

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JANUARY 25, 1956

All members of the Commission were present, along with Director Richardson, Mr. Webb, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Crawford Billings.

Mr. Grover Hunnicutt and Mr. Ralph Roper of Hickory, N. C., asked that they be allowed to catch some rockfish in Santee-Cooper and transport them for release in Lake Hickory for experimental purposes.

After some discussion a motion of Mr. Johnson was adopted that: "Whereas the North Carolina Commission has always cooperated to the fullest with the South Carolina Commission, including the furnishing of smallmouth bass brood stock; and whereas the stocking of these rockfish in Lake Hickory and exchange of data on the success of the experiment may produce a great deal of information of value to both states; and whereas, if successful, the stocking may result in the down-stream movement of these fish into South Carolina sections of the Catawba river; therefore, be it resolved that if this request be received from the North Carolina Commission it be granted, and Director Richardson is hereby authorized to act and to decide the place, time and number of fish involved."

Mr. Webb and Mr. Fuller brought out that it might be best not to take fish from the Cooper river, since the land-locked characteristics of these fish might not be as well developed as those in and above the lakes.

The Commission approved recent resource education plans adopted by the Soil Conservation District Supervisors and endorsed its idea of a state meeting to explore the needs for and advisability of organizing a state natural resource council. The Secretary was instructed to draw up a resolution and send copies to proper officers of the Association.

Mr. Fuller brought up the matter of a successor to George Scruggs on the Santee-Cooper project and said that the only applicant--Mr. Stephens from North Carolina--was asking an increase from what Mr. Scruggs had been receiving.

Director Richardson stated he did not think it was good policy to give him more money than was being received by experienced men on other projects; and Mr. Webb also said he could not recommend paying him more than others with more experience.

Mr. Fuller agreed with this and then pointed out the need for higher salaries for technical men and how they were being lost to better paying positions with the federal government and in other lines of work. He read an article from the Sport Fishing Institute Bulletin citing the low salaries paid biologists and the need for increases up and down the line.

Mr. Johnson and other Commissioners agreed that the salaries of technicians should be raised.

COMMISSION MEETING JANUARY, 1956

Mr. Warren pointed out that the automatic increases for wardens had never gone into effect, since the initial raise. Mr. Richardson stated that funds had not been available for this but increases for both technicians and wardens might be possible if the financial burden of the Division of Commercial Fisheries were removed and sufficient money came into the general fund from the sale of the new fishing license-permits.

Mr. McKeithan moved that Mr. Stephens be offered \$4,300, along with moving expenses, and that he be held out the promise of an increase at a later date.

Mr. Fuller recommended that the Anderson fish hatchery be closed and Mr. Dillard said that he would present the matter to the delegation.

Mr. Johnson said that he thought the report of Mr. Gilmer Jones contained some excellent and practical suggestions and suggested that the Commission go into these at the next meeting.

Mr. Webb mentioned the recent state-sponsored law enforcement school which had been attended by the supervisors and said it might be a good idea to hold several schools in various parts of the State to take the place of the Clemson clinic.

The AEC area on the Savannah was discussed and Mr. Warren mentioned a recent article by Herbert Ravenel Sass. It was agreed that nothing could be done about having wardens enter the area.

Mr. McKeithan brought up the matter of shad licenses and the enforcement of the shad laws by game wardens. It was agreed Mr. Seabrook should inform Mr. Richardson in which counties the licenses were on sale and instruct his wardens to enforce the shad laws.

The matter of uniforming wardens was brought up and after some discussion it was agreed that each warden be given one set of pants, one shirt, one hat and four shoulder patches. Mr. Richardson was requested to handle this and also to inform the wardens that they could purchase additional uniforms through the office.

*Eddie Finlay*