

MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING
OF THE
STATE SANITARY AUTHORITY

September 12, 1941

The meeting of the State Sanitary Authority was called to order by Chairman Harold F. Wendel, at 10:20 A.M., September 12, 1941, in the offices of the State Board of Health, 816 Oregon Bldg., Portland, Oregon.

Those present were Harold F. Wendel, Chairman, Dr. Frederick D. Stricker, and the Messrs. Albert Burch, Charles E. Stricklin 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 12, 1941.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: The secretary reviewed the contents of the activities report for the months of June, July and August, 1941.

PROJECT PLANS: After a review of plans for sewerage projects submitted for examination and approved by the State Sanitary Engineer during the months of June, July and August, 1941, MOTION: it was moved by Mr. Burch, seconded by Mr. Stricklin, and unanimously carried, that the following sewerage project plans be approved by the Sanitary Authority:

<u>Date</u> 1941	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>
June 26	Silver Creek Recreational Area	Sewers and sewage disposal
26	Camp Ridge Road Clatsop County	Sewers and sewage disposal
26	Coquille	Trunk sewer relocations
July 2	Medford Army Cantonment	Preliminary sewage treatment

<u>Date</u> 1941	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>
July 11	The Dalles	Sewer extensions
14	Lebanon	Sewer extensions
31	Benton-Polk County Cantonment	Preliminary sewage treatment
Aug. 1	Salem	Extensions to Madison Street sewer
13	Milwaukie	Sewers
18	Pendleton Curry's & Phelps' Add.	Sewers
22	Roseburg	Sewage treatment plant by-pass
22	Mt. Vernon School Lane County	Sewage disposal

PROGRAM FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION: Mr. Herman Kehrli, Executive Secretary, and Mr. Langtree, Field Representative of the League of Oregon Cities, appeared before the Authority to obtain the Authority's reaction to a program through which cities in Oregon might now begin to lay aside money to be later used to finance sewage treatment plant construction. Mr. Kehrli stated that he had received considerable amount of comment from municipal authorities on the question of stream purification and sewage treatment plant construction, and that he was interested in learning more about the program of the Sanitary Authority, in hopes that some plan might be devised under which cities, where sewage treatment was not of an immediate urgent necessity might begin now to lay the ground work for fiscal plans for future sewerage works construction. Mr. Kehrli reported that the League of Oregon Cities had cooperated with a number of municipalities in the outlining of financial plans for sewage treatment plants that have already been constructed, and in many instances, his organization had rendered assistance in the preparation of local sewer service charge rates.

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In addition, the League of Oregon Cities has suggested that communities in which the construction of sewage treatment plants will be required in the future begin now to make plans for financing this work in advance. The general feeling seemed to be that both the people and local authorities realized that sewage treatment plant construction was inevitable, but to date, were apparently taking no action to proceed with any plans which would result in the construction of the needed facilities. It appeared to Mr. Kehrli that if the Sanitary Authority would suggest to cities in which there is no emergency situation requiring immediate construction that if they would immediately begin to finance the construction of their sewage treatment plants, such a plan would receive favorable consideration on the part of the Sanitary Authority. Then work on municipal treatment plant construction would possibly proceed at a much more rapid pace.

Under such a plan municipalities would avoid the creation of future bonded indebtedness by establishing a reserve. The present time did not appear to Mr. Kehrli to be a very good one for construction except where there is an emergency situation related to national defense, and at such a time as the Army may be demobilized and from the standpoint of general planning in the state and nation, worthwhile construction projects will be necessary. If money was available to finance these projects, it would be unnecessary to issue bonds, increase taxes or apply to the federal government for financial assistance to obtain funds for sewage treatment plant construction. Mr. Kehrli pointed out that Eugene had attempted such a plan and had now accumulated some \$40,000 to apply toward the construction of a sewage treatment plant when such facilities are required.

Mr. Wendel asked if any cities other than Eugene had indicated their willingness to follow such a plan. Mr. Kehrli replied that individually no city had approached them on the subject, but that numerous local

authorities were cognizant of the fact that sewage treatment plant facilities were needed, but because of the magnitude of the financial problem, no action was being taken. Mr. Kehrli stated further that he would like to be in a position to know whether he might say to a city that they would be required to construct a sewage treatment plant, and that they could show evidence of their good faith to the State Sanitary Authority by adopting a fiscal plan now under the 1931 act which authorizes municipalities to accumulate funds for work to be undertaken in the future.

Mr. Veatch believed that the Sanitary Authority should take the position that where any municipality is proceeding in good faith to work out its sewage disposal problem, it should be allowed a reasonable length of time to accomplish it. In addition, he stated that the Sanitary Authority should require all municipalities to attempt to devise some sort of plan which would result in a solution to the problem of sewage treatment.

In some further discussion of the matter, Mr. Wendel asked if a resolution adopted by the Sanitary Authority would be of assistance to Mr. Kehrli in his program. Mr. Kehrli replied that he was interested only in knowing the reaction of the Authority to the plan, in order that he might suggest such a procedure to local authorities in the periodical news letter sent out from the League of Oregon Cities office.

Mr. Wendel stated that the Authority, being extremely practical, realized the many problems that exist in the effort of communities to provide sewage disposal facilities. He pointed out that the Authority was extremely tolerant and would favor any program, particularly a financial one, which would look toward the definite end of providing sewage disposal facilities, and in the absence of any emergency or any situation which would demand immediate attention, the Authority would certainly work with

any community in which the plan proposed was being undertaken. Mr. Burch then pointed out that the plan should be approved in principle, but as to the question of time, each individual case should be presented to the Authority for review.

WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN: The chairman then called on the secretary to discuss the problem arising out of the establishment of an Army cantonment in the upper Willamette River Basin near Corvallis and Albany. The secretary directed attention to Appendix B of the Activities Report, to which there was attached a sketch on which the location of the outfall sewers of cities who were discharging raw sewage into the Willamette River above the cantonment water supply intake was shown. It was pointed out that although a filtration plant would be constructed to treat the water supply for the Army cantonment, experience has shown that the discharge of raw sewage into a stream above a water supply intake will overload the filtration works, and that unless competent and efficient operation of the plant is practiced, the possibility of a disease outbreak would always be present. A reduction in domestic sewage pollution of the Willamette River would minimize any chance disease outbreak, should the filtration plant be temporarily out of service due to breakdowns.

Since the act under which the State Sanitary Authority was created charged the Sanitary Authority, as well as the State Board of Health, with the responsibility of protecting streams used for water supplies, it was believed that the Authority might wish to take some action relative to the matter.

The secretary further stated that he had contacted local authorities in all of the cities involved and advised them that if and when the cantonment was constructed that treatment of domestic sewage would be

required. After some discussion relative to the project, the secretary recommended to the Authority that a warning letter be forwarded to the communities involved advising them that if the cantonment water supply is taken from the Willamette River, that treatment of domestic sewage from their city would be required.

Dr. Stricker advised the Authority that in the event the cantonment was constructed in this area, that the State Board of Health would have to enforce existing state statutes and insist on the construction of sewage treatment plants in all communities discharging raw sewage in the Willamette River above this water supply intake.

Following the discussion relative to the matter of sewage treatment for the municipalities involved, MOTION: it was moved by Mr. Burch, seconded by Mr. Veatch, and unanimously carried, that letters be sent to the cities of Corvallis, Harrisburg, Eugene, Springfield and Cottage Grove stating that they are expected to have sewage disposal plants in operation by May 1 of next year in order to take care of the demands for the cantonment.

PORTLAND PROJECT: The chairman then requested the secretary to report on progress made by the city of Portland in connection with the Portland sewage treatment project. The Authority was advised that the city of Portland has now obtained the services of Mr. Bartow, Sanitary Engineer, to replace the late Mr. Smith, who was formerly in the Sewer Department. Mr. Bartow is spending full time on supervision of the design of intercepting sewers, gathering of data, etc. The plans for the east side intercepting sewer are practically complete, and design crews are now working on plans for the Columbia Slough and west side interceptors. Studies of metropolitan Portland are being made to make certain that any sewer construction will

have ample capacity for the additional load which may be imposed on it, should suburban areas later become a part of the city of Portland. Flow measurements are being taken at 20 stations, and analyses of physical and chemical characteristics of the sewage are being made by a private laboratory.

Following this report, there was some discussion as to whether or not the city of Portland had attempted any financial plan. It was generally agreed that no further action should be taken relative to the Portland project at this time.

PERSONNEL: It was reported by the secretary that considerable difficulty had been experienced in securing competent engineering personnel to fill the vacancies which now exist. Letters addressed to the heads of sanitary engineering departments at various colleges, to the Public Health Service, brought little encouragement, due to the fact that the Army, the Navy or the U. S. Public Health Service had employed all available sanitary engineers. Efforts will be continued, however, to secure qualified persons to fill the vacancies, and it was hoped that at least one of the positions would be filled within the next thirty days.

COLUMBIA RIVER POLLUTION INVESTIGATIONS: The secretary briefly outlined the work now under way in connection with the Columbia River Pollution Investigations and pointed out that all of the funds promised to the State Sanitary Authority for the conduct of the work would be received when the Oregon Fish Commission forwarded a final payment of \$250. It was reported that with the funds on hand, the work could probably be financed through October and possibly through part of November, but after that time, the project could no longer be supported from those funds. It was suggested that unused funds for salary and travel in the Sanitary Authority appropriation could be used to continue the investigations until they are

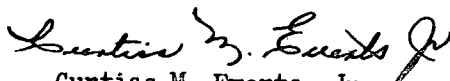
completed in an estimated period of from four to six months. It was generally agreed that the Sanitary Authority funds should be used for this purpose.

WILLAMETTE RIVER SURVEY: The secretary reported that in conference with U. S. Public Health Service personnel detailed to assist in the conduct of the Columbia River Investigations that there was a possibility that some assistance might be obtained from the Public Health Service in connection with a complete water pollution investigation of the Willamette River. The investigations would probably be justified on the basis of national defense, and further, the Public Health Service should be interested in such a survey, inasmuch as the river is now so badly polluted that any corrective measures adopted would obviously be apparent in the condition of the river in the future. After a brief discussion on the matter, the secretary was authorized to draw up a plan and submit it to the Surgeon General in the hope that such a survey could be undertaken.

WATER POLLUTION COMPLAINT REGISTER: The secretary told the members of the Authority that the water pollution complaint register was in the process of preparation and should be completed within the next week or ten days. Upon completion, copies of the register will be mailed to each of the members.

There being no further business, at 12:05 P.M., it was moved by Mr. Veatch, seconded by Mr. Stricklin and unanimously passed, that the meeting adjourn to reconvene at 10 A.M., Friday, December 12, 1941.

Respectfully submitted,


Curtiss M. Everts, Jr.
State Sanitary Engineer
Secretary

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