

STATE WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Held at Fargo, North Dakota
December 16, 1960

The meeting of the State Water Conservation Commission was held in connection with a luncheon in Fargo, North Dakota on December 16, 1960. Commissioners in attendance were:

Governor John Davis, Chairman
Oscar Lunseth, Member from Grand Forks
Mr. Math Dahl, Commissioner of Agriculture & Labor, Bismarck
William Corwin, Member from Fargo
A. R. Weinhardl, Member from Minot
Milo W. Hoisveen, Secretary & Chief Engineer, State Engineer, Bismarck

Others Present

Senator Milton R. Young
Senator Quentin Burdick
Representative Hjalmar Nygaard
Governor-Elect William Guy

Visitors

State Senator Trenbeath, Neche
State Senator O. E. S. Johnson, Langdon
Representative A. G. Christopher, Pembina
Representative Murray Baldwin, Fargo
Alf Olson, Fargo
Fred Hagen, Fargo
Henry Steinberger, Donnybrook
Oscar Berg, Minot
Fred Fredrickson, Valley City'
Andrew Mork, Mandan
G. A. Freeman, Bismarck
Mr. Haverty, Wahpeton
Mr. Arthur, Billings
Mr. Gubser, Billings
Mr. Shafer, Minneapolis'
L. C. Mueller, Oakes
Mr. Pung, Langdon
Mr. Solberg, Langdon
Dr. Hoffman, Walhalla
H. A. Hendrickson, Fargo
Mr. Christie, Langdon
Ed Thomson, Cavalier
Roy Holand, LaMoure
Russ Dushinski, Devils Lake
Mel Christopher, Washington, D.C.

The meeting was expressly called by Chairman Davis to review the Federal requirement for funds to initiate surveys and investigations on North Dakota Projects.

PEMBILIER DAM

Chairman Davis called upon Senators O.E.S. Johnson, Trenbeath and Christopher to inform the group as to the requirements of Pembilier Dam. Mr. Christopher reviewed the past flood conditions and the situation that existed relative to the feasibility of the project.

Senator Trenbeath informed the group of the action taken by the International Joint Commission in an effort to obtain the Pembilier Dam project through a cooperative effort with Canada.

Senator Johnson informed the group as to Cavalier County's interest in the project. He called upon Mr. Solberg of Langdon to comment relative to the project. Mr. Solberg stated that he had been informed that \$600,000 would be required to make the needed surveys in order to ascertain its feasibility. He implied that the work should proceed without additional surveys.

Senator Trenbeath, commenting on local requirements indicated that the local people could not do the job alone, as the assurances needed were so great it would impair feasibility.

Senator Young, when questioned about the appearances of local witnesses on future hearings for funds, indicated that it would be desirable.

It was suggested that \$85,000 would be needed to continue the studies on Pembilier Dam on the American side.

MISSOURI RIVER STABILIZATION

Governor Davis called on Andrew Mork, farmer residing along the Missouri River, to describe the situation that existed regarding bank erosion on that reach of the river between Bismarck and the Garrison Reservoir. Mr. Mork implied that the water is being released in a crystal clear condition and had ability only to pick up silt. As a consequence, the banks were being eroded at a greatly accelerated rate. He indicated immediate steps should be taken to initiate preventative measures to eliminate further erosion.

Senator Young thought such steps could be taken to the extent of three million dollars. He did not believe it would be possible for him to obtain funds in excess of this amount.

It was implied by Mr. Hoisveen that such a step would be deserving of consideration in the Square Butte Creek area, for should the Missouri River cut through at this point it would endanger the erosion of a vast acreage.

MISSOURI RIVER STATES COMMITTEE MEETING - COUNCIL BLUFFS

Governor-Elect Guy reported on the Missouri River States Committee meeting and the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee meeting which he attended December 13 and 14, 1960. He stated that the River States Committee passed an updated resolution which supported obtaining funds to correct the bank stabilization difficulties being encountered below the Garrison Reservoir.

Senator Young was requested to obtain \$15,000 for continuing the Corps of Engineers survey on the bank stabilization problem.

