

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

OF THE

STATE SANITARY AUTHORITY

September 17, 1943

The regular business meeting of the Oregon State Sanitary Authority was called to order at 10:15 A.M. on September 17, 1943 in the Library Room, 816 Oregon Building, Portland, Oregon. Those present were: Harold F. Wendel, Chairman; Dr. Harold Erickson, substituting for Dr. Frederick D. Stricker who was out of the city; Messrs. John C. Veatch, Blaine Hallock and Albert Burch, members; and Kenneth H. Spies, secretary.

MINUTES: Copies of the minutes of the June 18, 1943 meeting had been submitted to the members in advance and the reading of them was dispensed with. They were approved as prepared by the secretary.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: A copy of the Activities Report for March, April, May and June, 1943, was submitted to the members. A discussion of the activities of the field personnel for July and August was presented by the secretary. This discussion will be covered by the next Quarterly Report.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL FOR NAVAL AIR STATION: The U. S. Navy is planning to construct a 400-bed temporary convalescent hospital in Clatsop County, Oregon, at the confluence of the Walluski and Youngs Rivers, Section 28, T8N, R9W. Permission to discharge raw sewage from the hospital into Youngs River had been requested by the Naval Authorities. After much discussion of the local conditions and possible public health hazards of such a practice, the following motion was made and adopted. MOTION: The secretary is hereby instructed to inform the

Authorities of the Thirteenth Naval District, Seattle, Washington, that the discharge of raw sewage from the hospital into Youngs River constitutes a practice not to be recommended by the Sanitary Authority, however, because of the shortage of manpower and critical materials, due to the present war emergency, a Class C temporary permit will be granted for such discharge of raw sewage, but with the following provisions:

(1) That the U. S. Navy assume all responsibility for cases of communicable and infectious diseases which might be found to be transmitted as a result of such water pollution.

(2) That all precautions possible be taken by hospital attendants to thoroughly disinfect the stools of patients suffering with tropical or other diseases of intestinal origin, before such wastes are discharged into the sewers.

(3) That said temporary permit be granted for a period not to exceed three years and that if the hospital continues in service for a longer period of time, adequate sewage treatment facilities be installed.

(4) That plans showing the location of the outfall sewer be submitted to the Sanitary Authority for review before construction of the same is undertaken.

PORTLAND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN: Because Mr. Charles Ohling, Public Relations Counsel, was ill and could not attend the meeting the progress report on the campaign to increase to the legal maximum the sewer user charge was presented by the Chairman. A brief outline of the report is as follows:

(1) On June 24, 1943, Mr. Charles P. Ohling, Public Relations Counsel, was retained to replace the services of William F. Selleck & Company.

(2) On July 7, 1943, a luncheon meeting was held at the Benson

Hotel with 25 representatives of the press, radio and other publicity agencies in attendance. The proposed campaign was presented to them and their assistance requested. They all committed themselves favorably.

(3) On the evening of July 9, 1943, a public meeting was held at the Library Hall. Approximately 75 persons were present. The chief opposition at this meeting was voiced by F. H. Young of the Oregon Investors and Taxpayers League, P. L. Cover, East Side Commercial Club, and A. C. Callan and Frank Hilton, Apartment House Owners Association.

(4) July 10, 1943. An editorial by C. C. Chapman in the Oregon Voter gave the approval of that publication.

(5) On July 14, the support of The Oregonian was expressed by the lead editorial "This Time, Let's Do It", and on July 15, the support of the Oregon Daily Journal by the lead editorial "Those Noisome Sewers that Empty Near Vanport City".

(6) August 5, 1943. A meeting arranged by Eugene Allen of the Labor Press was held with the Central Labor Council of Portland at the Aero Club. Each labor representative present was enthusiastically in favor of the proposal. Following this meeting the full support of the Labor Press was given editorially; and a resolution by the Central Labor Council was unanimously adopted.

(7) Resolutions in favor of the campaign have been endorsed by and received from numerous civic bodies and individuals. Harry Middleman of the Apartment House Owner Association has endorsed the program.

(8) About the middle of August the Portland City Council proposed to the Authority that if the issue were not pushed further at this time or before the election in May 1944, they would promise to support a bond issue and would retain an engineering firm as soon as possible. That proposal

was refused.

