

(b) The Director shall be responsible for the exercise of all the powers and duties conferred upon the Department by the provisions of this article, subject to the authority of the secretary as provided by law and delegated to him by the Secretary.

(c) The Director shall appoint and remove the staff of the [Department] Administration in accordance with the provisions of the Merit System Law, subject to the authority of the secretary as provided by law. The staff of the [Department] Administration shall consist of such employees as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the [Department] Administration, in such numbers and at the salaries provided in the annual State budget. Insofar as the provisions of the merit system provide for disciplinary or dismissal proceedings against employees to be brought by the appointing authority, the Director shall be the appointing authority, unless the secretary determines by written directive that the secretary shall be the appointing authority. All employees shall be under the supervision and control of the Director and shall perform such duties as he may prescribe. [The Director and all staff employees of the Water Pollution Control Commission, who as of June 1, 1964, have held such employment under Article 64A of this Code for a period of not less than six months prior thereto shall be continued as employees of the Department of Water Resources herein created or in other reasonably similar positions in the State classified service with no diminution in salary, seniority or retirement rights and privileges.]

[4.

(a) There is hereby created a Water Resources Commission comprising five members who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources. One member shall be designated as chairman and shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of Natural Resources. Of the other four members of the Commission, one member shall be appointed to serve for an initial term of one year, one member for two years, one member for three years and one member for four years, and thereafter all such appointments shall be for terms of four years each. Members of the Commission shall represent the general fields of public health, industry, agriculture, municipal administration and natural resources. Members of the Commission shall be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the secretary of natural resources.

(b) The Commission shall meet at such times as requested by the Director. Each member who is not a public official of the State of Maryland shall receive a per diem allowance as provided in the budget for his attendance when requested by the chairman, at other meetings and hearings of formal significance. Members shall also be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in attending to the meetings and other business of the Commission.

(c) The Commission may adopt rules of procedure to govern the conduct of its meetings. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or by three members of the Commission by delivery of written notice to each member. Three members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. The Commission shall keep a record of its proceedings which shall be open to the public for inspection.