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STATE WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
Held in Plainsmen Hotel
Williston, North Dakota
November 9, 1953

A regular meeting of the North Dakota State Water Conservation Commission was called to order on November 9, 1953, at the Plainsmen Hotel in Williston, North Dakota, to consider regular business matters and to meet with the delegation from the Big Meadow Project. The following were present:

MEMBERS OF STATE WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Honorable Norman Brunsdale, Governor and Ex-Officio Chairman
Einar H. Dahl, Member from Watford City, North Dakota
Curtis Olson, Vice-Chairman, Member from Valley City
Oscar Lunseth, Member from Grand Forks, North Dakota
Math Dahl, Member from Bismarck, Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor
J. J. Walsh, Secretary and Chief Engineer, State Engineer
Milo W. Hoisveen, Assistant State Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING: Delegation representing the Big Meadow Project

A. C. Hankey, Landowner, Temple, North Dakota
Harris Olson, landowner, Wildrose, North Dakota
Edward Grimsrud, landowner, Wildrose, North Dakota
Thore Rosenfold, landowner, Ray, North Dakota
Erling Olson, landowner, Temple, North Dakota

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 o'clock a.m. by Governor Brunsdale with Commissioners Einar Dahl, Curtis Olson, Math Dahl, Oscar Lunseth and Secretary J. J. Walsh present.

It was moved by Commissioner Curtis Olson and seconded by Commissioner Math Dahl that the Minutes of the meetings of the State Water Conservation Commission held on September 11, September 29, and November 3, 1953, be approved. Upon roll call of the Commissioners, all voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Einar Dahl and seconded by Commissioner Math Dahl that the Financial Statements for September and October, 1953, be approved and filed in the office of the State Water Conservation Commission. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Mr. Milo Hoisveen, Assistant State Engineer, and the delegation from Big Meadow consisting of A.C. Hankey, Harris Olson, Edward Grimsrud, Thore Rosenfold and Erling Olson entered the meeting at 10:05 o'clock a.m. Mr. Hoisveen explained the plan of construction of the proposed drainage works to the members of the State Water Conservation Commission. The delegation came to discuss the present plans and estimates of the Big Meadow project to learn whether there would be any possibility of obtaining financial assistance from the State Water Conservation Commission for the construction of the Big Meadow project. They reported a hearing is to be held on November 17, 1953, to allow anyone that may be opposed to the creation of a district to present their objections to the proposed reclamation project during the hearing.

There was some question as to whether or not this project could come under the existing drainage law and thereby get assistance from the State Water Conservation Commission. It was decided that Secretary J. J. Walsh should write to the Attorney General requesting an opinion on this matter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Einar Dahl and seconded by Commissioner Oscar Lunseth that the State Water Conservation Commission would assist in the construction costs of the Big Meadow project on a 40-60% basis and under the existing rules and regulations as approved by the State Water Conservation Commission and as required by other drainage projects, also depending upon the amount of funds available at the time the 1953 appropriation is allocated, and whether the opinion of the Attorney General approves the action of the Commission. Upon roll call by Governor Brunsdale, Commissioners Einar Dahl, Curtis Olson, Oscar Lunseth, Math Dahl and Governor Brunsdale all voted aye. Motion carried.

The delegation from Big Meadow left the meeting at 10:55 o'clock a.m.

An agreement for the repair of the Sheyenne Dam was read to the Commissioners. Commissioner Curtis Olson made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Math Dahl that the Secretary be authorized to sign the agreement with the City of Sheyenne for the repair of the Sheyenne Dam for 1/3 of the cost, however, if the State Game and Fish Department find that they are unable to contribute 1/3, the Commission shall pay all costs over the \$1,000.00 agreed to by the City of Sheyenne. Upon roll call by Governor Brunsdale, Commissioners Curtis Olson, Einar Dahl, Math Dahl, Oscar Lunseth, and Governor Brunsdale all voted aye. Motion carried.

An agreement for the repair of the Fessenden Dam in the amount of \$3,500.00 was read to the Commissioners. Commissioner Curtis Olson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Math Dahl, authorizing the Secretary to sign the agreement whereby the State Water Conservation Commission would pay 1/2 towards the repair of the Fessenden Dam in Wells County, North Dakota. Upon roll call by Governor Brunsdale, Commissioners Curtis Olson, Einar Dahl, Oscar Lunseth, Math Dahl and Governor Brunsdale all voted aye and the motion carried.

Letters from the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad and the Grant County Auditor concerning the maintenance of the Raleigh Dam in Grant County, North Dakota, were read to the Commissioners by Secretary Walsh.

Secretary Walsh read a letter from Fred C. Hagen, Commissioner of Water Works to the Great Lakes Pipe Line Company in Fargo, North Dakota, concerning their underground pipe lines and the possibility of pollution of the Red River.

A letter written by W. Van Heuvelen, Director of the Division of Water Pollution Control, to the Queen City Refining Company in Dickinson, North Dakota, was read to the Commissioners. It was the thought of the Commission that the refinery company should apply for a water-right application. Secretary Walsh is to write to the Queen City Refining Company and explain this matter.

A progress report from P.D. Akin, District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey, Grand Forks, North Dakota, was presented to the Commissioners for their information on ground-water surveys conducted in North Dakota.

Secretary Walsh read a letter from Oscar N. Berg, Executive Secretary of the Missouri-Souris Projects Association, Minot, North Dakota, acknowledging the subscription check of \$1,000.00 sent to the Missouri-Souris Projects Association by the State Water Conservation Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Curtis Olson and seconded by Commissioner Oscar Lunseth that the State Water Conservation Commission will supply the pamphlet entitled "Conservation News" to any interested organization in North Dakota. Upon a unanimous vote of the Commissioners, the motion carried.