(9) The proposal to increase the service charge was submitted to the Portland Chamber of Commerce for their approval. It was in turn referred to the various sub-committees. Mr. Wendel appeared before the Trade and Commerce Committee and won their support. On September 8, 1943, the subject was debated by Mr. Wendel and Acting Mayor Bowes before the Retail Trade Bureau. That Bureau voted 10 to 1 in favor. Approval was also given by the Industries Committee and the Maritime Commerce Committee. The approval of the Executive Committee is expected in the near future.

(10) A favorable opinion was obtained from the bonding firm of Atkinson, Jones & Company regarding the advisability of the proposal from the financial standpoint.

(11) The Chairman of the Economic Committee of the Portland Post-War Planning Committee has endorsed it. Acting Mayor Bowes has expressed his surprise regarding the increased support given by factions which previously were presumed to be in opposition.

(12) The new City Council member, Mrs. Dorothy McCullough Lee, has also been contacted and informed of the Authority's attitude.

(13) A letter received from F. N. Youngman, Vice President, refutes the charge made by Joe Gerber, advertiser, that the Crown-Zellerbach Corporation opposes the construction of adequate sewage disposal facilities in Portland.

(14) The Executive Committee of the Wildlife Federation is planning a big dinner for the night of October 4.

Much discussion followed the above report and it was agreed by all the members present that in spite of the large number of favorable expressions from the public, the Portland City Council apparently still refuses to increase the sewer user charge as requested by the Authority

because they are afraid of the political consequences. It was then decided to adopt a definite course of action.

It was planned to contact representative of the Moses Post-War Planning Committee to make certain that the Portland sewerage project would be included at the top of their list.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M. to reconvene at 4:00 P.M. for further consideration of and action in the Portland problem. Mr. Hallock was requested to formulate during the intermission an appropriate resolution citing the City Council to appear before the Authority on a "show-cause" order.

At 4:00 P.M. the meeting of the Authority was resumed. Those present were; Mr. Wendel, Dr. Erickson, Mr. Burch, Mr. Hallock, members; and Kenneth H. Spies, secretary. The public was represented by Messrs. W. J. Smith, C. C. Chapman and E. B. MacNaughton.

The purpose of the meeting was stated briefly by the Chairman and then the opinions of Messrs. Smith, Chapman and MacNaughton were requested.

Mr. MacNaughton endorsed the plan to cite the City Council. He stated that if the City of Eugene and Lane County had courage enough to set up a \$5,000,000 program, the Portland Council should have courage enough to increase the service charge. He stated further that within one year after the cancelation or completion of shipyard contracts there would be 50,000 people released from work in the Portland area. In 1943 the employment in metropolitan Portland has been estimated at 416% of the 1937 total. Because of the change in shipping conditions, the record production of the present shipyards could not be continued. These facts were presented as arguments for building up a sinking fund to finance post-war construction and employment in the City of Portland.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Chapman were likewise of the same opinion and they gave their endorsement to the plan to attempt action on the part of the City Council.

The following resolution was then presented by Mr. Hallock and was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, under the law the Oregon State Sanitary Authority is empowered and directed to cause sewage disposal and other stream pollution abated, and,

WHEREAS, municipalities of the State of Oregon generally, including those along the Willamette River, exclusive of Portland, are co-operating with the said Authority in the matter of stream pollution abatement; but because of the failure of the City of Portland, which is the chief offender, to render co-operation, and its seeming disposition to obstruct the work of the Authority in the matter, the efforts of the Authority are seriously impaired and the will of the people thus thwarted, and,

WHEREAS, in the year 1938 the people of the City of Portland by their vote authorized the imposition and collection of sewage disposal charges to the extent of one-third of the monthly water charges, only a fraction of which has been levied by the City and even that following the insistent demands of the Authority, and,

WHEREAS, unless the funds so authorized shall be accumulated and made available for use in connection with the sewage disposal project during the post-war period, such project will have to be constructed through the employment of funds raised by general taxation and without the benefit of preliminary engineering data and capital reserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the State Sanitary Authority forthwith cause notice and citation to issue to the City of Portland, its Mayor or acting Mayor, and the members of its Council, directing

said City to appear before said Authority in Room 720, Oregon Building, Portland, Oregon, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., on Tuesday, October 5, 1943, and then and there show cause, if any exists, why said City should not now take the steps available leading to compliance with the laws of Oregon relating to abatement of stream pollution, and why appropriate proceedings should not be instituted against the said City should it fail so to do.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth H. Spies

Kenneth H. Spies
Acting State Sanitary Engineer and
Secretary

ZWRJZ

