

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA SEPT. 11, 1957

Present were Commissioners Warren, Johnson, Huggins, Cox, Cantey and Oliphant, along with Director Richardson, Jim Webb, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, and Gordon Brown.

The minutes of the July 24 meeting were corrected to state that no definite policy had been adopted by the Commission to prohibit furnishing striped bass to other states in the future.

The transfer of Gordon Brown to the position of education assistant in place of Douglas Wade, resigned, was approved, along with the hiring of a suitable person for information assistant.

A resolution was adopted commending Mr. Wade for the work that he had done, particularly with groups not previously contacted, and the Secretary was instructed to write him to this effect.

After some discussion of getting and keeping good men in competition with the federal government and other states it was voted to defer action, pending developments, on filling the position of hatchery superintendent vacated by Jack West.

Mr. Johnson stated a farm pond man was badly needed, and Mr. Huggins said that something should be worked out so that a pondowner could sell his surplus fish.

Mr. Warren said that most commercial fisheries matters had fallen on him and that he wished to give the Commission a summary of recent developments.

He said that early in the summer a Beaufort shrimper, who wished his name to be kept secret, had written the Governor, charging lax enforcement of the shrimping laws in the Beaufort area, and intimating that he suspected bribery. He also complained that North Carolina boats were trawling inshore, while South Carolina boats could not trawl inshore off North Carolina.



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Mr. Warren read this letter, as well as a copy of the letter he had written the Governor and one he had written the shrimper, thanking him for his interest and asking that he turn over any definite information he had on violations.

Mr. Warren said that Director Seabrook had made a report to him and he read Mr. Seabrook's letter. He also said copies of the inspectors' logs showed that they had been constantly patrolling the areas in question. Nothing further has been heard from either the Governor or the shrimper, he said.

Mr. Warren also brought up charges made by a Charleston shrimper of lax enforcement in Charleston harbor, the charges made to the newspapers and to the delegation. He discussed legislation passed in the final days of the legislative session and said that a brochure on the laws issued by the Charleston office did not contain late legislation that prohibited trawling in sounds and bays, and that this led to some confusion. He added that a number of cases had been made.

The Commission agreed that some boats being used by inspectors are inadequate for the work, and dangerous.

The appointment of R. G. Buswell as a Beaufort warden was approved, as was that of M. E. Thompson as a non-pay warden in Marlboro, the latter to patrol Lake Paul Wallace. E. W. Thomas was approved as a non-pay warden in Florence. A number of non-pay wardens were reappointed.

The question of appointing another warden for Williamsburg county was discussed, including the need for another warden in the county and the Department's financial condition.

Mr. Johnson said that better law enforcement generally could be achieved by providing more radios than by putting on more wardens.



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It was decided that the Williamsburg matter should be referred to Mr. Huggins, who would contact the delegation.

Mr. Warren said that at the last meeting the question of approving Josh G. Harvey as a Berkeley warden had been referred to him and that he had written Senator Dennis in regard to this.

It was voted that Mr. Harvey be appointed upon the retirement of Warden Rourke and the matter was referred to Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Webb said that the York wildlife club wished to set up a 125-acre fenced-in area for the propagation of rabbits for release in the county and the delegation would authorize the expenditure of not more than \$3,500 in county funds for the project.

The Commission voted to approve the expenditure of funds credited to York county, with the understanding there would be no expenditures of any other Department funds for this purpose, and that the project would be subject to supervision by the Department.

Mr. Webb said that the Commission had been invited to Palmetto Bluff September 18-19, the 18th being the day of the Federation meeting in Bennettsville.

Mr. Warren asked Mr. Cox to hold a brief meeting at Bennettsville and then adjourn it to resume at Palmetto Bluff that evening.

*Eddie Finley*



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is a list of the main points

discussed in the report.

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