LAKE ALICE-LAKE IRVINE

Governor Davis called on State Engineer Hoisveen to

explain the situation that exists in the Lake Alice-Lake Irvine area. It was pointed out that a vast acreage was flooded repeatedly in that area which caused much hardship to the residents of that area. He described the need of constructing a control structure between Lake Alice and Lake Irvine in view of the canal that was being excavated for the purpose of passing flood waters from Lake Alice to Lake Irvine. It was estimated that \$45,000 would be required to install the necessary gaging structure. The Federal Fish and Wildlife was somewhat apprehensive over the installation of a control structure without owning the land on which it would be installed. The State Engineer implied that the State Water Conservation Commission could construct the control structure if Senator Young could obtain the funds for the work. It was also suggested that the Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, be granted funds in the amount of \$10,000 for use in connection with Mauvais Coulee studies.

WILDWOOD LAKE RESTORATION PROJECT

Senator Young stated he had met with a group of citizens in Bismarck relative to the Wildwood Lake restoration project. He inferred that he would attempt to obtain \$35,000 for the construction of dams and outlet needs that would insure the restoration of the project.

LOWER SHEYENNE RIVER FLOOD PROTECTIVE PROJECT

Mr. Fred Fredrickson stated that a meeting had been held in the West Fargo area with Senator Young whereby the needs of updating the Corps of Engineers survey was requested by that agency. Mr. Fredrickson stated that \$10,000 would be required by that agency to make the survey available for Congressional consideration. Senator Young was of the opinion that such a fund could be obtained.

SOURIS RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

The problem of obtaining funds for the Souris River Flood Control Project was discussed. Senator Young was of the opinion the \$30,000 made available to the Corps of Engineers during the last session of Congress would be adequate to complete the work. This would be true if augmented by survey work on the part of the State Water Commission. The State Engineer reported that Commission crews were now making surveys of the Souris River at the request of the Corps. The information obtained from such surveys would be made available to the Corps at the earliest possible date.

GREEN RIVER PROJECT

It was requested that an additional \$10,000 be obtained through the North Dakota Congressional Representation for use in connection with the Green River flood control project. The project at the present time envisions the use of a dam which could be employed for municipal water supply for the cities of Belfield and Dickinson, flood control, recreation and other uses.

SOUTHWEST NORTH DAKOTA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The matter of recommending legislation to create the Southwest North Dakota Development District was again reviewed by the members of the Commission. Mr. Math Dahl stated he had requested the recommendation of the Southwest District legislation be delayed until such a time as he could study the proposed legislation. He indicated that he made such a study and felt no reservation in recommending that the state legislature give it its unqualified study and subsequent passage.

Mr. Oscar Lunseth indicated concern over the fact that projects within the district could be constructed over the protest of 51% of the voters. He inferred that all cities are required to reconsider extensive improvements if objections to such be 51% of the property owners in the district. It was pointed out that this legislation was a duplicate of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District legislation and no such clause was included in that legislation. It was also pointed out that a great deal of difficulty and time would be required to obtain the signatures of 51% of the property owners in the 14 counties. The Commission members then agreed to recommend the Southwest North Dakota Development District legislation for consideration by the Legislature as substantially as written. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

SUGAR BEET ACREAGE
CARRINGTON IRRIGATION
EXPERIMENTAL FARM

The matter proposed by Mr. Larry McDonald of the Northern Pacific Railroad relative to raising of sugar beets on the Carrington Development farm was considered. Secretary Hoisveen indicated that he had contacted Dean Arlon Hazen regarding this matter and Dean Hazen indicated that considerable difficulty would be encountered in raising of beets in accordance with Mr. McDonald's suggestion. He had discussed this matter with Mr. McDonald at a meeting held in Jamestown on or about November 3, 1960 and was of the opinion that the situation had been resolved. In fact he appeared a little surprised that it was again being considered. Mr. G. A. Freeman of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, was of the opinion that some beets should be raised on the Carrington farm to depict to irrigation landowners the value of beets in an irrigated farm economy. Mr. Freeman pointed out that beets had been raised under irrigation in North Dakota with the yield approximating 25 ton to the acre. It was suggested that Messrs Hoisveen and Freeman discuss this matter with Dean Hagen to the extent that beets should be raised for experimental and demonstration purposes.

There being no further business, the meeting
adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Milo W. Hoisveen
Secretary

ATTEST:

John E. Davis
Governor