

## STATE SANITARY AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF TENTH MEETING

September 20, 1940

The meeting of the State Sanitary Authority was called to order at 10:05 A. M., September 20, in the offices of the State Board of Health, 816 Oregon Bldg., in Portland.

Those present were Chairman Harold F. Wendel, Dr. Frederick D. Stricker and the Messrs. Albert Burch, Blaine Hallock and John C. Veatch.

MINUTES: Copies of the minutes having been supplied to the members in advance, the chairman, with the consent of the board, dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of June 21.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: The secretary reviewed briefly the contents of the activities report for the months of May, June, July and August, 1940.

PROPOSED PORTLAND SEWAGE DISPOSAL PROJECT: Chairman Wendel read an opinion received from the state attorney general, relative to the Portland sewage disposal project, in which the Authority was advised that an order requiring sewage treatment could not be issued until after a public hearing had been held. Chairman Wendel also read a letter from Commissioner Wm. A. Bowes, of Portland, relative to the present status of the Portland project. He augmented this by a review of a conversation which he held with Commissioner Bowes, in which it was stated that the city council feared that an injunction suit might be filed against the city council if a higher sewer rental service charge were to be levied than that called for in Ordinance No. 74011, which became effective August 1, 1940. Mr. Burch suggested the possibility of holding a public hearing on the Portland project. Chairman Wendel advised waiting until after the city elections are over before holding

such a hearing. A general discussion of the matter followed, in which Mr. Hallock suggested working out the preliminary plans with the state attorney general, in order that a hearing might later be held. Mr. Burch recommended that an informal discussion with the city council be held after the November election, for the purpose of determining whether the council, as then constituted, may proceed more rapidly than at present.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Veatch, and unanimously carried, that the Portland sewage disposal problem insofar as it concerns the Sanitary Authority, be allowed to remain in status quo for the present and until after the forthcoming November election, and then, at such time, the Sanitary Authority should ascertain the plans of the new city council in an informal discussion; that, following a determination of the council's intentions, the Sanitary Authority would then decide whether or not to proceed with a public hearing and legal action if the city council does not voluntarily proceed in a satisfactory manner.

Chairman Wendel requested the secretary to obtain additional data and make a study of the following matters:

1. A study of the Portland city charter amendment approved by the people, which permits the levying of sewer service charges for the purpose of ascertaining the maximum revenue that might be raised under the charter amendment.
2. A study of the proceedings and recommendations of the Board of Equalization, wherein the Board recommended sewer rental charges and estimated the amount of monies which might be collected under the proposed schedule.
3. An opinion as to whether or not the Board of Equaliza-

tion did not recommend a smaller charge than should have been recommended.

4. An estimate of the amount of money which may be raised by sewer service charges under the present city ordinance adopted July 5, 1940.
5. An estimate of cost for conducting surveys and for preparing preliminary plans for construction, and an estimate of cost for all engineering involved in completion of the entire project.

Mr. Wendel suggested a thorough study of the financial aspects of the project before proceeding too far with orders or public hearings, in order that the Sanitary Authority be sure of its ground in advance of public hearings. Mr. Hallock stated that the solution of the financial problems facing the city of Portland was a matter which the city of Portland should find a solution for, rather than the Sanitary Authority. Mr. Burch raised the question of whether or not the city had been using due diligence in carrying on the project. He contended that members of the city council were not using due diligence.

**PORTLAND SEWERAGE SYSTEM:** The secretary advised the Authority of plans for the construction of a trunk sewer to serve the Carson Heights-Burlingame districts of Portland, where inadequate sewage disposal has been a menace to the health of the people. The proposed trunk sewer will connect to existing sewers without the construction of an additional outfall.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Mr. Burch, seconded by Mr. Hallock, and unanimously carried, that the Sanitary Authority approve of the proposed work with the qualification that such approval in no way granted approval for the discharge of untreated sewage into the waters of the state.

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COLUMBIA RIVER POLLUTION SURVEY: At the request of Chairman Wendel, the secretary read a proposed interstate agreement between the Washington State Pollution Commission and the Oregon State Sanitary Authority, for the purpose of conducting a joint pollution survey of the Columbia river.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Veatch, seconded by Dr. Stricker, and unanimously carried, that the chairman of the Sanitary Authority be authorized to sign an interstate agreement on behalf of the State Sanitary Authority as and when the Columbia River Packers' Association, in writing, agrees to furnish, in cash and/or equipment, an amount equal to \$500.00.

