

MINUTES OF THE MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION  
COLONIAL BEACH, VIRGINIA  
JANUARY 26, 1979

PRESENT: Commissioners: Chairman James E. Douglas, Jr., Milton T. Hickman, William P. Hunt, John T. Parran, Jr., Richard E. Lankford (absent Robert J. Rubelmann)

Officers: Robert M. Norris, Jr., Executive Secretary; Kirby A. Carpenter, Assistant Executive Secretary; J. Owen Wise, Legal Officer

Visitors: Major Paul C. Wentzell, Maryland Marine Police; Chief Robert Markland and Supervisor C. E. Thomas, Virginia Marine Police; Herb Austin and Dexter Haven, VIMS; Elgin Dunnington, CBL; Charles M. Frisbee & Pam Lunsford, Maryland Fisheries Administration; Frank F. Churchill, NAVSWC, Dahlgren, Virginia; Larry Pater, King George Wetlands Board; Jon J. Yagla, W. M. Moscrip, John M. Hunter, Milton F. Wright, and James N. Payne, King George Environmental Association; Robert T. Brown and Jack Russell, St. Mary's County Watermen's Association; H. M. Webb, Jr. and Douglas F. Jenkins, Sr., Virginia Watermen's Association; Bryn N. Jewell, Donald E. Abbott, James Webb, Thomas N. Samuels, Louis R. Ashton, Ronald W. Wilkins, Percy N. Fines, Larry Crowder, Joe Scrivener, Francis Cullison, Ernie W. Webb, William M. Boston, Wade Chatham, Alan Hundley, Joseph Neale, Marvin A. Newton, Hugh Newton, Julia Payne, Eliza Morrison, Betty Payne, Marvin R. Newton, C. Wesley Newton, Jr., Roger Green, Daryl Loving, Artis Schoen, Richard Fulcher, Leslie Wilson, James Garner, George Herbert, Albert T. Standbridge, Thomas Lee Arnest, William Squires, Webster Chatham, James W. Dutton, John A. Smith, Charlie T. Jones, plus about ten (10) others.

Press: Lawrence Latane, Westmoreland News; Walter Scott, Northern Neck News; Isabel Gough, Richmond News Leader; Dick Myers, Maryland Independent; Sunny Mays Schust, The Enterprise; Anne Hazard, Richmond Times-Dispatch; Robert Hedelt, Free Lance-Star

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman James E. Douglas, Jr. Mr. Douglas asked for consideration of the Minutes of the October 27, 1978 meeting saying that mimeographed copies had been previously circulated to each Commissioner. The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the Minutes of the October 27, 1978 meeting be approved as written."  
The motion was approved.

#### SLUDGE COMPOSTING

Mr. Elgin Dunnington spoke for the study committee of three and explained composting of sludge stating that if it is processed properly, a useful product is made from a potentially hazardous substance. The information available on the proposal by DANO, Inc. is somewhat conflicting and lacks details of construction of the plant and operation necessary to assure no environmental damage. Mr. Jon Yagla pointed out some of the inconsistencies in DANO's application and reviewed some possible problems with the Company, the process and the site. Mr. Douglas Jenkins asked the PRFC to consider possible damage to the striped bass spawning and nursery grounds. Mr. Dutton stated that DANO has yet to demonstrate their reliability and asked the PRFC to oppose the DANO proposal. Mr. Larry Pater, Chairman of the King George Wetlands Board informed the Commission that DANO has refused to file for a wetlands permit even after they were notified of probable wetlands involvement. The Chairman asked if anyone present was in favor of the DANO proposal, there was no response. Mr. Parran offered the following motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lankford:

"The Potomac River Fisheries Commission is deeply interested in the general problem of sludge removal in the area with which it is concerned. The Commission has considered all information available to it on the proposal by Dano (Southern Marine & Salvage Co., Inc.) to transport sludge from the Blue Plains Sewage Treatment Plant to a composting site in King George County, Virginia. On the basis of such information and comments from interested groups and persons, including watermen, the Commission is opposed to the approval of such proposal and the establishment of the composting site in King George County, as the proposal, as now constituted, does not provide adequate safeguards against the possible hazards to the traffic and resources on and in the Potomac River. It is understood that a future proposal, containing adequate safeguards, might persuade the Commission to change its position." The motion was unanimously approved. The Chairman asked that the above motion be circulated to other agencies which are involved in the issuing of permits.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

At 10:10 a.m. Mr. Douglas opened the public hearing on proposed regulation to allow hand scraping in March of each year. Copies of the proposed regulation were distributed.

Mr. Robert Brown for the St. Mary's County Watermen's Association, said the Association was in agreement with the proposed regulation and Mr. Wade Chatham, speaking on behalf of the Virginia Watermen's Association, asked that it be approved.

There being no other comments, the public hearing was closed at 10:13 a.m.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

The meeting then proceeded with the following motion made and seconded:

"That Regulation II, Section 2(a)(2) as advertised be approved to become effective on 2/26/79." The motion was approved.

The approved Regulation now reads as follows:

REGULATION II, Section 2 (a)(2)

Time for Use and Possession of Hand Scrape. The use of a hand scrape shall be permitted only on Mondays through Thursdays, inclusive, during the month of March and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the months of November and December of each year. On any of the aforesaid permitted days the use of a hand scrape shall only be permitted during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, legal established time, in such areas as shall from time to time be designated by the Commission as hand scraping areas. Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and for one (1) hour before and for two (2) hours after such hours. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

DISBURSEMENTS AND CASH ON HAND

A report on the disbursements for the October 1-December 31, 1978 quarter by budget item was presented. The total is \$24,090.85. The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the disbursements report for the second quarter of FY 79 be accepted and approved." The motion was approved.

