

## MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING

OF THE

STATE SANITARY AUTHORITY

March 12, 1943.

The regular business meeting of the State Sanitary Authority was called to order by Chairman Harold F. Wendel, at 10:20 A.M., March 12, 1943, in Room 816 Oregon Building, Portland, Oregon. Those in attendance were Harold F. Wendel, Chairman, Dr. Frederick D. Stricker and the Messrs. Blaine Hallock and John C. Veatch, Members, Kenneth H. Spies, Secretary, and Mr. William F. Selleck of Selleck and Company, Public Relations Counsel.

MINUTES: Copies of the minutes of the previous meeting having been submitted to the members in advance, MOTION; it was moved by Mr. Veatch, seconded by Mr. Hallock and unanimously carried that the Authority dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 13, 1942, meeting and that the minutes stand approved as prepared by the secretary.

PORTLAND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN: The chairman called upon Mr. Selleck to review, for the benefit of the members present, the preparations which had already been made relative to conducting the publicity campaign which is being waged for the purpose of obtaining favorable action on the part of the Portland City Council in the matter of increasing the sewer-user service charge to the maximum amount permitted by law. Mr. Selleck reported as follows: Prior to this time all activities had been centered around the assembling of pertinent data and information, the making of necessary preliminary contacts, and the finding out of the more important obstacles which would have to be overcome in order to reach the desired objective.

The tentative calendar for future activities was outlined by Mr. Selleck. From April 1 to April 25 the actual preparation of letters, editorials, cartoons and other publicity material would be undertaken. It was planned to complete by April 10 a printed booklet containing the more important data relating to the campaign. This booklet would serve as a manual for public speakers. Also during the month of April representatives of the Sanitary Authority would be requested to appear before certain influential groups for the purpose of requesting favorable resolutions which might be presented to the Portland City Council. From April 25 to May 4 publicity would be released to the public by means of newspapers, radio, etc. The peak of the campaign would last not more than 10 days or two weeks. On May 2 the release of publicity material would reach a climax. The main objective of this publicity would be to create public interest which in turn would convince the City Council that the people of Portland are in favor of an increased sewer-user service charge, levied for the specific purpose of financing the construction of needed sewage collection and disposal works.

Mr. Selleck stated that the efforts of the Public Relations Counsel were divided into two classifications; namely, appeals to the City Council and appeals to the general public. Under the former classification the following methods were being used:

- (1) Formal resolutions from approximately 50 different organizations or city clubs including, if possible, organized labor to be presented to the Council.
- (2) Informal letters from prominent individuals addressed to the City Council.
- (3) Informal communications from the general voters of the city.

Methods used for making the appeals to the public were to include:

- (1) Newspaper campaigns.
- (2) Discussions on radio.
- (3) Printed matter such as circulars, bulletins or manuals.
- (4) Presentation of formal talks or papers before various city groups and organizations.

The newspaper campaign would consist of copies of resolutions adopted by city clubs and presented to the Council, editorials in the two leading Portland daily newspapers, cartoons, letters to the editor and articles in some twenty neighborhood newspapers. Publicity released via the radio would include open forum discussions and news broadcasts. With regard to the use of other printed matter it was disclosed that the City Council had refused to permit the distribution of circulars with the water bills as a means of informing the public regarding this campaign. It was suggested to Mr. Selleck, however, that an attempt be made to revise slightly the present wording on the water bill in order that the consumer will understand more clearly and correctly the purpose for which the sewer service charge is being made.

A general discussion of the campaign by the members of the Authority followed the report of Mr. Selleck. The question was raised as to the present legality of the six million dollar revenue bond issue which had been approved by the Portland city voters several years ago. Mr. Veatch was requested to determine whether or not the previous bond issue was still in effect. Mr. Selleck stated that, based on the preliminary contacts which he had already made, opposition to the increased charge would be chiefly by certain industries and apartment house owners. Out of the approximately 90,000 accounts of the water department, only 40 consumers had registered serious complaints

regarding the present sewer charge. Many of these complaints were from the owners of large apartment houses.

The discussion brought out the fact that the value of the sewage collection and disposal project to organized labor should not be overlooked for the reason that the majority of the total cost of a project of this nature must necessarily go for labor. The chairman brought out the fact that the objective of this campaign follows closely the program of post-war planning advocated by President Roosevelt. He stated that "It is necessary that individuals plan for the future and communities should do likewise. Other communities in the Willamette Valley should also be interested in the creation of sinking funds to finance post-war construction."

In conclusion it was disclosed that the individual members of the City Council are all in favor of the program advocated by the Sanitary Authority. They insist, however, upon being convinced that the people of Portland are willing to assume at this time an additional charge.

**ACTIVITIES REPORT:** The secretary reviewed briefly the activities of the engineering staff conducted during the months of November and December 1942, and January and February 1943. This report consisted of the discussion of municipal sewage disposal, sewage disposal projects at military and war industry establishments and a presentation of the appropriation made by the recent session of the State Legislature for the 1943-1945 biennium.

**PROJECT PLANS:** It was moved by Mr. Veatch, seconded by Mr. Hallock and unanimously carried that the following project plans, approved by the State Sanitary Engineer during the months of November and December 1942, and January and February 1943, be approved by the State Sanitary Authority:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>
11/10/42	Hermiston	Sewage Treatment
11/20/42	Bend, Engineer Replacement Training Center (Construction Camp)	Sewage Disposal
11/23/42	Pendleton	Additions to city sewage plant
11/27/42	Vanport	Sewers and Pumping Facilities
11/28/42	Swan Island	Sewers and Pumping Station
1/30/43	Wood Village, Multnomah County	Sewage Disposal
2/2/43	Pendleton Air Field	Sewage Plant Additions
2/2/43	Bend, Camp Abbot	Sewage Disposal
2/19/43	Ordnance	Sewerage System

INDUSTRIES: For the past several months the activities of the Sanitary Authority engineering staff have dealt chiefly with municipal sewage disposal. It was suggested that more stress be given to the abatement of stream pollution which is now being produced by the various industries of the state. MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Veatch and unanimously carried that the secretary check through the industrial waste correspondence files; review the past activities in this respect, and prepare another letter to all industries reminding them of the necessity which confronts them for providing adequate waste disposal facilities, and asking them for a report as to the progress already made and as to plans for future improvements in waste disposal methods.

COLUMBIA RIVER POLLUTION SURVEY REPORT: A letter from the Washington State Pollution Commission was presented requesting that the Oregon State Sanitary Authority finance the publication of this report. MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Veatch and unanimously carried that the secretary investigate the cost of multilithing versus other methods of reproduction and that the secretary

and chairman be authorized to publish the report in the most economical manner.

MISCELLANEOUS: The secretary was instructed to proceed with the preparation of a rural sewage disposal bulletin and to contact the state printer regarding the publication of such a manual. The other members of the Authority requested that Dr. Stricker, State Health Officer, investigate the possibility of dividing more evenly between the Sanitary Authority and the State Board of Health the costs of maintaining the office quarters of the Division of Sanitary Engineering during the coming biennium.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M. The next regular meeting of the State Sanitary Authority is scheduled to be held in Portland, Oregon, on Friday, June 4, 1943.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kenneth H. Spies*

Kenneth H. Spies  
Acting State Sanitary Engineer  
and Secretary