MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA

AUGUST 6, 1958

All Commissioners were present except Mr. Oliphant and Mr. Huggins. Also present were Chief Richardson, Jim Webb, Bob Lunz, and Admiral Polatty, Crawford Billings, Jack Carroll and Bartow Culp of the Advisory Committee.

The question of appointing Clement Craven as a Colleton Warden was discussed and a motion of Mr. Johnston was adopted that he be put on, provided that a commitment could be secured from the incoming delegation that he be paid from county funds as far as possible.

A number of non-pay wardens were reappointed, those in Mr. Huggins district subject to his approval.

Senator John Long of Union told the Commission that the Department's fish and game stocking program in the county had been most successful. He said that the county has only one warden and asked that another be added, suggesting Mr. Greer, who had accompanied him to the meeting.

Chief Richardson said that if a man were put on he would have to be paid with county funds as far as they would go. Senator Long said that Mr. Manley Greer was employed until January and Chief Richardson suggested that Mr. Greer file an application.

Chief Richardson said that two Lexington wardens had been dropped and that the delegation was asking the appointment of Herbert Keisler as warden, to be paid from county funds. Chief Richardson was authorized to appoint Mr. Keisler.

The reappointment of Mr. Gibson as a non-pay warden was approved.

Chairman Warren stated that there was a great need to put the Division of Commercial Fisheries on a self-sustaining basis and that this has been discussed with the Budget and Control Board. He said that there was a great need for the increase of some of the taxes and licenses and also for a tax study to make recommendations to the General Assembly.

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He also said that he had studied the recommendations of Director Seabrook made in 1956 and that the Commission should come before the Assembly with a concrete program of increases.

Copies of Director Seabrook's recommendations were handed out and discussed.

Chairman Warren added that it is important to have a man assigned to check the canneries and factories to find out if the State is getting the taxes that should be paid, since undoubtedly some operators were evading taxes. This would help make up the $35,000 deficit now being taken care of the Division of Game and Fish revenue. He added that the Budget and Control Board favored putting on an auditor and could arrange for payment of his salary from the contingent fund, while his expenses could be paid by funds of the Division of Commercial Fisheries.

Chairman Warren said that L. D. Schley was willing to accept the position for $400 a month and was well qualified.

Mr. Cox moved that the recommendation of the Chairman in relation to the employment of Mr. Schley as auditor and tax investigator be adopted and that the Chairman proceed with the necessary steps for his employment.

Chairman Warren said that a recent enforcement drive in Beaufort county had been most successful and that magistrates were now imposing stiffer fines for violation of the commercial fisheries laws.

Following a discussion of the harmful effects of certain poisons used in fire ant control the Commission adopted the following resolution, which had been drawn up by Mr. Lunz and Mr. Culp:

WHEREAS pesticides are being used on a large scale to control fire ants in the Southeast states,

AND WHEREAS research has shown that the commonly used pesticide dieldrin is extremely toxic to marines fishes and to wildlife,

AND WHEREAS many pesticides, particularly dieldrin, are known to have a long time residual effect,

BE IT RESOLVED therefore, that the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, at a meeting held August 6, 1958, in Columbia, S. C., urge that the U. S. Department of Agriculture use dieldrin and other pesticides with extreme care and with due precaution so as to minimize the possible effects on fisheries and wildlife,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U. S. Department of Agriculture continue to use every effort to find a suitable agent for the control of fire ants which will not have the deleterious effect on wildlife and fisheries, and that in the meantime, and until such investigation has been completed, the use of dieldrin and heptachlor and other extremely toxic poisons be stopped."

Chairman Warren said that Director Seabrook had informed him that it was impossible to successfully prosecute for improper cancellation of fisheries shipping tags and a resolution was adopted that would correct this. The Secretary was instructed to file this resolution with the Secretary of State and the Code Commissioner.

The question of the pending suit by former Warden Nance of Abbeville was discussed and Mr. Verner was authorized to proceed with the defense at his discretion.

A request by Rep. Rogers of Clarendon that a boat be bought from Department funds to be used by the Clarendon sheriff in rescue operation was left up to the discretion of the Director, after the Commission agreed that granting the request would set a bad precedent.

Mr. Johnson brought up the question of public landings and a motion was adopted that the Director be authorized to put in landings where needed and where the county could participate, with Chief of Fisheries Fuller recommending the places where landings were needed.

Mr. Culp invited the Commission to attend a meeting of the Charleston Federation Chapter at Bears Bluff October 29.

A report on 1958 fisheries prospects was given by Mr. Lunz.

Eddie Finlay