

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STATE WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Held in the Office of the State Water Conservation Commission
Bismarck, North Dakota, May 8, 1947

A meeting of the North Dakota State Water Conservation Commission was held in the office of the Water Conservation Commission in the State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota, on May 8, 1947, with the following individuals present:

State Water Commission

Honorable Fred G. Aandahl - Governor & Ex Officio Chairman
Kenneth W. Simons - Vice Chairman
Einar H. Dahl - Commissioner from Watford City
Sivert Thompson - Commissioner from Devils Lake
J. J. Walsh, Secretary and Chief Engineer
Einar Berge - Publicity Manager

Others

Mr. Curtis Olson, Mayor, Valley City, N. Dak.
Mr. Fred Hagen, City Commissioner, Fargo, N. Dak.

The meeting was called to order by Governor Aandahl at 9:45 a.m., with the following present: Gov. Fred G. Aandahl, Kenneth W. Simons, Einar H. Dahl, Sivert Thompson, J. J. Walsh, Sec. and Einar Berge. Members of the Commission discussed the New Rockford meeting and the plans for the development of the Missouri-Souris Project, also appropriations for continued construction work on the Garrison Dam.

Judge Christianson entered the meeting at 10:00 a.m., and discussed the financing of the Sioux Irrigation Project and assessments, now delinquent by the Jacobson estate. Plans were made for Judge Christianson, J. J. Walsh and Einar H. Dahl to go up and arrange for a settlement in connection with this matter.

Vice Chairman, Kenneth Simons, moved that the minutes of the March 12 meeting be approved. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. The financial statements of March and April were discussed. Commissioner Thompson moved the financial statements be approved. Commissioner Dahl seconded the motion. Warehouses at Fort Lincoln, as a storage place for cement and other materials, by the State Water Commission, was also considered at this time, and the Commissioners instructed the Secretary to investigate the matter.

Governor Aandahl proposed that before the next meeting, the Secretary should contact all the Counties that were allocated funds for construction and reconstruction of drains, and have them submit a report to the Commission stating the amount they are going to have under contract by July. Requests from Counties for additional allocations should be here by the next meeting, on May 21.

The status of allocation drainage funds was particularly discussed with regard to counties that have contracts let, but are unable to proceed, pending action of the courts. Drain #50, Walsh-Pembina Counties, is being held up now. Gov. Aandahl favored having news released to the effect that there will be a final meeting before the Commissioners' trip to Washington, on the allocation of drainage funds, and for the purpose of last preparations for presentations of statements before appropriations

committees in Washington. This meeting was scheduled for the 21st of May, and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Curtis Olson, Mayor of Valley City and Fred Hagen, City Commissioner of Fargo, came into the meeting at 10:35 a.m. to report on progress made in securing assurances required from the Eastern North Dakota Water Development Association. Mr. Fred Hagen reported on the Baldhill situation and the progress being made by the Eastern North Dakota Water Development Association. He said Fargo had met their allotted share and have given assurances in connection with the construction and maintenance of the diversion dam. He mentioned that all other cities of the Eastern North Dakota Water Development Association have given assurances, excepting Griggs County. It was suggested by the Commissioners that the Counties belonging to the Eastern North Dakota Water Development Association enter into a compromise agreement with Griggs County, and that "if the Griggs County commissioners will assure us by resolution that they are willing to work out an adjustment with the Eastern North Dakota Water Development Association, and will not hold the North Dakota State Water Conservation Commission liable, the Commission will be ready to present these assurances to the Army Engineers."

The Commission suggested that special easement forms should be prepared and approved by county commissioners in counties where highways and bridges will be flooded, to accompany assurances.

Mr. Olson and Mr. Hagen left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

The meeting re-convened at 1:00 p.m.

A telegram received from Senator Milton R. Young, stating that Under Secretary Chapan of the Department of the Interior had suspended the opening of the Bowman County lands to homesteading, indefinitely, was then read, and the action of the Secretary of the Interior approved.

Concerning the Department of Agriculture statistician seeking financial cooperation from the Water Commission, it was the opinion of the Commission that the Legislature did not provide any funds for that type of cooperation.

The State Examiner's report on the financial condition of the State Water Conservation Commission was read, and Commissioner Dahl moved that the report of the State Examiner be accepted and placed on file. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.

Mr. Krebsbach's request to install another 18" pipe outlet from Cedar Lake Dam for irrigation purposes was reviewed. The Commissioners agreed that they would grant him the right, subject to the approval of the Game and Fish Department, and that he should be instructed to submit the regular form of application according to instructions issued by the State Water Conservation Commission. The Secretary was instructed to write him stating his request will be approved, providing he conforms to the requirements of the law and receives the approval of the State Game and Fish Department.

The following water rights were then brought before the members of the Commission for their approval:

- Great Northern Railway
- Otter Tail Power Company
- Great Plains Station - Renewal of old water right
- Ronald E. Stuart
- Lawrence Fradet
- Gibbs Spring - Hadden and Schule

In regard to the Lawrence Fradet water right application, the Secretary was instructed to write him that further investigations would have to be made, as the Commission felt they had to be very careful about granting water rights for irrigating purposes on the Sheyenne River now when the Baldhill Dam is in progress of construction for conserving the use of water for municipal water supply purposes.

Commissioner Dahl moved that the request of the U. S. Great Plains Agricultural Station be granted a duplicate water right. This was seconded by Mr. Thompson.

Regarding the Great Northern, Otter Tail Company and the Ronald E. Stuart water right requests, Commissioner Thompson made the following motion: "I move that these water rights be granted in accordance with the records." Commissioner Dahl seconded the motion.

No action was taken on the Hadden & Schule, Gibbs Spring water right, until further investigations could be made.

The annual subscription to the National Reclamation Association of \$300 was brought before the Commission for their approval. Commissioner Dahl moved that the amount be paid to the Association. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. The Governor then called roll, with all commissioners voting aye.

The Bureau of Reclamation Reports for March and April were discussed by the Commissioners.

A memorandum prepared by Dr. Laird, State Geologist, and Mr. Dennis, in charge of ground water investigations for the U. S. Geological Survey, was then read and discussed by the members of the Commission. The Governor recommended that the State make available during the first year of the biennium, \$25,000.00 for matching purposes with the U. S. Geological Survey ground water division. In the event Federal funds are not available during the first year, the Commission will match their share with local political subdivisions on a 50-50 basis. In regard to the drilling machine, the Commission decided that as long as there was any uncompleted drilling work to be done in North Dakota, the machine should remain on this side before being used in the Moorhead area.

Before the close of the meeting, Governor Aandahl handed Commissioners Sivert Thompson and Einar H. Dahl certificates of reappointment as members of the North Dakota State Water Conservation Commission for another term of six years, their terms to expire July 1, 1953.

The Commission went into executive session at 2:45 p.m., Mr. Berge leaving the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

ATTEST:


Chairman