

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA MAY 15, 1953

All members of the Commission were present except Mr. Smith. Also present were Director Richardson and Assistant Director Webb.

The appointment of the following non-pay game wardens was approved: H. C. Allston, Yorges Island; Maurice B. Burns, Beaufort county; Sheddie Tetterton, Kershaw county; Wallace O. Hardee, Hollywood; James Wilbur Boyles, Hardeeville; Paul M. Elsey, Charleston; and Allen P. Canady, Cordesville.

Mr. Richardson was authorized to appoint John Gilbert Smith of Orangeburg as a regular warden provided his investigation showed he could devote full time to the job.

A letter from M. L. McLeod regarding the possibility of placing a 5,000 acre tract near Ravenel in a sanctuary was read by Mr. Warren and the matter was referred to Mr. Webb.

The possibility of acquiring land on the Combahee, now threatened by salt water, was referred to Mr. Cantey and Mr. Webb.

Mr. Richardson was directed to confer with Frank Tompkins, Southern railway attorney, regarding the matter of game propagation on Southern property in Dorchester county.

Mr. Warren read a letter from the Union delegation asking the construction of four fish ponds in the county, saying there were similar requests pending from several counties. The matter of an overall county fish pond program was discussed and the members agreed that such a program should be started and Mr. Johnson and Mr. Webb were asked to present a general fish pond construction program at the next meeting, the aim being to construct eventually at least one pond in each county, the county providing the site and furnishing gang labor and equipment. Mr. Webb was authorized to confer with the Union authorities regarding their plans, since the county agreed to furnish labor and materials and a site could probably be secured from the U. S. Forest Service.

The possibility of removing rough fish from impoundments and releasing them in upstate streams and ponds was discussed.

Osborne B. Heyward and Hardee McLeod of the Fisheries Advisory Board were invited in, along with Director Alonzo Seabrook and Bob Lunz. The term of the other member has expired and Mr. Warren suggested that they write the Governor asking the appointment of another member.

The purchase of a boat for the shrimp survey by Mr. Lunz was approved and he told of plans for the work and the need for the survey. He also cited the need for action on the seed oyster program and added that there must be changes in the present laws.

COMMISSION MEETING MAY 15, 1953 (continued)

Mr. Seabrook brought up the request of the Blue Channel company to plant oysters after June 1, which Mr. McLeod pointed out had been recommended by Mr. Lunz. Mr. Seabrook said this could not be done under the law and it was suggested that it should be possible to allow the planting to begin before June 1 and continue after that date.

A delegation from Florence county was then invited in to present a request for a game warden for the Johnsonville area, where they maintained a warden was badly needed. They said they had a man in mind for the position but if he were not acceptable they could suggest someone else.

Mr. Warren pointed out that Mr. Richardson selects wardens and the Commission approves or disapproves them. It was later decided, on motion of Mr. McKeithan, that Mr. Richardson be authorized to select a warden. Mr. Richardson asked Mr. McKeithan to pass word to the Florence group to get others to apply since the man suggested was unacceptable.

Mr. Richardson brought up the question of the extra \$30 monthly travel expense money allowed wardens handling licenses, since the new plan goes into effect July 1. He recommended that the extra allowance be continued until January 1, when the fishing licenses expire and all licenses will go directly to agents. This was approved.

Mr. Heyward then discussed the commercial fisheries problem and said few people realized the magnitude of the industry. He declared that present laws were driving the industry out of the state with a resultant loss of revenue.

He declared that the fishermen would go along with a board they believed familiar with their problems and said a board or commission to handle commercial fisheries should be set up. He added that the fishermen were willing to follow Mr. Lunz' recommendations.

He also said the present laws invite violations and this could be corrected somewhat by having variable seasons.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Commission was sympathetic to the problem but that low-country legislators had blocked the recommendations of the Commission.

The meeting then recessed for lunch.

Dr. Bost asked permission to hire an assistant hatchery man at \$200 per month and \$25 housing allowance and after some discussion the Commission went into executive session.

COMMISSION MEETING MAY 15, 1953 (continued)

(During the executive session the following resolution was adopted:
"That the Director be and is hereby authorized and directed to employ a trained biologist to be approved by the Commission to be in complete charge of the inland fisheries and fish hatchery department to work under the direction of the Director.")

The question of whether the man suggested by Dr. Bost be employed was left up to Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Warren read a letter he had written the Beaufort delegation regarding a request that funds to the credit of the county be expended on a series of boat launching ramps.

A letter was read from Dr. George R. Wilkinson of Greenville regarding establishment of a sanctuary in the Greenville-Pickens area and Mr. Richardson said he would furnish the regular forms.

Mr. Warren brought up the dismissal of Inspector Myles Randall by Mr. Seabrook and it was decided that this was an administrative matter.

Mr. Richardson pointed out that the resolution allowing the sale of tagged fish from other states would expire June 30 and the old law go back into effect.

(This law is that no game fish caught in the state may be sold in the state and no bream, bass, redbreast or trout may be sold, regardless of where caught).

It was agreed that Mr. Richardson would have to instruct his wardens to enforce the law and the Secretary was instructed to get out a story.

The possibility of hiring a qualified commercial fisheries director was discussed but no action was taken.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Harry Hampton and it was agreed that there was no need of a representative of the Wildlife Federation attending meetings. It was also decided that the present space being paid for in the Federation magazine be discontinued after June 30.

It was suggested that Mr. Richardson instruct his wardens to warn persons operating boats in a reckless manner and have them point out that all wardens carry life-preservers.

The Secretary brought up the matter of hiring Gordon Brown, now employed under the Pittman-Robertson program, to assist in information and education work. This was approved, subject to approval from the budget and control board.

(4)

COMMISSION MEETING MAY 15, 1953 (continued)

Mr. Richardson said the supervisor setup would be ready within 10 days and he was asked to have his recommendations ready for the next meeting.

An exhibit at the State Fair was approved.

The matter of wardens' reports was discussed and it was agreed that something could be worked out after supervisors were set up.

A report on the work of the special squads working on fish trappers was presented and it was agreed the work had been well worthwhile.

Mr. Webb described plans for the wardens' school at Clemson this summer.

It was voted that Mr. Richardson send not less than six men to the North Carolina wardens' school if he could get them enrolled.

The publication of a quarterly magazine was authorized, as well as the printing of placards to be distributed at fishing camps and other places.

No date for the next meeting was set.

Eddie Finlay