

## STATE SANITARY AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF FIFTH MEETING

September 15, 1939

A meeting of the State Sanitary Authority was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Harold Wendel, at 10:00 A.M., in the offices of the State Board of Health, 816 Oregon Bldg., Portland. Other members present were Mr. Albert Burch, Dr. Frederick D. Stricker, Mr. Charles E. Stricklin and Mr. John C. Veatch. Mr. Hallock was absent.

MINUTES of the previous meeting, held on July 7, were read and approved.

DEFINITION OF POLLUTION: In response to a request from the chairman, the secretary reported upon his conference with the state attorney general, Mr. I. H. Van Winkle, regarding a definition of the term "pollution". The attorney general advised the Authority not to attempt to define "pollution" at this time, but, instead, to devote its time, primarily, to the control of sewage and industrial wastes which are known to cause water pollution.

PORTLAND PROJECT: Mr. Burch reported that, following the last Authority meeting on July 7, he and the secretary conferred with City Commissioner William A. Bowes, regarding the status of the Portland sewage disposal project. Mr. Bowes advised the Authority representatives that Portland had retained a Board of Engineering Review to study its sewage disposal problem and report to the city council. He also indicated his desire to cooperate with the Authority in every way possible.

FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LEGISLATION: The secretary advised the Authority that congress had adjourned without having enacted any of the federal bills pertaining to water pollution control.

ACTIVITIES: The secretary next read a report of activities for the months of July and August, and copies of the report were distributed to all members present.

PORTLAND SEWAGE DISPOSAL PROJECT: Commissioner of Public Works, William A. Bowes, and city engineer, Ben S. Morrow, of Portland, appeared before the Authority, at the city's request, to discuss the Portland sewage disposal project and to obtain from the Authority approval of its proposed plan to discharge Portland sewage into the Columbia river. Mr. Bowes and Mr. Morrow discussed recommendations of the city's Engineering Board of Review. Mr. Bowes stated that it was the desire of the city to have the approval of all federal and state agencies concerned with the problem of water pollution control, before the city proceeds with the sewage disposal project.

After a thorough discussion of matters pertaining to dilution, oxygen balance, effect on fish life and the uses of the Columbia river water below Portland, MOTION, it was moved by Mr. Burch, seconded by Mr. Veatch, and carried, that the discharge of Portland sewage into the Columbia river, after it has been given treatment in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the city's Engineering Board of Review report, dated August 19, 1939, be approved.

FIELD SURVEYS: The data collected during sanitary surveys of Columbia slough, and the Tualatin, Pudding and Sandy rivers were discussed briefly. Dr. Stricker reported that he had received a complaint regarding algae growths in the Tualatin river, and he requested that the secretary transmit to Governor Sprague data regarding the findings of sanitary surveys made on the stream.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR SPRAGUE: Chairman Wendel

advised the Authority he had written to the governor, outlined what had been done by the Authority, and asked for suggestions from the chief executive. Mr. Wendel read Governor Sprague's reply, in which the governor indicated that he was satisfied with the work which was being done by the Authority, and that he realized that the Authority was handicapped by lack of sufficient funds to carry on an extensive program.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET:** The budget for the quarterly period of October, November and December was discussed in detail, after which it was moved by Dr. Stricker, seconded by Mr. Stricklin, and carried, that the budget be approved as prepared by the secretary.

The secretary was instructed to obtain a permanent record book in which to keep the minutes of all meetings. Permission was also granted for mimeographing copies of the Sanitary Authority law.

**STANDARDS OF PURITY:** Mr. Veatch initiated a discussion regarding the establishment of standards of purity for the various waters of the state. It was agreed that the secretary should gather as much data on this subject as possible, in order that the Authority may later give serious consideration to the establishment of standards.

**STIMULATION OF CITY SEWAGE TREATMENT PROJECTS:** The need for stimulation of sewage treatment projects in certain communities was raised by Chairman Wendel. The secretary was instructed to address letters to city officials who have not replied to the Authority's questionnaire, mailed on April 20, 1939. He was further directed to encourage or stress the need of treatment plants in such cities as his judgment may indicate desirable. It was also pointed out that the Authority's inability to provide detailed engineering services to cities, on such matters, should be made known.

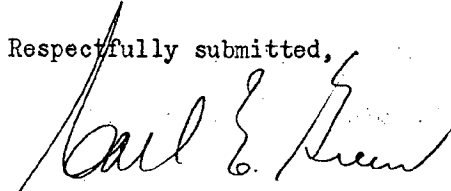
Chairman Wendel directed the secretary to call the Portland

papers regarding publicity on the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon, to convene at 10:00 A.M.,

December 15, 1939.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl E. Green, Secretary,  
State Sanitary Authority.