

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 A. M. by Chairman Jones. Present were Commissioners Byrd, Hickman, Ball, Valliant and Weems; Legal Officer K. Thomas Everngam, and Robert M. Norris, Jr., Executive Secretary; Chief Inspector Roy Rafter, Supervising Inspector Paul C. Wentzell, of Maryland; Fisheries Law Enforcement Chief J. William Byland and Inspector Ralph Dameron, of Virginia; Dr. John L. Wood and Dr. J. D. Andrews, of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and Mr. G. Francis Beaven, of Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Visitors were Mr. LeMerle Trader, Mr. J. W. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Thorne, Captain Sam Bailey, Mr. Walter B. Dorsey, Attorney, Mr. George Beitzell and others from St. Mary's County. Mr. Dallas Long, Miss Evelyn Gough, Mrs. Doris Jones, Stephen Nordlinger and James Moser from the press were in attendance..

Commissioner Hickman offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Ball that reading of Minutes of January 10, 1964, of which mimeographed copies had been previously mailed to Commissioners, be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.. Motion carried..

Commissioner Hickman read the "Report of Special Committee on Office Location and Depository for Funds" of this Commission, prepared by Commissioner Hickman and Commissioner Byrd. Motion was offered by Commissioner Hickman, seconded by Commissioner Valliant and carried unanimously, that this report be accepted and a copy filed with and made a part of the Minutes of this meeting.

Chairman Jones called for report, "A Management Program For The Potomac River Oyster Fishery", which was presented by Mr. G. Francis Beaven, of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and Dr. J. D. Andrews, of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, prepared jointly by these agencies, by request of this Commission on January 10th. At 11:40 A. M. Chairman Jones opened the meeting for informal discussion of the report and joint participation by Commissioners and others present in a question and answer period.

At 12:10 A. M. Chairman Jones called meeting back to formal session, and Commissioner Valliant offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Hickman, that representatives from the two Laboratories mentioned above, the Executive Secretary, a group of qualified watermen, the Chiefs and Supervising Inspectors of Tidewater Fisheries Commission and Commission of Fisheries of Virginia confer in immediate future and formulate recommendations concerning planting of cultch and/or seed oysters this spring. Motion approved.

Chairman Jones reported that letters from President Shannon, Jr., University of Virginia, and President Elkins, University of Maryland, indicate their willingness to cooperate as members of an Advisory Committee formulating a long-range rehabilitation and conservation program for the Potomac River. Mr. Jones stated that he feels sure that replies to letters requesting the same cooperation of William & Mary College and Johns Hopkins University acquiescing to same request will shortly be forthcoming.

Commissioner Byrd requested concurrence of Commission in thanking Dr. Andrews and Mr. Beaven for their forthright recommendations and their full answers to questions. At this point, Dr. Wood, Dr. Andrews and Mr. Beaven had to leave.

Mr. Walter B. Dorsey, Attorney, representing the group from St. Mary's County, spoke on behalf of the soft shell clamming association of that county. Mr. LeMerle Trader of Coles Point, said he was representing the lower Westmoreland County watermen and requested that the subject silting on oyster beds, caused by hydraulic dredging of soft shell clams, be fully explored before any large scale clamming be legalized in the Potomac River. Commissioner Byrd stated that experiments

REPORT OF
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE
POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION

At a meeting of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission on January 10, 1964, Chairman Jones appointed Commissioners Byrd and Hickman a committee to make a study of the office location, to recommend a plan for depositing Commission funds, and to report at the next Commission meeting.

The first organizational meeting of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission was held at Colonial Beach, Virginia, in January, 1963. At this meeting it was deemed necessary to get into action without delay. A member from Maryland was elected Chairman, a Virginia member Vice Chairman, and a Maryland member Secretary. A Virginia citizen was appointed Executive Secretary, and a Maryland citizen was appointed Legal Officer. Later, a member of the Maryland Department of Tidewater Fisheries, Law Enforcement Division, was elected Supervisor of Maryland and Virginia law enforcement officers.

Next came the necessity to establish an office. After investigation, the only place available on the Potomac River waterfront was a small vacant building in Colonial Beach, Virginia. The building is well located within one block of the Potomac River. After discussion, it was decided to rent the building on a temporary basis, provided the owner would renovate it according to our specifications. Agreement was reached and a lease was executed for a period of one year, with an option to renew.

There have been many ideas and suggestions offered regarding office facilities. The Committee recommends that the Commission continuously study all matters relative to location of the office. It should always be kept in mind that our paramount administrative duty is to expend funds wisely and economically in the services we render; also, that an office cannot be established for the convenience of each locality. Therefore, arrangements should be made to effectively serve the people in each community and locality.

It is important though to realize that license do not have to be obtained personally from the office. They can be acquired by mail. To immediately simplify the issue of licenses, we recommend that the Executive Secretary proceed at once to negotiate with Clerks of the Court in St. Mary's and Charles counties for them to issue licenses.

