

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT WINDY HILL SEPT. 5, 1953.

All members of the Commission were present except Mr. Smith. Also present were Alonzo Seabrook, James Webb and Jeff Fuller.

The minutes of the July 29 meeting were corrected as requested by Bob Lutz to delete the statement that inshore trawling did not do too much damage to marketable fish.

The matter of shrimp law violations was brought up by Mr. Seabrook, as well as the law that allows trawling in all creeks, bays, rivers and sounds in Beaufort county during September, October and November. He said there are 484 shrimp boats licensed and he had seen around 75 of them at one time in Beaufort county.

Mr. Warren expressed the fear this would seriously deplete the supply of shrimp and added that the sport fishermen were very concerned about the probable effect on sport fishing, a group of them having called on him at Edisto Beach. He said he did not believe anything could be done --since the attorney general had ruled the bill constitutional--except to appeal to the shrimpers not to destroy their own industry. He then read a statement he had composed and it was agreed that this should be distributed and publicized as coming from the Commission. It was voted not to give out the table of fish damage compiled by Mr. Lutz, since he did not believe his figures were complete enough.

(A copy of the ~~revised~~ statement ~~will be sent~~ will be sent to all coastal papers and radio stations along with a story for those papers that will not carry the complete statement).

The matter of the small fines imposed for shrimping violations was discussed and it was agreed that something must be done to correct the situation.

Mr. Oliphant suggested a meeting with the shrimpers but no definite action was taken on this.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Mr. Lutz regarding the oyster beds in the lower Santee, copies of which had been given the Commissioners. The letter stated that Bears Bluff would be unable to take any active part in the management of the beds but recommended that the beds not be opened until after November 15.

Mr. Seabrook stated he had talked with Andrew DuPre--who was familiar with the beds--and had been told that the fresh water spilled by Santee-Cooper a year ago had destroyed the oysters.

MINUTES OF MEETING Sept. 5 (continued)

He added that under the law there could be no leases but the state could collect 10 cents a bushel tax.

Mr. Warren suggested that Mr. Seabrook, Mr. Lunz and Mr. DuPre make a survey and determine whether it would be worthwhile to open the beds and this was agreed to. Mr. Seabrook recommended that if it was agreed to open the beds that they be marked and be closed except under the supervision of the Division of Commercial Fisheries.

Mr. Johnson moved that after the survey Mr. Warren be authorized to act for the Commission in doing whatever he considered necessary.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Mr. Lunz regarding the shrimp survey mentioning that the question had been brought up whether the experimental trawls are comparable to the commercial drags in relation to the ratio of shrimps, crabs and fish. Mr. Seabrook suggested that it might be possible to have men check the trawler hauls to learn the ratio definitely.

The budget of Bears Bluff Laboratories was received.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Harry Hampton inviting the Commission and some staff members to be guests of the Wildlife Federation at a supper the evening of September 22, the day prior to the annual meeting of the Federation. The Secretary was instructed to accept the invitation for the Commission. It was agreed that the supervisors should attend the meeting.

A meeting of the Commission was called for September 22 at 5 o'clock in the Commission room.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the fisheries inspectors should be rated on merit and seniority similar to the wardens and Mr. Seabrook was so instructed.

The question of the failure of two oyster concerns to plant their leases was brought up and Mr. Warren said former Senator Brantley Harvey of Beaufort has asked him for a conference regarding the Blue Channel corporation's failure and the fear its lease might be cancelled. It was brought out that the Advisory Board had not acted on its hearing regarding cancellation of the leases.

The Commission voted to allow Mr. Toomer to plant his lease late.

MINUTES OF MEETING SEPT. 5 (continued)

Mr. Warren read a letter from Mr. Richardson stating that Belmont had been closed to fishing to all persons unless they had permission from himself or Mr. Warren.

Mr. Seabrook was authorized to transfer funds to pay for a secretary until January.

Mr. Seabrook and Mr. Webb were authorized to explore the possibility of purchasing a boat for use by both departments.

Oscar D. Clark was recommended as an Abbeville warden without pay and this was approved subject to investigation by Mr. Smith.

