

MINUTES OF MEETING OCTOBER 9 IN SENATE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ROOM. OCTOBER 9, 1952

All members of the Commission were present, along with Director A. A. Richardson, Director Alonzo Seabrook, Leonard E. Foote, Senator James Hugh McFaddin and Mr. Holland of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Commission approved the budget of the Commercial Fisheries Division, which at the suggestion of Mr. Warren, raised Mr. Seabrook's salary from \$5,400 to \$6,000.

Mr. Warren stated that the Commission had been invited to hold a public meeting in Beaufort and on motion of Mr. McKeithan the Commission agreed to hold the meeting in November at a date to be arranged by Mr. Warren.

Several matters relating to commercial fishing were discussed and Mr. Warren stated that the shrimp situation had become so tense he had instructed Mr. Seabrook to send two inspectors out together. He also said that the investigation being carried on by the State Law Enforcement Division had not been completed.

It was decided to hold a luncheon in Columbia around October 25 for Dr. Ira Gabrielson and Mr. Foote said he would let Mr. Warren or the Secretary know the exact date of Dr. Gabrielson's arrival.

The question of additional wardens was brought up and Mr. Richardson was asked to recommend to the Commission where wardens were needed and to give a list of the men he recommended. The Commission approved Mr. Richardson's suggestion that he investigate all applicants and make recommendations to the Commission with the understanding the Commissioners should give recommendations. It was agreed that his examination of wardens would not necessarily be written.

Senator McFaddin explained the Taw Caw Creek impoundment plan and said Congress had appropriated \$50,000 with the understanding the county arrange for an additional \$12,280 and also provide the labor and machinery. He said that the county had had over \$22,000 to its credit and could have used part of this prior to July 1.

Mr. Richardson pointed out that an opinion from the attorney general might be needed because the revenue was marked for administration. He added that the state would have no control over the project and suggested it might be better to handle the impoundment as a Pittman-Robertson project.

The Commission voted to approve the project with the method of appropriation to be worked out and Mr. Richardson asked to explore the possibility of setting up a Pittman-Robertson project.

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Mr. Richardson, at the request of Mr. Smith, agreed to appoint Mr. James as a non-pay warden in Oconee county.

The question of setting up a temporary sanctuary at Gregg Shoals and below Secession Lake in Anderson county to protect the under-sized bass was brought up. Mr. Richardson said that he could establish the sanctuary if the delegation recommended it.

At the suggestion of Mr. Richardson the Commission agreed to have the Department pay all subsequent bonds of paid wardens.

The question of fishing at Belmont was brought up and Mr. Richardson explained that under the law fishing could be allowed with permission but that since the lakes were so small it was unwise to open them to public fishing.

The Commission discussed, without taking any action, how to familiarize license buyers with the game laws and Mr. Richardson pointed out that every agent was instructed to give a booklet of the laws to every hunting license purchaser. Several methods of putting out licenses were discussed but it was agreed to await the report of the Wildlife Management Institute before taking action.

At the suggestion of Mr. Warren, Mr. Richardson was asked to draw up suggestions for changes in the game laws and in his report to the General Assembly to recommend that the Commission have power to set seasons and limits.

Mr. Richardson was authorized to enter into a written agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service under which the Service would operate the Orangeburg hatchery and give the Department a percentage of the fish each year.

The question of appointing Mr. Archie Barnhill and Mr. Harry Cribb as Georgetown wardens was brought up and, after going into executive session, the Commission announced that they had voted to disapprove Mr. Richardson's recommendation.

The matter of appointing supervisors was brought up but no action taken.

The Commission then adjourned with the time and place of the next meeting to be announced by the Chairman.

Eddie Finlay