartanburg case involving the right of guests to fish in private ponds without a license. The case is that of The State vs. Furman Mabry, who built a pond and allows fishing for a small fee.

James S. Verner, assistant attorney general, had written to the Commission asking what it wished done with the case. It was voted to request the attorney general's office to proceed with the case so as to get a definite ruling.

The question of non-paid game wardens was then brought up and Mr. Hopkins disapproved the appointment of Mr. Romain Phillips. Mr. McKeithan said that he would not approve some of those on the list furnished him by Mr. Richardson.

A request from the Georgetown delegation requesting the return of Warden Gibson to prevent violations in the county was read and Mr. McKeithan agreed to handle the matter.

Mr. Webb brought up the question of permits on Clark's Hill and whether to require them now or to await legislative action. It was agreed to take no action at the present.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Eddie Finlay