

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 18, 1954
IN COLUMBIA

All members were present except Mr. Hopkins. Also present were Mr. Richardson, Mr. Seabrook, Mr. Webb and Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Warren discussed the budget requests and said the two major changes were the setting up of an appropriation of \$100,000 for a revolving fund and removing the proviso that appropriations for the Division of Game and the Administrative Division must come from Department revenue.

There was a general discussion of the need to do away with the earmarked funds.

Mr. Warren pointed out that on the request of \$79,000 for the Division of Commercial Fisheries it could be cut back to \$66,000 if the new boat were not secured.

Mr. Seabrook said that the smallness of the appropriations for his division was due to the small revenue and he hoped that higher taxes and licenses would be established.

The re-commissioning of Warden Ray Moore of Oconee was approved, along with some non-pay wardens.

Mr. Richardson said no commitments had been made regarding a dam on the Combahee river to keep salt water from Wimbee Creek, a matter that Senator Jefferies had taken up with him.

Mr. Warren left to attend another meeting and Mr. Johnson presided.

Assistant Attorney General J. S. Verner presented a letter he had written Mr. Richardson regarding the legality of selling rockfish and it was agreed that the law should be clarified. At present rockfish caught outside the state may be sold in the state but there is no way to determine where the fish are caught. Mr. Seabrook suggested that they might be tagged like shad.

Mr. Verner suggested that in view of the confusion over the salt water line it might be good to set an arbitrary line, possibly Highway 17 from North Carolina to Charleston and the ACL railway from Charleston to the Georgia line.

Mr. Richardson suggested that a legislative committee might be set up to recommend the salt water line and also said the clear and muddy streams of the state should be classified.

A delegation from Chester was then introduced by Mr. Oliphant, consisting of Senator Grant, Rep. Gregory and Mr. Powell and Mr. Betts of the county airport commission. The delegation asked the construction of a 36-acre pond on land belonging to the airport commission as a D-J project.

The construction plan would be similar to that of the Spartanburg lake with D-J funds caring for three-fourths of the construction and the operation. Mr. Grant said the county could take care of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost and furnish land and labor to clear the site. It was agreed that in case the lake was not self-supporting the county would take care of any deficit.

The lake was approved on motion of Mr. McKeithan, subject to the agreed upon conditions.

Mr. Webb and Mr. Fuller were authorized to take the necessary steps in securing rental boats for Croft Lake, to be paid for from their rental revenues.

The question of a Georgetown warden was brought up and Mr. McKeithan was authorized to find out if it were agreeable with Georgetown to drop Warden Brounston or the part-time warden if a suitable man could be found. Since Georgetown has not sufficient funds to its credit the warden would be paid from state funds.

Mr. Johnson said that Spartanburg also needed an additional warden. The possibility of selling the quail hatchery to secure the necessary funds was mentioned.

Mr. McKeithan read a letter from Jack Carroll of Lexington regarding the setting of a liason committee from the Federation to work with the Commission and one from State Forester Charlie Flory regarding the forestry committees set up on a county and district basis.

All members present agreed that a committee or committees should be set up but action was deferred until the next meeting. The Secretary was told to notify all members that this would be the first order of business at the next meeting.

The Commission then adjourned, to meet that afternoon with the Budget and Control Board to present the budget requests.

Eddie Finlay