J. M. Padgett of Jacksonboro was approved as a non-pay warden in Colleton county.

J. E. Boney of Fairfax was recommended as a regular warden for Hampton county and this was referred to Mr. Warren for investigation.

J. T. Burch of Cheraw was recommended as a Chesterfield warden. It was brought out that Mr. Burch was 53 but since he was a former warden the age limit might be waived.

Mr. Johnson said the commission should adhere to its original plan of standards and examination and Mr. McKeithan suggested that the Commission should decide whether the age limit should apply to former wardens. On suggestion of Mr. Hopkins the Department was instructed to refuse to consider any applications unless the man met all standards.

Mr. Burch was approved subject to the approval of Mr. Oliphant.

Lesley Gravely Franklin was approved as a Pickens warden subject to the approval of Mr. Hopkins.

Rasford S. Rice of Belton was approved as an Anderson warden after being approved by Mr. Hopkins.

(Both these men are in Mr. Smith's district but since they are needed to fill existing vacancies it was agreed Mr. Hopkins should act on them).

B. B. DeLoach was recommended by Mr. Seabrook as a non-pay warden in Charleston and he was approved subject to investigation and recommendation of the Director of the Division of Game.

W. C. Smith and Oscar Craven of Green Pond were approved as non-pay wardens in Colleton county.

MINUTES OF MEETING SEPT. 5 (continued)

It was voted to invite the federal aid men to the October meeting of the Commission and Dean M. D. Farrar to the November meeting.

Director Richardson was authorized to take the necessary steps to dispose of the fish hatchery land in Greenwood county after legal advertisement.

A resolution expressing regret at Doug Wade's accident was adopted.

It was decided to postpone accepting an invitation for a deer hunt at Palmetto Bluff until some time in October.

It was resolved that the Director of the Division of Game be directed to commit the Department to the expenditure from available and proper funds of not exceeding \$12,000 for the publication of a quarterly magazine.

Mr. Johnson said he would like the Commission to hold a meeting when the Spartanburg lake is officially accepted but that nothing definite has been worked out.

Mr. Webb recommended that the Department go ahead on construction of the second lake at Spartanburg as a federal aid project and that it be a model for future operations.

Mr. Johnson, who turned over to Mr. Webb a check for \$5,000 as Spartanburg county's share of the first lake's construction, said the county was ready to give \$10,000, as well as furnishing labor for the second lake. Mr. Webb said all funds would come from the county and federal aid and the Commission approved going ahead.

Mr. Webb was instructed to investigate and make recommendations on the construction of lakes in Marlboro and Union counties.

Mr. Oliphant brought up the muddy condition of the 130-acre lake in Chester State Park and asked whether anything could be done. Mr. Webb said that since the Department had no control over the lake it could do nothing.

Mr. Webb recommended that the Commission authorize the Director to select a warden for Georgetown county subject to the approval of Mr. McKeithan and this was approved.

Mr. Webb was authorized to meet with the supervisors and select uniforms and was also authorized to provide shoes.

MINUTES OF MEETING SEPT. 5 (continued)

Mr. Warren suggested that Mr. Seabrook put in an appropriation for uniforms for inspectors similar to those of the supervisors.

The meeting then adjourned for lunch.

Mr. Fuller went over a letter he had written outlining his ideas on his duties and his major job outline was approved.

The Lake Greenwood fish population study was discussed and Mr. Fuller said he would prefer to make no recommendations until the study was completed. He recommended discontinuance of the Four-County hatchery but it was agreed that it would be best to make a study of Lake Murray and then publicize the findings before taking any action on the discontinuance. Mr. Fuller was authorized to conduct this study.

On recommendation of Mr. Fuller, the Director was authorized to hire a biologist for pond work and to provide compensation, transportation and equipment.

Mr. Johnson asked about the Santee-Cooper lock survey and this was discussed.

On motion of Mr. Hopkins it was agreed that Waddy McFall should have as a major project the mounting of ducks and other game, these to be used in instructing wardens, for fair display and for the Department offices.

A resolution expressing appreciation for the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Oliphant was adopted.

Eddie Finlay