

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MAY 25, 1955 IN COLUMBIA

All members of the Commission were present, along with Mr. Carroll of the advisory committee, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Webb, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Wade.

Legislation enacted during the General Assembly was discussed, along with the enforcement of laws ruled to be unconstitutional by the Attorney General.

The investigation of the Department by the Graves committee was brought up and Mr. Johnson commended the Chairman and the Department on the handling of the matter. Mr. Warren said that Rep. Graves was ready to file a report at the next session recommending changes in the laws.

Mr. Hopkins brought up the question of the deficits of the Division of Commercial Fisheries and Bears Bluff being taken care of from Department funds, as well as how Commercial Fisheries could bring in more revenue.

A motion of Mr. McKeithan was adopted that "Mr. Seabrook be directed to place licenses on sale wherever shad are caught one month before the opening of the season and that due publicity be given to this; that tags also be made available where shad are sold; that there be stricter enforcement of the shad laws with the Division of Game and Fish being directed to cooperate with the Division of Commercial Fisheries in the enforcement of the shad laws and other commercial fisheries laws on inland waters, with the inspectors cooperating in the enforcement of the game laws." It was also approved that Mr. Seabrook instruct his inspectors to collect higher bonds than they have in the past.

Mr. Cantey called attention to the Gabrielson report recommending maximum cooperation between the employes of the two divisions.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Dean Farrar inviting the Commission to again hold the wardens' clinic at Clemson. It was agreed that every warden should be required to attend the clinic and stay for its entire duration. Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Dillard were appointed as a committee to head up the clinic and spell out the kind of program and other details, with Mr. Richardson instructed to have a list of the wardens prepared and told to attend. Fisheries inspectors would not attend but should hold a later meeting at Bears Bluff.

Mr. Warren invited all Commissioners and other personnel, including the advisory committee, to attend the Hampton Watermelon Festival and his barbecue June 30.

It was voted to hold the next meeting either June 8 or 15 in Spartanburg to coincide with the opening of Camp Croft lake.

MINUTES COMMISSION MEETING MAY 25, 1955

The Colleton grand jury investigation of alleged payroll paddings and other irregularities at Bear Island was explained by Mr. Warren. He said that Solicitor Murdaugh had told him that while there had been irregularities in the payroll situation and some mixup on the handling of some corn he was satisfied that Project Leader Jerry Baldwin had not profited personally by any transaction.

Mr. Warren added that he considered it an administrative matter and the Commission would not be involved directly except that he had been invited to attend a grand jury hearing.

It was agreed that nothing should be done until after the grand jury had taken some action.

The Wimbee creek project was discussed. Mr. Webb read a letter from the Fish and Wildlife Service stating that although the project had merit--particularly if adjoining landowners put up money--it would have a low priority because of the funds already allocated for Bears Island, the Cooper river project.

Mr. Warren said that there was much local interest in the repairing of dikes and building of a dam to cut off the salt water and added that it would restore 35 miles of fine fresh water fishing.

The employment of a Mr. Stevens by Bears Bluff Laboratories was approved, Mr. Stevens to be engineer on the T-boat for two weeks of every month at a salary of \$2,500.

The appointment of Curtis Barwick as a non-pay game warden in Georgetown county was held in abeyance but later was approved, subject to the final approval of Mr. McKeithan.

A letter from A. B. Nimitz was received as information.

William C. Prickett, Jr., was approved as a regular Calhoun warden, to succeed the late Mr. Inabinet.

The appointment of a Sumter warden was approved, subject to the approval of Mr. Cantey and Mr. Richardson, the warden to be paid from Santee-Cooper funds.

Several non-pay wardens whose commissions had expired were reappointed and Mr. Richardson was informed that in the future he could reappoint non-pay men with the approval of the Commissioner from the district.

MINUTES COMMISSION MEETING MAY 25, 1955

James E. Sanders was approved as a Colleton non-pay warden. The appointment of Elmo Lewis as an Allendale non-pay warden was approved subject to the final approval of Mr. Warren.

Mr. Richardson said a report on the Belmont quail crop project was being prepared for the Commissioners and Mr. Webb read a letter from Dr. Watson regarding it.

It was decided to postpone consideration of a chief of law enforcement until the Spartanburg meeting.

A suggestion of Mr. Seabrook that he said would save \$500 on the printing of licenses was approved.

There was considerable discussion of the placing of decals on Department vehicles and boats and it was decided to leave them off all law enforcement equipment for the present, except supervisors' cars, but to place them on all other state-owned vehicles. The boat decals are to be placed on the Camp Croft boats.

A right of way over Bear Island for the Coastal cooperative was approved.

Eddie Finlay