In order to provide for the three representatives from Oregon on the Interstate Technical Advisory Committee, provided for in the agreement, the following motion was made:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Veatch, seconded by Mr. Burch, and unanimously carried, that the secretary serve on the Interstate Technical Advisory Committee, and that he be empowered to select two other members to represent the state of Oregon on this committee.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL - STATE BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS: The secretary reviewed the status of proposed sewage treatment works for the various state institutions and buildings, and reported progress in this connection.

SOUTH SANTIAM RIVER POLLUTION: Chairman Wendel read a petition relative to pollution of Marks slough and the South Santiam river near Lebanon, signed by 154 persons and referred to the Sanitary Authority by Governor Charles A. Sprague. The secretary reported the results of field investigations conducted by the assistant sanitary engineer and himself, and advised the Authority that serious pollution was found to exist. After a discussion of the problem, the secretary was directed

to communicate with the mayor and city council of Lebanon relative to this matter and advise them that remedial measures must be instituted. He was also directed to communicate with the petitioners and advise them of the Authority's action.

**JOHNSON CREEK POLLUTION:** The secretary reported upon data obtained in an investigation of the pollution of Johnson creek, in Multnomah county, and was directed to notify the Gresham Berry Growers' Association that improvements must be made which will prevent the pollution of Johnson creek during the coming year. He was also directed to notify Mr. Frank Wire, State Game Supervisor, regarding the action of the Authority.

**TUALATIN RIVER AND PUDDING RIVER BASINS:** The secretary reported relative to the findings of field surveys in connection with the pollution by cities and industries of the Tualatin river and Pudding river.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Mr. Veatch, seconded by Dr. Stricker, and unanimously carried, that the secretary communicate with the various cities and industries involved and advise them of necessary improvements which should be initiated at an early date.

**PACIFIC CARBIDE & ALLOYS CO., PORTLAND, SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE DISPOSAL:** The secretary reported regarding the installation of a sewer to the Columbia slough, for the new Pacific Carbide & Alloys Company plant, for the purpose of carrying cooling water and sanitary sewage to the slough.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Mr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Veatch, and unanimously carried, that the Pacific Carbide & Alloys Co. be notified that it shall treat its sanitary sewage prior to discharge into the Columbia slough.

**MUNICIPAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL - MIDDLE COLUMBIA RIVER:** In response to questions raised by city officials at The Dalles and Hood River, the

secretary placed before the board the matter of sewage treatment requirements for cities in the mid-Columbia river area. After discussion, it was agreed that all new construction work to be undertaken by such cities should conform to a well-planned program for the interception and treatment of city sewage, but that it will not be the policy of the Authority to insist upon municipal sewage treatment at this time, but, rather, to encourage such construction at as early a date as is reasonably possible.

STATE GAME COMMISSION CONFERENCE: Chairman Wendel reported upon an informal discussion with the State Game Commission, on September 14. The State Game Commission expressed a willingness to cooperate with the Sanitary Authority and discussed the possibility of having representation on the Sanitary Authority.

#### WHISKEY CREEK POLLUTION AND LEGAL FUNCTIONS OF STATE

SANITARY AUTHORITY: The secretary read an opinion of the state attorney general, addressed to Mr. Frank B. Wire, State Game Supervisor, relative to pollution of Whiskey creek, a tributary of the Rogue river. The principle item discussed was the fact that, in accordance with the attorney general's opinion, specific statutes governing pollution and providing for criminal action, had not been repealed by passage of the State Sanitary Authority act. Mr. Burch discussed conditions in Whiskey creek, with which he was familiar, and advised that the mining company concerned had recently installed new equipment and methods for the prevention of cyanide poisoning in the stream, and that it would soon be installing additional equipment to further reduce or prevent water pollution.

EXPENDITURES AND BUDGET: After a discussion of salaries of the assistant sanitary engineer, Mr. C. M. Everts, and secretary

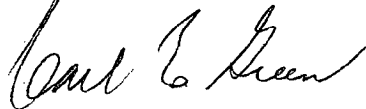
Carl E. Green, in which it was pointed out that Mr. Everts' salary had been increased on July 1, from \$200.00 to \$225.00 per month by the use of Social Security funds of the U. S. Public Health Service:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Veatch, and unanimously carried, that effective October 1, the Sanitary Authority should pay Mr. Everts an additional salary of \$60.00 per month, making a total of \$260.00 per month, and that Mr. Green's salary should be increased \$65.00 per month, effective October 1, making a total of \$300.00 per month.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Burch, seconded by Mr. Hallock, and unanimously carried, that such funds as may be available during the remainder of the year unexpended for other purposes, be used for conducting the Columbia river pollution studies.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 P. M., to reconvene on Friday, December 13, at 10:00 A. M.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl E. Green, Secretary,  
State Sanitary Authority.