

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN

COLUMBIA JUNE 10, 1959

Present were Chairman Warren, Commissioners Cantey, Cox, Oliphant, Hopkins and Huggins, Chief Richardson, Jim Webb, Director Lunz, Senator West of Kershaw, T. C. Welch, Jr., and Doug Donohue of Charleston, Jack Carroll, Jeff Fuller, Mr. Schley and Supervisor Mac Flood.

Mr. Warren said that he had received formal applications from Mr. Welch and Mr. Donohue for the position of Director of the Division of Boating, adding that Mr. Welch was recommended by the Waterways Committee of the General Assembly and by Governor Hollings.

Mr. Warren then presented a suggested formulation of policy based on points that had been discussed at previous meetings, saying that it was purely a basis for discussion.

A letter was read from the Waterways Committee recommending that the office be placed in or near Charleston.

A telegram was read from the president of the Pee Dee Boating Club in Florence asking that the office not be located in Charleston.

The chairman then read a list giving the estimated outboard ownership by counties.

Senator West said that he believed the list's estimate of 49,000 motors was low and that he believed the figure would be closer to 60,000. He also said that an educational program was extremely important, and that in its recommendations the Committee was not trying to tell the Commission what to do but was offering the suggestions in a spirit of cooperation.

Mr. Welch and Mr. Donohue then cited their experience and qualifications.

The Commission then took up the tentative suggestions of Mr. Warren, agreeing that the matter of selecting a director and a place for the office could be taken up at the meeting called for the evening of June 24 at Belmont.



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All other sections in Mr. Warren's formulation of policy were adopted, including setting the salary of the Director at \$7,200 with a two-year term, with a secretary-stenographer at \$3,200. No other personnel would be named by the Director until approved by the Commission. The Director would formulate and submit to the Commission plans for the administration of the act, conferring with Director Webb and Director Lunz. The Director would be authorized to make expenditures for office supplies, furniture, equipment etc., but not employ other personnel before December. It was also agreed that emphasis should be placed on education of boaters and that officers should be very lenient in enforcing the safety provisions, which go into effect July 1.

Mr. Warren's suggestions were adopted as written as the policy of the Commission, except for the section dealing with the director, his place of residence, and the location of the office.

Director Lunz then brought the Commission up to date on his taking over the Division of Commercial Fisheries, saying that there had been opposition and confusion. He said that a report would be received by the Commission from auditors on the state of the Charleston office.

He expressed his appreciation for the help received from Supervisor Mac Flood, who had been placed on loan to the Division.

He said the question of prior convictions had come up, since the act provides for increasingly stiff penalties for second and third offenses. At his suggestion, it was agreed that convictions prior to May 18, the effective day of the act, would not be considered. He also said that legislation was needed to wipe the slate clean at the end of every year and it was agreed that this should be introduced early in the next legislative session.

He also said that the Beaufort clam law was being studied by the Attorney General's office as to constitutionality.



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Certain trawling areas of Beaufort county were "messed up", he said, with some confusion as to the open areas but with the aid of the Attorney General this could be straightened out.

Director Lunz also said that he would like to work out with Director Webb some method of keeping Mac Flood on a share-and-share alike basis of salary payment, the Division of Commercial Fisheries paying him at a higher rate for the time he was working with his Division.

After considerable discussion it was agreed Directors Lunz and Webb work out something on this, with the understanding the arrangement would not be permanent.

Mr. Food said the conditions were very confused and the equipment in very poor condition. He suggested that uniforms be secured for the inspectors, and it was agreed that this could be handled by Director Lunz as an administrative matter.

Director Lunz said that the salary of former Director Seabrook could be used for salary adjustments and possibly some other expenses. A motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that Chairman Warren and Directors Lunz and Webb make the best arrangements possible with the Budget and Control Board regarding payment to Mr. Flood.

It was agreed that nothing be done at present about filling the vacancy left by Inspector Richardson.

The question of county treasurers and their handling of stamps and licenses was brought up and Director Lunz was instructed to work out a plan for dealing with the treasurers.

Director Lunz brought up the question of oyster leases and the transfers of Nos. 148 and 99 were approved, along with the granting of five other new leases.



Director Lunz was then given the authority to act on the granting of transfers and new leases.

A request from a Boy Scout official for the engine on the boat formerly used by the Boy Scouts was rejected.

Director Lunz said that several things about the audit worried him, since he had receipted for several items that were in a very poor state of repair. Mr. Cox suggested that for his protection he make exceptions on these items when receipting for them.

The question of insurance on boats, motors and trailers was brought up but no action taken on this, or on the issuing of metallic tags for fisheries operators.

Mr. Warren said that the minutes of the May 14 meeting should be corrected as follows:

On page 2, paragraph 4 after "such consolidation" the following: "Dr. Lunz stated that if the Commission consolidated the positions of Director of the Division of Commercial Fisheries and Director of Bears Bluff Laboratories and appointed him he wanted approval of his authority to terminate the services of Inspector Richardson and that such was and would be a condition of his employment as Director of the Division of Commercial Fisheries. Dr. Lunz stated that he could not and would not accept the position unless he had this approval."

On Page 3, Paragraph 2 after "the proper time" the following: "and along the lines and under the conditions stated."

A number of reappointments recommended by Director Richardson were approved, along with the approval of the appointment of W. W. Fulmore, subject to completion of his application.

On suggestion of Mr. Webb it was agreed to abolish the position of assistant director and appoint Supervisor Lonnie Bundrick as chief of law



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enforcement at a salary of \$6,000 and W. E. Howell as acting supervisor at a salary of \$4,400.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Ed Johnson recommending the appointment of a liason man with various conservation groups and a raise for Gordon Brown.

The Secretary suggested the possibility of hiring Warden Gifford for the vacant position of information assistant, for which a salary is provided in the Appropriations Bill. He said that Gifford could take over much of the work that would free him and Brown for more talks and liason work with various groups. This was tentatively approved with the understanding it would be brought up at the June 24 meeting.

Mr. Cantey and Mr. Cox brought up the question of raises for the Secretary and for Gordon Brown and Mr. Warren said this might possibly be done under a section of the Commercial Fisheries Bill allowing for salary adjustments within the Department. Salaries of \$6,800 for the Secretary and \$5,500 for Mr. Brown were approved subject to approval of the Budget and Control Board.

Mr. Cox said that he was in favor of raises wherever possible and that every effort should be made to increase revenue to allow this and thereby increase the quality and performance of personnel.

Director Webb suggested other salary raises in the office of the Division of Game and Fish, including \$600 for Mr. Ramage and \$400 for Mr. Buchanan, and it was agreed that the Chairman and Director Webb work out these salary adjustments with the Budget and Control Board.

Mr. Flood said there would undoubtedly be opposition and pressures to full, fair and equitable enforcement of the fisheries law and he was told that he would have the backing of the Commission in this.



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A silver bowl was presented Director Richardson by Jim Webb on behalf of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners in recognition of 46 years of service to wildlife conservation.

The meeting was then recessed until June 24 at Belmont.

Eddie Finlay

