

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
MINUTES, MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 1949

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 306 of the State Capitol Building, Sacramento, on January 24, 1949. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hastain at 2:00 P.M.

PRESENT:	Harvey E. Hastain	Chairman (Outgoing)
	Wm. J. Silva	Member (Chairman-elect)
	E. L. Macaulay	Member
	Senator Ralph E. Swing	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator Ben Hulse	" " "
	Senator George J. Hatfield	" " "
	Assemblyman Lloyd W. Lowrey	" " "
	Assemblyman S. L. Heisinger	" " "
	Assemblyman Thomas M. Erwin	" " "
	Seth Gordon	Consultant
	Everett E. Horn	Special Consultant
	C. R. Knight, Jr.	Field Agent

ABSENT: James S. Dean Member

The following persons were present and heard:

General Warren T. Hannum	Director of Natural Resources
D. H. Blood	Deputy Director-Comptroller
Fred W. Links	Chief, Div. of Budgets and Accounts

Also Present:

Ralph W. Scott	Deputy Attorney General
Roland E. Curtis	Bureau of Game Conservation
Rudy Hickey	Sacramento Bee
Virg Nover	Southern Council of Conservation Clubs

Moved by Senator Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Macaulay, that in accordance with the policy heretofore established by the Board, Mr. William J. Silva, now President of the Fish and Game Commission, be elected Chairman of the Board. Passed unanimously.

Thereupon Mr. Silva took the Chair, and conducted the meeting.

Moved by Assemblyman Lowrey, seconded by Mr. Macaulay, that the minutes of the meetings held May 28, June 26, August 28, and October 9, 1948, copies of which were handed to the Members of the Board and the Joint Interim Committee, be approved. Passed unanimously.

Moved by Senator Swing, seconded by Mr. Lowrey, that in accordance with action taken at the meeting of May 28, 1948, Mr. Ed. Hyatt, State Engineer, be requested to attend the next meeting of the Board. Passed unanimously.

Senator Swing brought up the question of the allocation of \$15,000 to the Mojave Hatchery (Victorville) and said that they had had no report indicating whether or not this project should be completely developed.

Mr. Gordon replied that while reports on all of the hatcheries were not as yet ready for final consideration they had gone far enough to satisfy all concerned that this hatchery should be developed, and additional funds are necessary to keep it going. He also stated that a complete report on Mojave could probably be submitted by March.

A general discussion followed regarding procedure in the expenditure of Wildlife Restoration Fund moneys. It was agreed that only items of extreme urgency should be considered until the statewide survey is completed.

Assemblyman Heisinger brought up the matter of the Mendota Pool Waterfowl Management Area and said to his knowledge no survey had been made of this project.

Chairman Silva then called upon Mr. Gordon to make his report.

Mr. Gordon reviewed the plan of employing various experts to survey different phases of the wildlife conservation problem, and stated that most of the men who had already made surveys would be able to return later to recheck and include additional projects in their studies. He stated that Messrs. Everett E. Horn, D. E. Woodward and Roland Curtis were now studying waterfowl problems from Mexico to the Oregon border, and had made a survey of Mendota Pool and other proposed waterfowl projects, as well as numerous areas not listed, but were not yet ready to make final recommendations. Fish screens and access of the public to coastal angling areas were mentioned as two problems worthy of study.

Mr. Gordon observed that when the Board does agree on a program the problem of acquisition and engineering confronting the Division of Fish and Game will be terrific. He suggested that a man like Don Jackson, assistant to Milo Bell, Director of the Washington Fisheries Department, would be thoroughly capable of making a study of fish screen problems. Alternates also were suggested.

Moved by Senator Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Macaulay, that Mr. Gordon be authorized to bring in a capable man to make a study of fish screen problems. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Gordon observed that a great many more people could enjoy coastal angling, thus relieving pressure on other fishing, if public access could be assured and limited facilities were provided for them. He said that a man like Dr. A. S. Einarsen, Director of the Cooperative Research Unit at Corvallis, Oregon, would be well qualified to make a study of this problem.

Moved by Senator Swing, seconded by Mr. Macaulay, that Mr. Gordon be authorized to employ Dr. Einarsen or such other person as he feels is qualified to make a study of the coastal angling problem. Passed unanimously.

Senator Swing requested that a map of the California coastline be prepared so that the Board could visualize the problem, and Mr. Gordon said that a map illustrating a typical section would be prepared.

A general discussion followed regarding the various reports which have already been turned in by men making surveys. It was decided that Mr. Gordon shall later present digests of these reports to Board members rather than the voluminous reports in their entirety. He stated that he hoped to have a report on a complete program by the end of the fiscal year, and that reports on waterfowl and trout could probably be made available sooner. He thought that a report on the waterfowl problem would be available by March, and that prompt action should be taken on this urgent problem so as to take full advantage of the provisions of the Lea Act.

