

PRESENT - MEMBERS: Commissioners Lawrence O. Hayden, Milton T. Hickman, William P. Hunt, J. Clifford Hutt, Richard E. Lankford,
Absent: Commissioner Donald E. Hood

OFFICERS: Mr. K. Thomas Everngam, Legal Officer; Mr. Robert M. Norris, Jr., Executive Secretary.

VISITORS: Lt. Paul C. Wentzell, Maryland Marine Police; Supervisor E. Ralph Dameron, Virginia Marine Resources Commission; Mrs. Jackie Armstrong, newspaper "The Enterprise"; Honorable Henry J. Fowler, member Maryland House of Delegates; Messrs. Joseph A. Thompson, James M. Hodges, Joseph A. Thompson, Jr., Bobby Pilkerton, Buddy Banagan, Donald Delahay, Ed Hodges, David Sayre, Allen Thompson, Joseph M. Wise, Ralph Herbert, James A. Chatham, William D. Allison, George Herbert, Leonard Herbert, Sam Bailey, Sam Bailey, Jr., Bernard Bailey, J. Mattingly Guy, John H. Jones, Francis Tyer, William A. Somerville.

The Chairman, Mr. J. C. Hutt, opened the meeting by reading in full the notice which had been posted in various public places on October 8th on both sides of the Potomac River proposing to close the oyster tonging areas known as "Knott's Hollow" and "Posey's Bluff".

Commissioner Hayden introduced the Commissioners and officers by name to the assembly.

Mr. Hutt asked for questions and/or comments from the floor concerning the above proposal. Discussion from floor consisted of statements of individual feeling ranging in opinion from, (1) approving closing for a limited period the seed planting on Knott's Hollow and Posey's Bluff because of probable greater demand later in season to, (2) a few remarks that oysters from these areas are moving satisfactorily. The consensus was that if areas are closed that the restriction should not extend beyond December 1st.

At this point there was emphasis in the discussion regarding the number of days per week the river should be open for tonging. Mr. Hutt reminded the group that the work and obligation of the Commission is actively directed toward conservation and not market control.

Delegate Fowler was recognized by the Chair and offered a few remarks. Mr. Hodges thanked the Commission for their consideration in holding this hearing and others in the past, so people could express their opinions. Mr. Delahay expressed his appreciation for the wonderful work of the officers of the Maryland Marine Police enforcing conservation laws.

There being no indication of further constructive discussion on the above, the Commission went into executive session at 2:50 p.m.

Mr. Hutt announced that the Steuart Petroleum Company had requested, subsequent to September 9th and 10th meeting, an opportunity to present further their proposals concerning their refinery and Foreign Trade Zone plans at Piney Point; but because of prior commitments Steuart officials could not be present today. He said that it is tentatively agreed with Steuart officials that arrangements be set up for such a conference in an open meeting in January 1969.

The question of closing Knott's Hollow and Posey's Bluff areas was discussed in light of today's hearing and other factors. Mr. Lankford offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Hickman, as follows:

"That Knott's Hollow and Posey's Bluff areas be immediately closed to tonging oysters for the remainder of the oyster tonging season of 1968-69." Motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Hickman offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Lankford, as follows:

"That the Potomac River be opened to tonging on Mondays beginning on Monday, October 21, 1968 thereby giving four days (Monday through Thursday) each week for tonging oysters." Motion was unanimously approved.


After further discussion it was agreed that Mr. Hutt will check with the Commissioners the following Wednesday to consider if river should be opened for tonging on Friday, and if not, to continue to observe the situation and take action on this matter as conditions indicate.

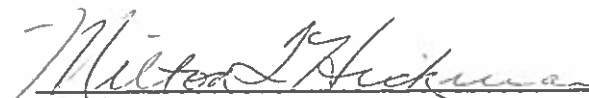
The Minutes of the meeting held September 9th and 10th, as previously circulated to each Commissioner by mail, were considered and by motion made, and duly seconded, were unanimously approved.

An itemized list of disbursements for month of September totaling \$3,942.54 was presented. A motion was offered, duly seconded and adopted that said disbursements be approved.

Mr. Hutt reminded the members that the next meeting has been set (in September meeting) for November 16, 1968 in the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland at 3:00 p.m.

At 4:00 p.m. the meeting adjourned.


CHAIRMAN


SECRETARY