A statement of cash on hand as of 1/24/79 was presented as follows:

Bank of Westmoreland - Checking	\$ 34,006.24
- C/D	65,000.00
Peoples Bank of Montross - C/D's	60,000.00
Maryland National Bank - C/D's	135,000.00
- Savings	7,624.25
	<u>\$301,631.49</u>

OYSTER PRODUCTION REPORT

A report on the oyster harvest from October 1 thru January 24 was reviewed and compared with the report for the same period last season as follows:

	<u>1978-79</u>	<u>1977-78</u>
Total Bushels by Tongers	127,571	
Total Bushels by Hand Scrapers	19,549	
	<u>147,120</u>	137,128
Total Tax Paid	\$36,734.75	\$33,964.74
Tongers Licenses	331	521
Tong Boat Operators	403	519
Hand Scrape - Personal	149	37
Hand Scrape - Vessel	66	19
Buyers - Licensed	6	11
- Unlicensed	55	32

The three most productive tonging bars were Sheepshead, Jones Shore and Ragged Point in that order with Great Neck leading Hog Island in hand scrape production.

AUDIT REPORT

Several copies of the joint Maryland-Virginia audit report received this morning for FY ending 6/30/78 were presented to the Commissioners. The report showed that all PRFC funds were accounted for properly.

The auditors had suggested during their audit that we not capitalize any expenditure under \$25. The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the PRFC not capitalize any expenditure under \$25. and that items costing less than \$25 be considered as an operating expense." The motion was approved.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Chairman appointed Mr. Milton T. Hickman and Mr. John T. Parran to serve as a budget committee with Mr. Hickman as chairman.

CLERKS' FEES

Mr. Norris explained that the original agreement with the clerks of the Maryland courts entitled them to receive 50¢ for each license they issued. He suggested that a fee increase would be in order. The following motion was made and seconded:

"That beginning 2/1/79 the fee paid to the Clerks of the Maryland courts for temporary licenses for the PRFC shall be \$1.00 each." The motion was approved.

INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the Commission policy of investing funds originally adopted 1/22/71 and reaffirmed 8/18/78 be continued." The motion was approved.

The said motion reads: "That the Commission policy of investing funds originally adopted 1/22/71 be continued. That is, that the Executive Secretary follow the policy of maintaining an average balance of \$10,000 in checking account, thereby keeping any funds over this amount in interest bearing accounts."

The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the Executive Secretary, Assistant Executive Secretary or the Office Secretary are authorized to transfer within the Bank of Westmoreland, Inc., Colonial Beach, Virginia, funds of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission for the purpose only of placing funds from the general checking account into a Statement Savings Account and back to the general checking account." The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST

The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the Potomac River Fisheries Commission request the annual appropriation from Maryland and Virginia be \$150,000 each for the FY 1981 and FY 1982." The motion was approved.

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the use of a personal auto on official PRFC business shall be compensated for at the rate of 15¢ per mile." The motion was approved.

STRIPED BASS HATCHERY

Mr. Robert Brown asked the Commission to support the Maryland Watermen's Association's striped bass hatchery because of the increased fish license fees. Mr. Charles Frisbee, Maryland Fisheries Administration told of Maryland's limited support of the hatchery and read from a report by J. G. Boone and B. M. Florence which concluded that "any augmentation of natural populations would probably be negligible."

Mr. Douglas asked Robert Brown, Douglas Jenkins, Elgin Dunnington, Herb Austin, Robert M. Norris and A. C. Carpenter to investigate what if any role, the PRFC could or should have in a striped bass hatchery and if federal funds might be available.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:44 the Commissioners only went into Executive Session at the request of Mr. Parran to discuss the nomination of officers. The meeting was resumed at 10:47.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers for 1979 as follows: Chairman, John T. Parran; Vice-Chairman, James E. Douglas; Secretary, Milton T. Hickman.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to elect the above slate of officers for 1979.

Mr. Douglas voiced his appreciation to the Commission and others present for the cooperative support extended him throughout his chairmanship in 1978. Mr. Parran praised Mr. Douglas for his accomplishments and record during his tenure of office.

At this point, Mr. Parran assumed the office of Chairman for 1979.

#### GILL NETTING

Mr. Wade Chatham requested that the setting of anchor gill nets be allowed during June, July and August for the catching of spot and other summer fish.

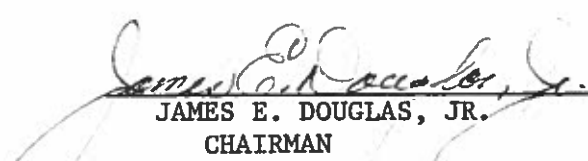
A motion was made to have the staff research the history of gill net regulations and forward it to the Commissioners to be followed by a telephone poll of the Commissioners as to whether or not to advertise a proposed regulation change for the next meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved to table the above motion. The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the staff work with industry and representatives of CBL and VIMS to study the question of summer gill netting and report their finding at the next meeting." The motion was approved. The Chairman asked that the presidents of Charles' and St. Mary's Counties Watermen's Associations and Messrs. Wade Chatham and Douglas Jenkins, Major Paul C. Wentzell, C. E. Thomas, Jr. be members of this committee.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting was set for May 4, 1979 at 9:30 a.m. at Colonial Beach, Virginia.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 11:05 a.m.

  
JAMES E. DOUGLAS, JR.  
CHAIRMAN

  
JOHN T. PARRAN, JR.  
SECRETARY