

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA

JUNE 10, 1954

All members were present except Mr. Dillard. Also present were Mr. Richardson, Mr. Lunz, Mr. Webb, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Brown.

The summarization of recommendations for a long term program was read by the Secretary.

Mr. Cantey said it was important to set objectives and then get the support of sportsmen's groups in contacting their delegations.

Mr. Warren stated that he had taken up the matter of securing two surplus boats with Senator Maybank and the two boats requested were available--an 85-foot Q-boat and a 65 foot T-boat--from the Department of Transportation. The boats would be leased to the Commission. He stated that the boats would be rather expensive to maintain.

Mr. Lunz said the T-boat was very suitable for offshore research and its upkeep could be handled out of the Bears Bluff appropriations. He said a check should be made to see if the government would allow conversions needed for research work, since it would not be of much use unless the conversions could be made.

Mr. Warren was authorized to proceed with the necessary negotiations to complete the transaction, serving on a committee along with Mr. Lunz and Mr. Seabrook.

The fisheries recommendations were then taken up. Mr. Warren said that the special committee to study and rewrite the commercial fisheries laws would be appointed soon and that it would be necessary for the Commission to make a report of its recommendations to the committee.

Mr. Warren said that he had been handling a number of minor fisheries matters without bothering the other Commissioners and a motion of Mr. Cantey that he continue to "ramrod" these matters was adopted.

The fisheries objectives were approved.

Mr. Richardson asked when he should notify the wardens who were not to be reappointed and was instructed to notify them immediately. He was also instructed to notify the county delegations about the provision in the appropriations act regarding county funds and plans to pay wardens with funds credited to the counties.

The meeting then adjourned for lunch, after which it went into executive session.

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After the executive session, Mr. Warren announced that Mr. Richardson had been reappointed for a one-year term ending July 1, 1955.

The objectives for the Division of Fish and Game were approved as policies of the Commission.

Mr. Richardson's recommendations for the reappointment of regular wardens were approved and the Secretary instructed to process them, with the exception that Warden Jack Camp's name was removed from the list at Mr. Richardson's request.

A letter from the Methodist Board of Education regarding a site for a summer camp was received as information.

A letter from S. K. Nash of Sumter urging the reappointment of Warden J. P. Broughton was read by Mr. Warren, who read the letter he had written in reply.

A letter from Dr. Poole of Clemson regarding the magazine was read.

Mr. Warren also read a letter from Mr. Lunz regarding the possibility of securing federal funds for checking fisheries harvests.

Mr. Warren also read a letter from the Plywoods-Plastic Corporation regarding alleged pollution from its operation. The letter stated that no harmful material was going into the water in sufficient quantities to cause any damage and denied that the company's discharges could have polluted the water. It went on to say that it would eliminate entirely the possibility of any harmful materials reaching the streams through installation of a filter plant.

The appointment of T. M. Peebles as a non-pay Charleston warden was approved.

A letter was read from Senator Morrison of Georgetown regarding the dropping of Mr. Harrelson, who had been doing part time work under Warden Parsons, in view of the fact that the funds credited to the county were nearly exhausted. Mr. McKeithan read several letters on the matter and it was agreed that Mr. Harrelson should be returned to the state payroll until further notice.

Mr. Warren read a letter from the Beaufort Board of Commissioners saying that they were working on the study of costs for public landing sites in the county.

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Mr. Johnson suggested that a very worthwhile project would be the removal of rough fish from some of the reservoirs, and possibly releasing them in up-state waters.

Mr. Richardson said this might be done at the two Santee-Cooper sanctuaries and he would take up the matter with Senator Jefferies.

Mr. Johnson moved and the Commission approved that Mr. Richardson and Mr. Fuller investigate and report at the next meeting the possibility of taking rough fish out of the lakes and possibly placing them in other waters.

Mr. Richardson brought up the salary scale for wardens and said he had worked one out based on seniority but some men were not entitled to raises on a basis of activity and performance. He said putting the scale into effect would cost a minimum of \$12,000 annually and possibly up to \$25,000.

There was a general discussion of this and it was agreed that there should be an efficiency record kept on every warden.

A motion of Mr. Johnson that "Mr. Richardson contact some officer training school or the State Highway Patrol for recommendations on a card index system to be kept on all wardens which would best reflect their capabilities" was approved. It was agreed that the system be set up to become operative July 1, 1954, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The meeting was then adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman.

Eddie Finlay