

COLONIAL BEACH, VIRGINIA
January 10, 1963

The members of the joint Potomac River Fisheries Commission consisting of the three members from Virginia, Commissioners Ball, Jones, and Hickman, the three members of the Maryland Commission, Commissioners Byrd, Valliant, and Weems, Assistant Attorney-General Digges of Maryland and the following personnel of the two departments of fisheries: Mr. Joseph H. Manning, Director of the Maryland Department of Tidewater Fisheries, Mr. John C. Widener, Engineer of the Maryland Department of Tidewater Fisheries, Maryland's Chief Inspector Roy W. Rafter, and Virginia's Chief Inspector J. William Ryland, met in the city hall of Colonial Beach, Virginia at 10:30 A. M. on this date for the purpose of organizing, electing officers, and transacting business of the joint Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

The Mayor of Colonial Beach made a welcoming speech pointing out the facilities of Colonial Beach and stating that they were at the disposition of the entire Commission.

Thus the first formal meeting of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission convened at 10:30 A. M.

Mr. Milton T. Hickman moved that Mr. Lewis Jones, Jr. be nominated to serve as Chairman Pro tem. Motion was seconded by Dr. George J. Weems and carried.

Chairman Pro tem called for an executive session. Upon convening in executive session the Chairman Pro tem asked Dr. Weems to serve as temporary secretary for the purpose of keeping the minutes of the meeting. Dr. Weems accepted.

Chairman Pro tem then stated that Chair would entertain nominations for the Office of Chairman. Mr. N. G. Ball nominated Jeremiah Valliant. It was seconded by Mr. Hickman. Nominations were closed and by a unanimous vote the secretary was instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of Mr. Valliant.

Chairman Pro tem immediately turned the meeting over to the first permanent Chairman of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

Mr. Valliant thanked the Commissioners present for this honor and their confidence in naming him Chairman of this Potomac River Fisheries Commission. He called to their attention the fact that he could only make it a success with their wholehearted cooperation, support and suggestions.

The next order of business was the election of Vice-Chairman and secretary. The general feeling of the Commission was that the vice-chairman should come from Virginia if the chairman was from Maryland. It was also pointed out in the discussion that in order to operate efficiently, with an efficient chain of communication as possible that it would be wise to elect the secretary from the same state as the chairman. Dr. Byrd then nominated Mr. Hickman for vice-chairman. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Jones. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed, the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Hickman. This was done.

The Chairman now called for nominations for secretary. Mr. Jones nominated Dr. Weems for secretary. This was seconded by Mr. Hickman. Since there were no further nominations, it was moved the nominations be closed and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot. This was done.

Following the election of officers, there was a discussion of a meeting place for the Commission. This discussion centered around the feasibility and advisability of meeting either in Maryland or Virginia. It was the consensus of opinion of those present that since the first chairman was from Maryland, consideration should be given to the first year's meeting place being somewhere in Virginia. It was brought out that the facilities of Colonial Beach had been most graciously placed at the disposal of the Commission. There were piers available and the place was somewhat centrally

located. As far as the members of the Commission getting to meetings, it was felt that the headquarters should be accessible by water and there seemed to be a place available within half a block of the dock. With this view, (1) headquarters in Virginia (2) the best possible service and convenience for the watermen, the following motion was put on the floor by Mr. Jones; moved that temporary headquarters be set up at Colonial Beach for a period of twelve months, that the Chairman and Vice-chairman be named a committee of two to investigate this and make some recommendations to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Weems. Following a discussion on the motion, a vote was taken and there being no dissenting votes, the motion carried.

Mr. Jones moved that The Bank of Westmoreland be designated as the depository for the funds of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and the Chairman of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission report to the respective Governors that the body is organized and to request the respective Governors to forward the required appropriations to The Bank of Westmoreland for deposit to the credit of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and to require The Bank of Westmoreland to deposit bonds in escrow in the amount of \$50,000 each to secure deposits of said Potomac River Fisheries Commission, that the Chairman advise the Governors of the respective states that the budget of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission will be forwarded to them as soon as possible. Dr. Weems seconded the motion. Commissioners Ball, Hickman, Jones and Weems voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Byrd requested that his vote be recorded as no. The motion carried.

personnel
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3rd para 1) Dr. Byrd moved that the Chairman appoint a committee to screen the area and bring to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission names of persons for the position of executive secretary and legal counsel. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jones. There were no dissenting votes and the motion carried. The Chairman appointed Commissioners Jones and Weems.

