

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA
FEBRUARY 11, 1959

All members of the Commission were present, along with Director Richardson, Director Seabrook, Dr. Lunz, Mr. Webb, Mr. Schley and Mr. Brown.

Senator Goldberg and Rep. Lindsay of Marlboro county requested that arrangements be made to turn over a part of the Lake Wallace property to the Boy Scouts and that another area be set up for swimming and bathing.

Mr. Webb suggested that a lease be arranged absolving the Department of all liability.

Mr. Warren said that the best plan might be to enact a law authorizing the lease and exonerating the Department from all liability in connection with the camp and with swimming and bathing.

(Later in the meeting Assistant Attorney General Verner presented the draft of a bill outlining a lease agreement for the swimming and bathing area. The Secretary was instructed to contact Mr. Verner and ask that the bill be broadened to include the Scout area; and this has been done).

A motion of Mr. Johnson was adopted that a lease arrangement be entered into for a nominal fee with details to be worked out and to be approved by the Commission.

The appointment of a Santee-Cooper warden to be paid from Berkeley county funds was approved, subject to a check by Director Richardson as to whether the proposed warden would meet qualifications.

The appointment of Joseph Johnson to succeed the late Warden Richard Murray as a Berkeley warden was approved, along with the appointment of a Colleton non-pay warden.

Mr. Warren reported on a conference he had had with several senators, and Mr. Webb said that Governor Hollings had agreed to grant state-wide authority to certain non-pay wardens, where requested by the Department. At present non-pay wardens have authority only on the designated lands they are protecting.

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Mr. Warren said that he was hopeful the Ways and Means committee would provide for the fishing pier admissions tax being turned over to the Department, and also said that the boat safety bill was being drafted. The Secretary was instructed to send copies of this bill to all Commissioners when they became available.

Mr. Webb reported that prospects looked good for the universal fishing license bill.

Senator Moore of Spartanburg asked whether it would be possible to put on another warden in Spartanburg county to work the territory along the North Carolina line and this was referred to Mr. Johnson and Director Richardson.

The report of the special committee set up to study the commercial fisheries laws and make recommendations for change and revision was then taken up, with Mr. Warren going over the report section by section, it being agreed that discussion of various sections be postponed until the end. Mr. Warren added that he had arranged for a joint meeting with the two legislative committees for consideration of the recommendations, and it was hoped the committees would sponsor the legislation.

At the conclusion of the presentation of the report, several sections were discussed and it was agreed that certain minor changes should be made.

Mr. Warren said he believed some of the taxes, particularly the oyster tax, might be increased but withdrew this suggestion after Mr. Cox and Dr. Lutz said the proposed taxes would bring in sufficient revenue, and that an increase would work a hardship on the oyster industry.

The Commission then voted to approve the report with the minor changes and that it be presented to the General Assembly as the recommendation of the Commission.

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The Secretary was instructed to prepare a resolution of thanks to the members of the special committee in appreciation of their long, arduous and most worthwhile work on the report.

The matter of certain taxes that had not been collected in the past was then taken up, Mr. Warren stating that this would have to be explained to the General Assembly.

After some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Warren should contact the two principal operators affected, suggesting that they and their attorneys seek legislative steps to exonerate the Commission from the necessity of collecting the tax. It was agreed that collection of this tax would ruin the two concerns and that this was not desired, although the Attorney General had ruled the tax was collectable.

Eddie Finlay

