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POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION
La Plata, Maryland
December 8, 1972

PRESENT - MEMBERS: Commissioner J. Clifford Hutt, Richard E. Lankford, James E. Douglas, Jr., John T. Parran, Jr., James L. Sisson, Jr. (Absent: Roy E. Julie, Jr.)

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

VISITORS: Messrs. Roy W. Rafter, Superintendent, and Lt. Paul C. Wentzell, Maryland Marine Police; Robert V. Hancock and E. Ralph Dameron, Virginia Marine Police; Lewis F. Hobbs and William C. King, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Howard S. Hudnall, Repletion Officer, Marine Resources Commission of Virginia; Dr. Myron Miller, Maryland Power Siting Program; Elgin A. Dunnington, Jr., University of Maryland Natural Resources Institute; Dexter Haven, Virginia Institute of Marine Science; James W. Dutton, President, Charles County Watermen's Association.

PRESS: Walter Kelwe, Times-Crescent; Arlee O. Green, Maryland Independent.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Chairman J. Clifford Hutt, in the County Commissioners' hearing room, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Motion was made, seconded and approved as follows:

"That the Minutes of the meeting held September 15, 1972 at Colonial Beach, Virginia and the Minutes of the meeting held October 29, 1972 in Annapolis, Maryland both be approved as written and circulated to each Commissioner prior to meeting."

Mr. Dexter Haven reported the October 1972 experimental hatchery seed plantings near Morgantown on prepared shell beds monitored almost weekly indicate all cultchless spat living and showing some growth. He said that a survey will be made during the winter to check on possible mortality; that the critical time will be during the summer season when crabs move in. They may feed on the seed, if the shells are not tough.

Mr. Hutt said that in conformity with authorization by Commission in meeting of September 15, 1972 that the lot at corner of Taylor and Wilder Streets had been purchased at a cost of \$14,000 and the deed had been recorded. He told the Commission that he had examined the records and would deliver a certificate of title to the property at no cost, as a contribution to the Commission.

Mr. Hutt further advised that a contract for \$42,000 for construction of the building had been negotiated with Mr. Charlie H. Walton, which includes cleaning and grading the lot. The terms of the contract were approved by Mr. Everngam, with recommendation that the rear parapet wall of the building be made the same height as the other three sides of the building.

After further discussion of the cost involved, the following motion was made, seconded and approved as follows:

"That an agreement be negotiated with the contractor to raise the rear wall from roof height to the same level as parapet walls on other three sides, and that the capping on the top be of brick instead of cast concrete, at an additional cost of \$300."

Mr. Hutt outlined briefly the activities of the Commission and the increasing duties and demands on the time of the Executive Secretary. He suggested the need for an assistant and understudy to the Executive Secretary. The Commissioners agreed concerning the need for such an employee, then considered a salary scale but set no figures, saying that the starting salary would vary according to the qualifications of the assistant and would be on a scale commensurate with the work level and responsibility of an assistant but that ultimately the top salary be no higher than \$3,000 below the salary of the Executive Secretary.

Mr. Hutt appointed Mr. Parran and Mr. Sisson as a committee of two to work in conjunction with the Executive Secretary to seek applicants for the position.

Dr. Myron Miller, of the Maryland Power Plant Siting Commission was recognized and spoke regarding the proposed site at Douglas Point for a PEPCO nuclear or atomic power plant. He said the Commission is now preparing an environmental impact study report on location and plant - that preliminary design features of plant have been made available to them - that if location is not approved, another must be sought - he said that a July '72 study at Morgantown Plant showed 7 to 10 degree increase in water temperature with 3000 pounds of chlorine per unit per day added to control marine organisms in condensers, etc. - that the exposure mortality to living organisms in a flow-through plant like Morgantown is 2 - 3% whereas in cooling towers the mortality is 100% - with use of cooling towers increase of salinity in return water is 2 or 3 times the amount in the intake - he added that the mortality in water passing through the Morgantown plant is reasonable low (with some life) relative to amount of life in river - that regarding radiological side of question at Douglas Point, that it will take a long time to determine if the operation will be beneficial or harmful - studies are underway at Chalk Point plant to determine salt dropout from cooling towers and degree of resulting damage, but they think fresh water washoff will dissipate much of the fallout - Dr. Miller said that a completely closed cooling system is technically feasible but fantastically expensive - that a nuclear plant will use 50% more cooling water without towers - also that at same KW output nuclear plant would require only 20% as much make-up cooling water as a conventional plant would use with flow-through system. The above was mostly in a question and answer session; there being no further questions, Mr. Hutt thanked Dr. Miller for his presentation.