Report of Special Committee Of The Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Page 2.

as may be required by watermen. The result of such negotiation should be reported to the Commission at the next meeting. It is further suggested that the Executive Secretary establish and publish a schedule for visiting specific towns in St. Mary's and Charles counties, so as to be personally available to the general public. The Inspectors in the river should be thoroughly familiar with all regulations, so as to be able to supply information to watermen. Inspectors should aid in the distribution of all applications for licenses. When our radio system is established watermen should, when necessary, be allowed to communicate through our Inspectors with the office.

Virginia has appropriated additional funds for assuming its share of law enforcement costs.

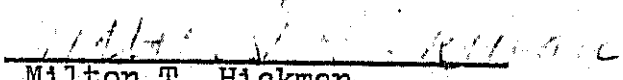
In regard to depositing of funds available to the Commission, it was considered that it would be fair and equitable as a permanent arrangement, to deposit all funds coming from Virginia sources in Virginia banks, and all funds from Maryland sources in Maryland banks. Funds that might come from other sources would be deposited equally in Maryland and Virginia banks, unless donors or investors suggest otherwise. It is suggested that the Maryland members of the Commission designate the Maryland bank or banks, and that the Virginia members do the same.

In order to clarify and adjust the existing deposit, we recommend that whatever funds are on deposit in a Virginia bank should, on July 1, 1964, one-half be left on deposit in the Virginia bank, and the other half deposited in a Maryland bank or banks. The reason for the July 1 date is to earn the full amount of interest for the first six months of 1964. The money due by each state in July, 1964, is to be deposited as aforesaid. It is our recollection that the amount of \$25,000, which is due by the State of Maryland, is to be deposited in a Maryland bank or banks, without any regard to the above-planning. It is further suggested that a working, open account for normal expenditures, which have been approved by the Commission, should be maintained in the Westmoreland Bank, at Colonial Beach, Virginia, purely as a convenience to the office. The amount to be maintained in this account is to be governed by the Commission.

The additional deposit of the \$25,000 due by the State of Maryland, which will be deposited in Maryland bank or banks, will offset the aforesaid open, working account. Any funds which are to be withdrawn for the payment of approved bills, where the amount justifies the action, equal amounts should be withdrawn from Maryland and Virginia bank or banks.

Respectfully submitted,


H. C. Byrd


Milton T. Hickman

on Eastern Shore indicate that hydraulic dredging of soft shell clams does not create a silting problem on oyster beds. Chairman Jones suggested to Mr. Dorsey that his group outline, in writing, their objectives, suggested regulations, map out areas to be used or set aside for soft shell clamming and submit same to Commission, and that such recommendations would be taken under consideration by the Commission. Chairman Jones thanked the groups from St. Mary's and Westmoreland Counties for appearing and stating their views, at which point these visitors retired from the meeting.

Commissioner Byrd offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Hickman, that engineering department of Commission of Fisheries of Virginia relocate missing jurisdictional line marker on the lower side of Monroe Bay, and that Executive Secretary thereupon have this marker replaced.

Chairman Jones asked that engineers be requested to check this location in an attempt to determine how pole was removed.

Commissioner Hickman offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Valliant that copper sheathing, as recommended by Inspector Wentzell, be put on jurisdictional line markers that show evidence of ice damage. Motion approved.

Chief Rafter and Chief Ryland recommended the marking of the jurisdictional lines above Route 301 Bridge. The Chairman requested Executive Secretary to explore costs of engineering and installation of markers in upper River identical to the ones below Route 301 Bridge.

Letter of January 16, 1964, from Mr. Arie de Kok, Fisheries Records Analyst of Shesapeake Biological Laboratory, requesting reimbursement for secretarial help required in tabulating data from Seafood Catch Reports of this Commission was read. Request indicated the cost be \$71.00 per month. Commission was advised that it is considered part of the duties of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory to tabulate this information, and that since the Commission was not informed in time to include this Cost in Budget this year, to so advise the CBL. *

Motion was offered, seconded and approved to table the question of having Regulations and Compact printed in booklet form until possible adjustments in present Regulations are determined.

It was moved, seconded and approved that purchase and installation of radio equipment for communication with Law Enforcement Units be put on agenda for next meeting.



At 12:40 P. M. the Commission recessed for lunch and reconvened at 2:15 P. M.

Commissioner Byrd offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Hickman, that Commissioner Jeremiah Valliant, past Chairman, be authorized to discuss with the Director of Tidewater Fisheries Commission, the possibility of purchasing shells from Maryland at their cost for cultch planting in Potomac River. Motion approved.

Next meeting will be held at La Plata, Maryland, in the County Courthouse on Tuesday, March 31, 1964, at 10:00 A. M.

Executive Secretary was requested to have published in local papers, release to AP and UPI news, information concerning this meeting, stating that the Commission will appreciate written response from individuals interested and concerned with hydraulic clam dredging in the Potomac River directed to the Commission no later than March 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 P. M.


CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY