

**MINUTES OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING
OF THE
STATE WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Held in the Commission Office, State Capitol, April 30, 1943.

An emergency meeting of the State Water Conservation Commission was called to order at 1:30 P.M., Friday, April 30, 1943, in the Commission Office at the Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota. Governor John Moses acted as Chairman. Roll was called with Commissioners Simons, Orlady and Thompson present. Commissioner Dahl absent. Judge R. H. Sherman of the Board of Administration, and Mr. L. G. Thompson, Superintendent of the State Training School, Mandan, were also present.

Comm. Simons read the opinion of the Attorney General regarding the dike at the State Training School. Discussion on the opinion followed.

Mr. L. G. Thompson stated that the flood washed out about one third of the dike which has been built over a period of several years. If the dike at the Training School is not repaired, it means that the water will flood the Training School land during the June rise as the Mandan dike will throw all the water on the Training School. I think we have \$800.00 that was appropriated for the two years period beginning July 1 for the maintenance and repair and fixing the dike from time to time. There is no emergency fund or contemplation of this damage.

Mr. Orlady: How much is your estimate of the cost of repairing the dike?

Mr. L. G. Thompson: About \$6,000.

Governor: How much can be legally transferred?

Mr. L. G. Thompson: Very little. When you transfer from a \$800 fund, 10% is all you can transfer.

Governor: You would want the Water Commission to pay \$5,920.

Mr. L. G. Thompson: The \$6,000 is an estimate by the engineer who is the employee of a construction company over there and that is not the offer that has been made to the Army Engineers. He is sure it will be within a \$1,000 of the estimate. He has figured the moving of dirt, etc. The \$6,000 is the figure he has arrived at but they have not settled for that figure. There is no agreement by the Army and him.

Governor: What appropriation (emergency) has the Board of Administration.

Judge Sherman: About \$15,000 damage has been done to the buildings at the Training School and there is approximately \$8,000 in the Emergency Fund.

Governor: You could take that and build a dike. Then you have about \$15,000 damage to the buildings. You will have to use some of your own money out of the emergency fund in addition to the \$8,080. How much can you spend out of the Emergency Fund?

Judge Sherman: About \$1,100 is committed so it leaves about \$8,000 for the Training School. Whatever we use on the dike will be less for the buildings.

Governor: How much do you think you can use on the dike?

Judge Sherman: We could use it all and let the buildings go. We need it all for the buildings.

Governor: There is no question that the appropriation of \$50,000 is not earmarked for the Red River Valley. Everybody knows that the \$50,000 was intended to dig drainage ditches, to make plans and surveys to assist in draining off the Red River Valley.

Comm. Simons: If we are going into that, the money was appropriated for irrigation mostly in the western part of the State. Some of it has been spent in the eastern part of the state for investigations, etc.

Comm. Orlady: Is there any possibility of getting money from the Morton County Commissioners?

Comm. Thompson: The best we could hope to do with the \$50,000 would be for investigations, etc. We cannot spend \$50,000 for this one job.

Governor: I am not willing to spend any of the Commissioners money for this until every other avenue has been exhausted. Judge Sherman, how much will your Emergency Fund be for the beginning of the fiscal year?

Judge Sherman: It is \$20,000 for all the institutions.

Mr. L. G. Thompson: There is damage to the floor of the gymnasium which will have to be replaced, but I think we can take care of that. The increase we received in our budget applies largely to salaries and maintenance. Our appropriation for repairs and equipment was not at all high.

Judge Sherman: Our appropriation will not become effective until July 1st.

Governor: If the present Emergency Fund of the Board of Administration is not spent before July 1st, it will be lost.

Comm. Thompson: How much of the \$6,000 is for engineering?

Governor: No part of it.

Governor: I think we can justify the expenditure under the decision of the Attorney General.

Mr. L. G. Thompson: We has an architect and he figured that the estimate was \$15,000 for buildings, not counting labor. There is a tile floor in one building and maple floors in others that will have to be repaired.

Comm. Simons: What was the value of the agricultural production on this land that is protected by this dike last year?

Mr. L. G. Thompson: It protected about 340 acres of the very best land of the Training School, where all the truck farming is done. \$10,000 would probably be the minimum.

Comm. Simons: Could you furnish a statement of the amount of produce?

Mr. L. G. Thompson: Yes.

Mr. Tucker: Would the dike at the Training School be the same height as the Mandan Dike?

Mr. L. G. Thompson: No, it would not be.

Mr. J. R. Fitzsimmons and Mr. Mike Gerving, Morton County Commissioners, came into the meeting. They would like to know if there are any funds to help Morton

County build bridges, etc.

Governor: We have no money for such. The items in House Bill No. 77 were read. They do not cover any bridge work.

Mr. Tucker: I contacted Mr. Michelson and he says his commission is willing to consider county bonds.

Morton County Commissioners left the meeting.

Comm. Orlady: Going back to the situation at the Training School. Say the Commission pay \$3,000 out of the appropriation and the Board of Administration pay \$3,000 of their \$8,000 fund.

Comm. Simons: I move that we pay up to 50% of the cost of the repair and reconstruction of the dike of the State Training School, not to exceed \$3,500. It is understood that the State Training School and/or the State Board of Administration will make up the difference from funds appropriated by the State Legislature and useable for this purpose.

The Buildings to be protected suffered approximately \$15,000 in the Heart River Flood last March and the land to be protected produced in 1942 vegetables and other crops used by the School to a value of \$11,000.

Comm. Thompson seconded the motion.

Roll was called with Commissioner Simons, Thompson, Orlady and Governor Moses voting aye. Motion carried.

Judge Sherman: It is estimated that it will cost \$6,000 or within a \$1,000 thereon, one way or the other to repair the dike. The Army Engineers are now ready to do the work. The estimated expense outside of the dike construction is \$15,000 and may be more, that is repairs to the buildings. The Emergency Fund of the Board of Administration for the two year period beginning July 1, 1943, is \$20,000 for all the state institutions.

Mr. Tucker: On February 17 we opened the campaign on the drainage job before the bill was ever taken up. We have reports from Richland, Sargent, Traill and Pembina Counties regarding work they want done. We have a man working in Richland County at the present time.

Governor: I believe that a meeting of County Commissioners of the Red River Valley Drainage Basin would be a good plan.

Comm. Orlady: I move that the Water Commission meet with the County Commissioners of the counties in the Red River Valley Drainage Basin in Fargo on May 12 for the purpose of discussing the drainage problems in the Valley, and the work to be done by the Water Commission in connection with the appropriation to promote the maintenance of existing drainage channels in good agricultural lands and to construct any needed channels.

Comm. Thompson seconded the motion.

Roll was called with Commissioners Simons, Orlady and Thompson, and Governor Moses voting aye. Motion carried.

Comm. Thompson moved that the State Water Conservation Commission pay the expenses of Secretary Tucker and Mr. Halvorson to the 8 state Compact Meeting in Omaha, May 21.

Comm. Orlady seconded the motion.

Roll was called with Commissioners Simons, Orlady and Thompson and Governor Moses voting aye. Motion carried.

Governor Moses left the meeting.

Discussion on the Contract between the United States and the State Water Conservation Commission was held.

Comm. Orlady moved to authorize the Secretary to make changes in the contract as outlined. Comm. Thompson seconded the motion.

Roll was called with Commissioners Simons, Orlady and Thompson voting aye. Motion carried.

The purchase of a pump for the Victory Gardens at Bismarck was discussed. Comm. Orlady moved that the Secretary be instructed to purchase the pump for the Victory Gardens. Comm. Thompson seconded the motion.


Roll was called with Commissioners Simons, Orlady and Thompson voting aye. Motion carried.

Comm. Thompson moved to build ditch down to the bridge piers. Comm. Orlady seconded the motion.

Roll was called with Commissioners Simons, Orlady and Thompson voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

ATTEST: 

SEAL