

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA DECEMBER 28, 1953.

All members of the Commission were present except Mr. Oliphant. Also present were Director Richardson, Director Seabrook, Bob Lunz, Jim Webb, M. R. Wolling, Doug Wade, Frank Nelson and Jerry Settle.

The commission of the following non-pay wardens was approved and the Secretary instructed to process their appointments: M. R. Smith, Bluffton; W. M. Hiott, Pritchardville; J. L. Mixson, Varnville; Dr. Lang W. Anderson, Williston and Alger Poston, Florence.

The hiring of Edward G. ^{Sullivan}~~Sutherland~~ as refuge manager on the Sumter National Forest Game Management Area was approved after recommendation by Mr. Nelson.

The hiring of a biologist to conduct the Santee-Cooper locks population study and related projects was approved. Mr. Webb stated that he was considering one man but might find some one else more suitable.

Mr. Warren said that a Mr. Holmes of Charleston--one of a group that had appeared last winter to protest the extension of the Santee-Cooper tailrace canal sanctuary--had written him asking that something be done to allow fishing during the shad run. It was decided that Mr. Warren should notify Mr. Holmes that this was entirely up to the Berkeley delegation. Mr. Warren said that he would write Senator Jefferies, Senator Dennis and Mr. Holmes stating that the Commission was agreeable to shortening the sanctuary limits during the shad run if this was acceptable to the Berkeley delegation.

The Secretary was instructed to write Rep. Rogers of Marlboro regarding the Commission's recommendation on exempting cane pole fishermen from the proposed state-wide fishing license.

Mr. Wolling then discussed the Department's financial condition and said it was over-spending at the rate of \$7,000 monthly over anticipated revenue and that the surplus of \$300,000 would probably be reduced by \$100,000 by July 1. He added that revenue was probably at a peak and that a considerable surplus was necessary because the Department's finances are so sensitive to economic conditions.

Mr. Wolling also stated that there were now 123 wardens and Mr. Richardson said he planned to cut some off after July 1, when all commissions expire. Several Commissioners agreed that this should be done. It was decided that recommendations of supervisors would be considered in dropping those wardens not doing satisfactory work and that Mr. Richardson would report at a future meeting.

COMMISSION MEETING DECEMBER 28.

Mr. Wolling suggested that a change in the license handling system be considered. He said that the new system posed a difficult book-keeping problem and that the old system was more economical.

Mr. Johnson said that he did not believe the new system had been operating long enough to give it a fair test and it was decided to take up the matter at the April meeting when final hunting license figures were in.

The question of consolidating all quail hatcheries was brought up and it was decided that Mr. Richardson should investigate the situation, as well as learning the attitude of the delegations in the counties involved, and report at the next meeting.

Needed changes in the commercial fisheries laws were discussed and Mr. Seabrook presented a list of existing laws with suggested changes. Particular opposition was expressed by Mr. Seabrook and Dr. Lunz to the two-bushel oyster law. Dr. Lunz said it might be best to develop some areas for public oyster gathering and close them off for the public.

Mr. Seabrook stated that many licenses and leases were too low and that some equalization was needed. Dr. Lunz pointed out that there was a tendency in all the other southeastern states toward abolishing licenses and taxes on the food industry.

The Commission voted to have Mr. Seabrook and Dr. Lunz get together upon some recommendations and Dr. Lunz also said he could get up information on the laws of other states.

Dr. Lunz brought up the need of a reciprocal shrimping agreement with neighboring states and he was instructed to further study this matter, make recommendations for needed legislation and submit these recommendations to members of the Commission and Mr. Seabrook.

Mr. Johnson cited the work being done by the Forestry Commission and said the Commission needed to sell itself to the legislature and the people and this would help greatly in putting over the legislative program.

The question of whether the recommended changes in the law should be introduced by individuals or an effort made to have them presented as committee bills was discussed. Mr. Johnson said that he would ask Talmadge Edwards, chairman of the House Conservation Committee, to have them made committee bills and Mr. Warren and Mr. Richardson said they would work with the senate to see that the bills were introduced there as soon as possible.

COMMISSION MEETING DECEMBER 28.

Mr. Warren brought up the situation caused in Colleton county by the death of Warden Ackerman and the recommendations of legislators and officers of the local Federation chapter for the appointment of an overage man. Mr. Warren said that after writing members of the Commission he had learned that the delegation was not unanimously in favor of the man and that although Federation officers had endorsed him the chapter had not. It was decided to hold the matter in abeyance.

The appointment of a Georgetown warden was approved subject to the approval of Mr. McKeithan and Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Wade explained a proposed questionnaire survey designed to learn the available channels for getting the best distribution of wildlife conservation material, and what was being done by various agencies and groups.

The Commission agreed that not nearly enough had been done in distributing such information and the questionnaire was approved, with the suggestion that it also contain information on what was already being done by the Commission.

The Secretary was authorized to pay Waddy McFall for taxidermy work on a job basis and also instructed to secure needed specimens through the supervisors.

The question of field uniforms for wardens was discussed and it was decided that Mr. Richardson should look into the cost and feasibility of providing field uniforms for wardens after July 1. Mr. Wade said that some times uniform companies were overstocked and these uniforms could be secured at very low cost and he was asked to give what information he had on this to Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Johnson brought out the fact that short-wave circuits were becoming scarce and something should be done to get some reserved for the Department. The Secretary was instructed to write the Federal Communications Commission regarding this and to ask for two channels if they are available.

No date was set for the next meeting.

Eddie Finlay