A letter from Dr. Wilson M. Laird, State Geologist, concerning the building of a well for the Ritchie Nature Memorial Camp on Lake Ashtabula was read to the Commissioners. It was the opinion of the Commission that the State Water Conserva-

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tion Commission could not participate in the construction of wells of this type. Secretary Walsh is to write to Dr. Laird explaining this fact.

A letter from Manfred R. Ohnstad, Secretary of the Board of the Cass County Drain Commissioners, was read to the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Math Dahl and seconded by Commissioner Oscar Lunseth that after completion of the drain, Secretary Walsh should make a field inspection to see if the work is completed according to plans and specifications on file in the office of the State Water Conservation Commission. If the work is satisfactory, the Commission will then pay their 40% share amounting to approximately \$510.67. Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

A voucher was received from C.T. Bechtle, Clerk of the Barnes County Drainage Board, for the construction of Barnes County Drain #1 in the amount of \$9,596.79, the state share being \$3,838.72. A motion was made by Commissioner Math Dahl, seconded by Commissioner Oscar Lunseth, that the voucher in the amount of \$3,838.72 for the construction of Barnes County Drain #1 be approved and submitted to the State Auditor for payment. Upon roll call by Governor Brunsdale, Commissioners Math Dahl, Curtis Olson, Einar Dahl, Oscar Lunseth and Governor Brunsdale all voted aye. Motion carried.

A letter from Bruce Johnson, District Manager, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, concerning the Western Heart River Irrigation District was read to the Commissioners by Secretary Walsh.

There was no action taken by the Commission on the water-rights up for approval. A list of all approved and pending water-rights and the streams they are appropriated from is to be presented to the Commissioners at their next regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 o'clock noon, to reconvene at 4:15 o'clock p.m. in the Junior Chamber of Commerce Room in Williston, North Dakota. The following were present:

MEMBERS OF STATE WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Honorable Norman Brunsdale, Governor and Ex-Officio Chairman
Curtis Olson, Vice-Chairman, Member from Valley City
Oscar Lunseth, Member from Grand Forks
Math Dahl, Member from Bismarck and Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor
Einar H. Dahl, Member from Watford City
J. J. Walsh, Secretary and Chief Engineer, State Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

William Davidson, President of First National Bank and Rancher, Williston
Joe Paulson, Secretary of the Lewis & Clark Project, Williston
Leonard Green, Director of the Lewis & Clark Project, Williston
Tom Kelly, Representing the Buford-Trenton Irrigation Project
Walter Burke, Attorney and Farmer on the Lewis & Clark Project, Williston
Mr. Lee, Member of the City Commission, Williston
Harry Polk, Editor of the Williston Paper, Williston
Bruce Johnson, District Manager, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Bismarck

Governor Norman Brunsdale called the meeting to order at 4:15 o'clock p.m. in the Junior Chamber of Commerce Room in Williston, North Dakota, with the above mentioned persons present.

Governor Brunsdale asked Mr. Walter Burke, Attorney, Williston, North Dakota, to give his opinion as to the level of the Garrison pool.

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Mr. Burke said that the people of Williston agree that if the pool level is kept at 1850 feet, they will be unable to save any of their irrigation projects. The soils around Williston are silty lying on top of a gravel bed a couple of hundred feet deep according to seismograph crews. They would be in favor of maintaining a lower operating reservoir level, between about 1838 and 1840 feet, and anything over and above this figure used for flood control and protection.

Governor Brunsdale and members of the State Water Conservation Commission felt that the people in the Williston area should have protection against floods by the construction of levees which is the only safe method to afford protection to Williston, Buford-Trenton, Lewis & Clark project and farm and ranch lands.

There was an objection voiced by Mr. William Davidson to the construction of levees. It was Mr. Davidson's understanding that the levees would be constructed close to the railroad track and all his land would be inundated or flooded during high reservoir stages.

Mr. Green and Mr. Paulson said that there would be no objections to the construction of levees if they were located close to the river bank and extend from hill to hill. Some landowners preferred to grant easements for the area to be flooded above the 1840 foot level but were objecting to the Corps of Engineers plan for the purchase of lands above that level.

Governor Brunsdale asked Mr. Bruce Johnson, District Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Bismarck, whether the 1840 foot level would be of sufficient height to allow the Bureau of Reclamation to divert water from Snake Creek over the divide as proposed in the new plan. Mr. Johnson assured the Governor and others present that it was his understanding that the operating pool level of 1838 or 1840 would be of sufficient height to permit the Bureau to operate the pumping plant and what was formerly known as the 1850 foot pool level would be the maximum height of the water during the spring runoff and during periods of maximum floods.

In discussing the pool level and capacity, the Williston delegation were of the opinion that the original plan called for the maximum capacity of the reservoir to contain 17,000,000 acre feet. It was their understanding that that was part of the original law, however, they did not have any objection to the height of the dam being built to an elevation of 1874. They were in agreement with the spillway sill being constructed at 1828. The only thing they were fighting for is that the normal operating level of the pool should not exceed 1840 feet.

The members of the Williston delegation as voiced by Mr. Harry Polk were of the opinion that the State Water Conservation Commission as a state organization would have much more value and influence before the members of Congress whenever the matter is brought up again, and requested the Water Commission to appear on their behalf when it does.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 o'clock p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

ATTEST:


Chairman