Senator Hulse inquired as to what factors were going to be taken into account in determining the urgency of various problems in the long-range program and how the funds were going to be apportioned; if the number of sportsmen interested and buying licenses for fishing, upland bird hunting, etc., were going to be considered.

Mr. Gordon replied that those things which indicate dire distress should get first consideration, and that the waterfowl problem is the most critical at present. Sportsman interest is definitely going to be considered, and a sampling survey now underway by the Fish and Game Commission to determine where the interests of the sportsmen lay should prove most valuable.

Mr. Gordon brought to the attention of the Board the necessity of \$50,000 worth of heavy equipment at the Imperial Valley Waterfowl Management Area.

(Senators Hulse and Swing and Assemblyman Heisinger asked to be excused at 3:00 P.M. to attend other meetings.)

Senator Hatfield stated that in his opinion the heavy equipment needed at Imperial Valley should not be paid for out of the Wildlife Restoration Fund, but should come out of the Fish and Game Preservation Fund; that the Wildlife Fund was not created to make up deficiencies in the budget of the Division of Fish and Game.

Mr. Hastain stated that this equipment was necessary if the Imperial Valley Waterfowl Management Area was to be greatly expanded as a Wildlife Conservation Board project, and that it was a new item.

Assemblyman Erwin asked General Hannum if the Department of Natural Resources had a heavy equipment pool from which equipment could be borrowed. Also, if Fish and Game had a heavy equipment pool that could be used on Wildlife projects.



Mr. Hastain stated that money for a heavy equipment pool was provided in the budget, but that in a going wildlife management program such as the Imperial Valley project it would be necessary to have certain heavy equipment on the spot for year round use in farming operations to raise feed for the waterfowl. He further stated that the Board's approval of this expenditure had been requested to avoid delay.

Senator Hatfield felt this matter of heavy equipment should go through the Department of Finance as a budget item in the usual manner and should not be handled with funds provided by the Board.

Mr. Macaulay then read a letter from Mr. Fred W. Links, Chief of the Division of Budgets and Accounts, criticizing the Board for an apparent lack of planning because of the number of budget revisions requested. Mr. Blood stated that too many deficiencies are being requested.

Mr. Links appeared, at the request of Mr. Blood, and spoke against the continual changing of projects in the program. He stated that when the Legislature appropriated funds for what they thought was a desirable program they expected to see it carried out as approved; that when it came to major revisions the Legislature should determine whether or not they want the changes to be made. In the case of a project already in operation, he felt the money should come out of the Fish and Game Preservation Fund.

Assemblyman Lowrey said that he believed it was the feeling of the Interim Committee that a comprehensive program be set up so that they could see what is to be done, and then see that it was done.

Chairman Silva asked if some provision was going to be made for housing under the Wildlife Fund as this situation was urgent. Mr. Gordon replied that such construction had already been done with the allocations made previously, and more of it could be handled in the same way if the Board so decides.

Senator Hatfield said that it might be necessary to amend the law to give it a little more latitude.

General Hannum explained the procedure that Forestry and Beaches and Parks followed to expedite their housing program. He stated that they had obtained permission to build residences and had done their own engineering and let contracts for the construction.

Mr. Horn was then called on to give a brief report on the waterfowl survey. He said they were surveying not only the proposed projects but all existing habitat in the state where birds have been in the past and might again be taken care of. Because of the weather they had been unable to get into the northeast corner of the state, but of the territory surveyed the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys were the most critical areas. He stated that the question of water under the development of the Central Valleys Project was a very important problem. With the enlargement of the Sutter and Colusa Refuges under the Lea Bill and the additions proposed for the consideration of Mr. Gordon and the Board they thought that section of the state would be taken care of. He said that there were seven areas in the

San Joaquin Valley, any one of which would be as good as the other. Mr. Horn recommended that something should be considered in the Delta region, either around Stockton or at the existing State refuge at Suisun.

Mr. Hastain brought up the matter of the 20,000-acre limitation under the Lea Act, and Mr. Horn said that the addition of 2300 acres on Colusa and 3800 on Sutter, plus the proposed acquisitions in the San Joaquin Valley, would take all but about 200 acres.

Senator Hatfield requested that Mr. Hastain draft a resolution to submit to Congress, requesting that the limitation be removed or at least materially increased. Upon motion approved, it was agreed that such request shall be made to Congress in behalf of the Board.

Assemblyman Lowrey requested that a regular meeting time be set for Board meetings. Following general discussion dates were set for meetings of the Board at 10:00 A.M. on the third Saturday in the months of March, April, and May (March 19, April 16, and May 21) in Sacramento.

Senator Hatfield suggested that notice of these meetings be sent out immediately.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:55 P.M.