Mr. Dunnington presented a "use priority list" outlining recommended re-pletion program steps for 1973. The following is a brief resume of the recommendations:

1. Plant oysters 2" average size on Cedar Point and Swan Point at the rate of 10 oysters per square foot to the extent allowed by funds. This will create brood oyster islands on these bars where all live oysters were killed by fresh water. The operation should start around April 1, 1973
- 2(a). Plant shell on Jones Shore at the rate of 3 thousand bushels per acre on up to 100 acres per year on a rotating basis for set; and if occurs, are to be transplanted on upper river bars.
- 2(b). Also plant shell on other down river areas, such as Hog Island and Great Neck. Any set which occurs in these areas would be left to develop into harvest oysters.
3. Plant shell bags, if possible, in St. Mary's River or Smith Creek for transplanting.
4. Continue experimental work with 3/4" minimum size hatchery reared seed oysters in the Morgantown area. The number of spat to be planted to be in the 4 thousand and up range in count.
5. Mr. Dunnington emphasized that rehabilitation efforts in the upper river supercede any other consideration in the Potomac, and that maximum priority should be given to planting oysters and seed on upper river bars.

In answer to a question regarding the number of hatchery reared seed we should try to procure, Mr. Dunnington said that there is a rationale for increasing the numbers from roughly 4 to 10 million or possibly 50 million but not to make it too large; that although the river desperately needs re-seeding, that we might just be feeding crabs and eels, but that we could get more information from a larger operation.

Mr. Hutt asked if it is consistent with the Commission's obligation to set aside certain areas for agents of the PRFC to conduct experiments with hatchery reared seed in addition to the work being done directly by CBL and VIMS. Mr. Everngam said he would study this suggestion and furnish the Commission with an opinion.

In answer to a question by Mr. Dutton, Mr. Dunnington said that CBL is keeping alive some oysters from Beacon Bar, and the plans are to re-seed said bar with progeny from this stock.

A motion was made, seconded and approved as follows:

"That the Commission adopt and approve Mr. Dunnington's committee report and recommendations and follow same in our repletion program. The Repletion Committee was authorized to buy shells wherever they felt it best to do so."

A motion was made, seconded and approved as follows:

"That the audit report made jointly by Maryland and Virginia State Auditors in August 1972 for the fiscal year July 1, 1971 through June 30, 1972 containing no exceptions to the operations of the Commission, be accepted."

Mr. Norris asked for clarification of a policy previously adopted allowing certain fish net licensees to leave marker poles, properly identified, year around in the river. The question had been asked if this applied to gill net locations, as well as pound net locations. A motion was made, seconded and approved as follows:

"That it be the policy of this Commission to allow pound or trap net fishermen to leave a marker pole, properly identified; but that stake, anchor and fyke net stands would not be allowed to have marker poles."

Mr. Douglas and Mr. Lankford were appointed to be a nominating committee to present a slate of officers for 1973 at the next meeting.

Mr. Julie and Mr. Sisson were appointed to be a study committee to make recommendations on insurance for the Commission.

Mr. Dutton, Mr. Everngam and Mr. Norris were appointed to be a committee to revise application forms for various fisheries licensees with a goal to simplify and shortening said forms.

Mr. Dutton was recognized and recommended that the Commission further consider specifying certain size mesh in nets to control the taking of oversize fish. Also that the Commission should have the authority to promulgate temporary regulations or emergency orders without having to advertise and hold public hearings on same.

In response to Mr. Dutton stating that the crabbers face a problem concerning the difference in legal size of crabs and the taking of female crabs as (AS) between the two states and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission regulations, Mr. Hutt suggested that Mr. Dutton, Mr. Everngam and Mr. Norris confer and see if some cure for this problem can be produced. (Hutt)

Mr. Dutton also asked if the proposed agendum could be made public prior to the PRFC meetings, so the public could determine, without attending each meeting, if there would be business discussed that would be of interest to individuals or groups.

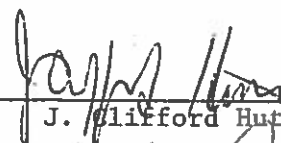
A motion was made, seconded and approved as follows:

"That the Executive Secretary be authorized to send copies or a resume of proposed agendum for each meeting to the news media and others, including the watermen's associations, but to note that 'the said items are proposed only and that the business of the meeting will not be limited thereto'."

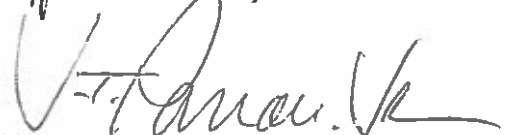
Mr. Hobbs and Mr. King, of the Maryland Department of Health, were introduced and recognized.

The Executive Secretary was requested to invite a representative of the Maryland Health Department, possibly Mr. Sam Fowler, Chief of Shellfish Sanitation Section, to explain how and when sampling is done and also to detail the Department's program for the river and what they consider the future of the river to be from the standpoint of harvesting shellfish and/or other seafood.

Mr. Hutt thanked each person for their attendance and participation in this meeting. The next meeting is to be held on March 23, 1973 at 9:30 a.m., in Colonial Beach, Virginia. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



J. Clifford Hutt, Chairman



John T. Parran, Jr., Secretary