

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT PALMETTO BLUFF Oct. 5, 1954.

All members of the Commission were present except Mr. Oliphant, along with Mr. Richardson, Mr. Webb, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Fuller and Reps. Graves and Waddell of Beaufort county.

The Secretary was instructed to draw up a resolution expressing the thanks of the Commission to the Union Bag and Paper company for its hospitality.

Mr. Warren discussed recent developments in the attempt to acquire ~~two boats~~ from the federal government and said that negotiations were being continued to secure boats of the type and condition desired.

Mr. Warren said Mr. Seabrook told him that he had called Inspector Cox on the carpet after he learned Mr. Cox had borrowed \$600 from a Mr. Ott, who is engaged in the shrimping business. Mr. Warren read a letter from Mr. Cox stating that it had been an above board transaction under which he sold Mr. Ott a second mortgage on his house. He also read transcripts of Mr. Seabrook's interviews with Mr. Cox and Mr. Ott.

The Commission agreed that this was an administrative matter and since Mr. Seabrook is responsible for the conduct of his men, any action was up to him. The Commission restated its policy against keeping men apt to bring criticism upon the Commission or the Department.

Reps. Graves and Waddell were then ~~introduced~~ by Mr. Warren, who brought up the matter of J. T. McElveen being put on as a Beaufort warden to be paid from county funds. Mr. Graves recommended that this be done until the end of the hunting season.

The appointment of Mr. McElveen was approved, Mr. McElveen to be paid from county funds with the understanding that he be employed only until March 1.

A number of non-pay wardens were approved--Clarence Godley, Jasper; Robert L. Gurley, Beaufort; Richard S. Mathis, Beaufort; Harvey H. Walker, Charleston; J. T. Neal, Colleton; R. C. Condrey, Sumter; George W. Cooler, Beaufort. The re-appointments of Wardens C. S. Youngblood, Barnwell, and ~~Toy~~ C. Jones, Greenville, was approved.

(The appointment of Paul Slocomb of Palmetto Bluff as a non-pay warden was approved but the Attorney General's office ruled that since he is not a citizen of the state he could not be commissioned).

Mr. Cantey said that he understood some wardens were distributing car stickers for one of the senatorial candidates, as well as putting them on their own cars.

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Mr. Warren stated that it was the policy of the Department to keep out of politics and Mr. Richardson was requested to investigate the matter and send out a letter to the wardens.

Department finances were discussed and Mr. Webb said the Department was running at a deficit that would be made up by the sale of hunting licenses, although next spring the deficit would be hit earlier than last year. He also said that the federal aid program would have to be terminated unless additional funds are secured. He also mentioned the need of eliminating the provision from the appropriations act that the appropriations for the Administrative Division and the Division of Game come from revenue of the Department. He also said that the setting up of an \$100,000 revolving fund was necessary.

Mr. Richardson said that it was a question of the legislature either giving the Commission enough money to operate to letting it use all revenues as it sees fit.

Rep. Graves brought up the matter of the public landings in Beaufort county. Mr. Richardson was instructed to get in touch with the Beaufort authorities and authorize them to go ahead.

Mr. McKeithan mentioned a resolution that had been introduced at the Federation meeting regarding the setting up of a liason committee to work with the Commission and said that he favored such a committee, although it should be set up by the Commission and not the Federation.

Mr. Johnson suggested setting up an advisory committee in each Congressional district and having the Commission meet in every district with the committee attending. He cited the Forestry Commission plan of holding district meetings.

There was a general discussion of this and on motion of Mr. Cantey it was agreed to bring up the question of an advisory committee at the next meeting, as well as a general liason program with the Federation, the public and the legislative delegations.

Mr. Richardson said that the Darlington delegation had asked the appointment of a county warden. He said the county had no funds to its credit but the delegation had agreed that the warden, if put on, would be paid through the Department by funds from the county. This was approved subject to the approval of Mr. McKeithan.

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Mr. Warren said that Bob Lunz had received an offer of considerably higher salary from Louisiana and that he deserved a raise.

Mr. Johnson recommended and the Commission approved that it go on record to use its best efforts to get the salary of Mr. Lunz and other technical men raised.

*Eddie Finlay*