It was moved by Dr. Byrd and seconded by Mr. Hickman that the Chairman and secretary be authorized to sign checks in the temporary organization period. Motion carried.

It was agreed that the next regular meeting would be held at Colonial Beach at 10:00 A. M. on January 21, 1963. At this point the Chairman declared the executive session at an end and the meeting was opened to the Public at this time.

At the termination of the executive session the Chairman addressed those present stating briefly what had transpired in executive session. He stated that the members of the Commission had named him as their Chairman and that it was evident by the attitudes displayed by all members that any deliberations relating to the Potomac River would be worked out with a dedicated sense of fair play, keeping in mind always that best interests of the affected persons in both great states must be served and that the intent of the Potomac River Compact of 1958 be carried out to the best of our abilities and by the grace of God.

He stated that he was humble and grateful for the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and that the present excitement of a new office did in no way over shadow the great responsibility involved.

He stated that Mr. Milton T. Hickman, the Commissioner of Fisheries of Virginia, had been selected as the vice-chairman and that Dr. George J. Weems, secretary of the Maryland Department of Tidewater Fisheries had been chosen as its secretary.

He also related the facts regarding the place chosen as the Commissions Headquarters and the Depository chosen and that the next meeting would be held on January 21, 1963 in Colonial Beach.

The next order of business was the discussion with Engineer Widener and those present on the advisability of marking the lines of the jurisdiction of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission in order to avoid as much misunderstanding as possible by the watermen using the river. It was moved by Dr. Byrd and seconded by

Dr. Weems that Mr. Widener of the Maryland Department and Mr. Badger of the Virginia Commission thoroughly explore the question of boundaries on the River and report same to the next meeting of the Commission. This was so ordered.

It was moved by Dr. Byrd and seconded by Mr. Jones that the Chief Inspector of Maryland and the Chief Inspector of Virginia go into the law enforcement problem and report to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission as to the number of boats and inspectors desired, the number available, and other suggestions as to how this should be set up and report this to the next meeting of the Commission. This motion was duly carried and so ordered.

Mr. Hickman called attention to the four cent export tax on oysters and the Commissioners were in accord as to some adjustment on this. It was felt that there were many variables and considerations that had to be taken into consideration. It was almost impossible to determine up until this time where the oysters came from as the tax was collected at the packing houses and it was felt that no definite action could be taken on this at this time but it would have to be worked out at a later date.


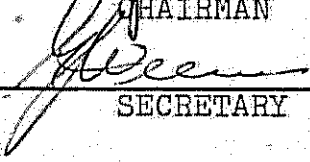
A motion was made by Dr. Byrd and seconded by Mr. Jones that the director of the Maryland Tidewater Fisheries Department be asked to confer with the proper authorities in Virginia with respect to any modification or recommendations as the quantity, length, etc., of nets before the issuance of licenses. Motion carried.

It was pointed out by Assistant Attorney-General Digges of Maryland that the regulations had to be advertised for thirty days and a hearing has to be held before any regulations can be put into effect. With this in mind, he felt it was most important that the actions of the Commission be expedited and it was with this in mind that the Commission was to meet on January 21, 1963.

The Virginia Commission requested that the Tidewater Fisheries Department of Maryland try to prepare for them as soon as possible a concise resume of all the conservation laws of Maryland applicable to the Potomac River. They felt this would be a tremendous help in orienting their enforcement personnel.

Director Manning raised the question about issuance of licenses. After thorough discussion, Director Manning was advised by the Commission that all existing fishing licenses in effect on the Potomac River as of the effective date of the Compact of 1958 would be extended for a period of six months.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 P. M.


CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY