

STATE WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
Held in Office of State Water Commission in
Bismarck, North Dakota
October 13, 1958

A regular meeting of the North Dakota State Water Conservation Commission was called to order on October 13, 1958, in the office of the State Water Commission at Bismarck, North Dakota, to consider routine business matters. The following were present:

MEMBERS OF THE STATE WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Earle F. Tucker, Vice Chairman, Bismarck
Einar Dahl, Member from Watford City
W. W. Corwin, Member from Fargo
A. M. Christensen, Member from Minot
Math Dahl, Commissioner of Agriculture & Labor, Bismarck
Fred J. Fredrickson, Planning Coordinator, Washington, D. C.
Milo W. Holsveen, Secretary and Chief Engineer, State Engineer, Bismarck

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Vice Chairman Tucker with Commissioners Einar Dahl, W. W. Corwin, A. M. Christensen and Math Dahl and Secretary Holsveen present. It was moved by Commissioner Einar Dahl and seconded by Commissioner Corwin that the Minutes of the September 15th meeting be approved. All members voted aye and said motion carried.

Commissioner Christensen moved that the Financial Statement for September be approved and filed in the office of the State Water Conservation Commission. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Einar Dahl. All members voted aye and said motion carried.

Vice Chairman Tucker read a telegram received from the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Williams County requesting a survey of the Little Muddy concerning the practicability of a dam for conservation and recreational facilities. A letter from Mr. A. O. Wang confirming said telegram was also read. It was moved by Commissioner Einar Dahl and seconded by Commissioner Christensen that Secretary Holsveen be authorized to conduct a survey along the Little Muddy River near Williston. All members voted aye and said motion carried.

Commissioner Einar Dahl inquired about the Williston Country Club water right which was deferred at the last Commission meeting. Secretary Holsveen stated that staff members have checked into the matter and felt that the agitation was caused by the fact that the Country Club had leased the land from the Corps of Engineers and instead of contacting adjacent landowners themselves had instructed the Sheriff to remove the former owner from the property. Secretary Holsveen further stated that a drill crew is expected to be on the job today to start initial work on the ancient Missouri River ground water survey. Commissioner Einar Dahl proposed that a drill hole be placed on or near the golf course to determine if ground water would be sufficient for use by the golf club. The findings will be made at a future meeting of the Commission.

Secretary Holsveen stated that he has been requested by the Richland County Water Conservation and Flood Control District to conduct a topographic survey of Rich-

land County for use in preparing an integrated drainage plan for the county. Commission crews are presently working on a topographic survey in an area of the county and the same should be completed this week. The District Board members have been so impressed with the job, that they now desire that the entire county be topoged. It is believed that this would aid materially in developing an over-all drainage program for the county, and would stimulate other Red River counties to do likewise. It was moved by Commissioner Math Dahl that topographic surveys be performed in the county at times that the work in Richland County will not adversely affect any other project and the same be limited to such areas as deemed necessary. Commissioner Corwin seconded said motion. All Commissioners voted aye and said motion carried.

Secretary Hoisveen read a letter written to Westgate Spray Concrete Company, Bismarck, relative to making repairs to various dams located on the Red River of the North. Mr. Westgate had forwarded the same to the State Water Conservation Commission inquiring as to the State's position in these projects. No Commission action was taken on the matter as all of the Commissioners indicated that if the City of Fargo desired to hire a private contractor that was up to them, but the Commission would not participate in the cost of such work. The letter was merely of an informative nature.

The survey authorized for the Walhalla Park has been completed according to Secretary Hoisveen and the proposed channel change seems most beneficial so far as the park is concerned. Commissioner Christensen moved that the State Water Conservation Commission contribute \$2,000 or one-fourth of the cost of the proposed project, whichever is the lesser amount, and the remaining costs to be assumed by local interests. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Corwin. All members voted aye and said motion carried.

Secretary Hoisveen stated that he had received a call from Mr. Charles Truax, County Engineer of Ward County, requesting that the State Water Conservation Commission prepare a survey and cost estimate of the Des Lacs Dam. A reconnaissance survey and preliminary estimate of said job would approximate \$18,000. Commissioner Christensen moved that Secretary Hoisveen be authorized to conduct a survey on Des Lacs Dam, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Math Dahl. All members voted aye and said motion carried.

Mr. Fred J. Fredrickson, Planning Coordinator for the State Water Conservation Commission, entered the meeting.

It was reported by Secretary Hoisveen that the National Reclamation Association Convention is scheduled to be held in Houston, Texas, on November 19, 20, and 21, 1958. He inquired as to whether or not the Commission members desired to have the Commission's exhibit on display at said convention if space is available. It was moved by Commissioner Math Dahl and seconded by Commissioner Einar Dahl that the State Water Conservation Commission's exhibit be displayed at said convention if adequate space is available. All members voted aye and said motion carried.

Commissioner Christensen moved that Commissioners Earle F. Tucker, Einar Dahl, W. W. Corwin, Secretary Hoisveen and one other staff member of the State Water Conservation Commission be authorized to attend the National Reclamation Association convention at Houston. All members voted aye and said motion carried.

It was stated by Secretary Hoisveen that the State Reclamation Association convention will hold its meeting at Fargo on October 26th and 27th and requested that Commission members be present. A Commission meeting has also been scheduled for 8:00 P.M., October 26th, at the Gardner Hotel.

Secretary Hoisveen stated that Mr. Elmo Christiansen and Mr. Wilfred Johnson of Cavalier presented a brief to the Chairman of the State Water Conservation Commission as to the inadequacy of a Highway Department bridge on the Tongue River. These gentlemen believed that the Highway Department should construct a new bridge with greater capacity to insure against ice jams at the bridge. At the request of the Governor a meeting was called with all interested parties. So far as the depreciation of the bridge is concerned, this is a matter for the Highway Department to determine. The Commission's interest is to determine the adequacy of the bridge to care for future flows. The capacity appeared adequate from a survey and computations made by Commission Engineers. An intangible problem is the reported ice jams that occur at the bridge because of the abrupt directional change of the channel as it enters the bridge. The Chief Engineer of the State Water Conservation Commission recommended that this approach to the bridge be corrected.

On Thursday, October 9th, the City Council of Gackle called on Secretary Hoisveen relative to a ground water survey for said city. According to Secretary Hoisveen they have indicated a desire to have a survey as soon as possible in view of a severe water shortage that occurred in that city during the past summer. Secretary Hoisveen stated that he had advised them that a survey this fall would be impossible but that if they forwarded their check in the amount of \$1500, this would give them a #1 priority for a municipal water survey next spring. It was moved by Commissioner Christensen and seconded by Commissioner Corwin that the City of Gackle be given a #1 priority as soon as said check arrives, and the Commission participate on the usual basis of one-fourth of the cost thereof. All members voted aye and said motion carried.

Secretary Hoisveen advised the Commissioners that a 2½ Ton International truck presently in use is rapidly depreciating. It has approximately 80,000 miles on it and is eight years old. Commissioner Math Dahl moved that Secretary Hoisveen be authorized to let bids and purchase a new truck, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Christensen. All members voted aye and said motion carried.

Secretary Hoisveen stated that two years ago a Hydro Crane was purchased from the Schultz Machinery Company but the same has not given the service that may be obtained from a Mobile cable type dragline. The Hydro Crane does not adapt itself to the excavation of dam site materials. The Commissioners recommended that Secretary Hoisveen check with various companies handling such equipment and report at a subsequent meeting of the State Water Conservation Commission.

An Agreement between Benson County, Ramsey County and the State Water Conservation Commission pertaining to work to be done on Ziebaugh Pass was read to the Commissioners. The Commission previously agreed to provide the necessary supervision for said job. It was moved by Commissioner Math Dahl and seconded by Commissioner Christensen that Secretary Hoisveen be authorized to expend not to exceed \$2,000 in costs in assisting with said project. All members voted aye and said motion carried.

Vice Chairman Tucker reported on the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Conference which he attended in Denver, Colorado, on October 2nd and 3rd. The conference was sponsored by the Farmers Union and Governor Davis had requested that a representative of the Commission attend said meeting. Commissioner Tucker stated that approximately 200 people were in attendance. The meeting was generally attended by advocates of public power. The speakers were national known leaders in the public power field.

Secretary Hoisveen read a letter received from General Seybold. General Seybold stated that he planned to be out of the United States for a period of several months and inquired if this would inconvenience the committee or delay the development of the Little Missouri Compact. It was agreed among the Commissioners that General Seybold should not be replaced and that his absence would in no way interfere with the formulation of the compact.

Mr. Fredrickson reported that appropriations amounting to \$10,000 for Homme Dam and \$23,000 for Ashtabula had been obtained during the past Congress. He stated that Senator Young had received a request from Colonel Desloge Brown, St. Paul Corps of Engineers, that would permit the Corps to remove the \$10,000 for use in conjunction with the Homme Dam project. Senator Young stated that conversations with the Corps indicated three reasons for the proposed withdrawal, they are: (1) No county wide park board has been appointed to assume responsibility for investments by the federal government in park facilities. (2) Vandalism has been unusually high and it has been necessary to call the Sheriff on at least one occasion to stop vandalism. (3) Little or no local interest has been shown by the public in the use of the park. The latter is controversial in view of numerous pictures that have been taken of the area which indicate crowds upward to several thousand people being present at the park. Members of the State Water Conservation Commission were of the opinion that every possible effort should be made to encourage local people to use the facilities and that a park board should be established to enhance the future of the recreational facilities provided at Homme Dam.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Waldo W. Hoisveen
Secretary

Attest:

John S. Davis
Governor