

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING

of the

STATE SANITARY AUTHORITY

June 17, 1944

The regular meeting of the Oregon State Sanitary Authority was called to order June 17, 1944, at 10:00 a.m. in the Library Room of the State Board of Health, 816 Oregon Building, Portland, Oregon. Those present were Harold F. Wendel, Chairman; Dr. Frederick D. Stricker, Messrs. John C. Veatch, B. A. McPhillips, and Charles E. Stricklin, Members; and Kenneth H. Spies, Secretary.

MINUTES: Copies of the minutes of the special meeting held February 4 had been submitted to the members in advance. A brief summary of them was presented by the secretary, and they were approved as prepared.

STREAM POLLUTION STUDIES IN OREGON: The secretary reported that on April 27 a proposal was received from the Engineering Experiment Station of Oregon State College to the effect that personnel would be available this coming summer and fall to conduct studies of water pollution in the Willamette River and its tributaries, and of domestic sewages and trade wastes. Such studies would be for the purpose of assembling data and information necessary for determining the degree of treatment required as well as the type of treatment facilities best suited for any particular sewage or waste. Furthermore, they would provide the basic data for design and, therefore, be of value to both the State Sanitary Authority and the consulting engineers retained by city and industry.

The need for these studies had been expressed by city engineers and representatives of the League of Oregon Cities at a meeting in Corvallis on Tuesday, May 23, 1944. At its regular annual conference held in Portland on May 25 and 26, the League of Oregon Cities formally adopted a resolution

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requesting that such studies be made as soon as possible in order that they might be of value in planning the postwar construction program.

Sufficient funds were not available for this purpose from either State College or State Sanitary Authority. Therefore, on June 3, 1944, a letter was sent to Governor Earl Snell by the State Sanitary Authority requesting that state money be provided from any sources which might be available. The estimated cost of the studies was between \$8,000 and \$9,000. In addition to this, State College would contribute approximately \$4,500 in services. In conclusion, the secretary reported that at the request of the Governor, Mr. Wendel and Mr. George Aiken, State Budget Director, appeared before the State Game Commission at its regular meeting on June 9 to solicit its support. No immediate or favorable action was taken by the Game Commission at that meeting, however. In the discussion which followed, the possibility of obtaining funds from the Emergency Board was mentioned. It was thought that the Board could legally appropriate money for this purpose, especially in view of the fact that the present budget of the Sanitary Authority had been reduced so drastically by the last legislature. It was further thought that a request to the Emergency Board at this time might also strengthen the position of the Authority in its request for a more adequate budget for the next biennium. It was finally agreed to again write Governor Earl Snell to inquire about obtaining funds from the Emergency Board and also to continue the efforts to secure the cooperation of the Game Commission. (The Game Commission apparently has considerable surplus of revenue at the present time; whereas, the State Fish Commission, the other agency vitally interested in stream pollution abatement, has a deficit.)

POSTWAR PLANNING: The secretary next reported as follows on the progress which has been made by municipalities in planning and preparing for postwar construction:

1. Portland approves \$12,000,000 bond issue by a vote of 53,712 to 25,848. (The work of the Citizens' Sewage Disposal Committee and the Portland Area Postwar Development Committee, as well as the cooperation of press, radio and others were cited for the part which they played in making this issue a success.)
2. Eugene votes a 5-mill tax levy for the next five years to accumulate \$325,000 for sewer improvements.
3. Salem votes $2\frac{1}{4}$ -mill tax levy for the next three years to accumulate \$120,000 for a sewage disposal project. (This is in addition to \$200,000 already available in the form of general obligation bonds.)
4. Corvallis authorizes its city council to levy a sewer-user charge.
5. McMinnville authorizes its City Water Commission to proceed with the problem of sewage disposal and to levy a sewer-user charge.
6. Newberg collects a surtax on the water bills to create a sinking fund for financing its sewage disposal project.
7. Lebanon collects \$12,000 annually by means of a 10-mill tax levy.
8. Coquille sets aside \$20,000 from surplus funds to finance a post-war sewage disposal project.
9. Thirty-three cities list sewage disposal projects with the Postwar Readjustment and Development Committee at an estimated cost of more than \$14,000,000.

With regard to progress made by industries, the chairman reported that the pulp and paper industry is appropriating \$150,000 annually to the Mellon Institute to conduct research or studies for the purpose of determining the most economical and practical methods of disposing of their wastes, with the hopes that valuable bi-products can be reclaimed. The industry has promised full cooperation in abating stream pollution in Oregon.

Out of thirty-three letters sent by the secretary to canneries,

meat-packing plants, woolen mills, and other industries only nineteen replies had been received. From these replies it was learned that eleven industries discharged their waste into city sewers and that the other eight have individual waste disposal problems but have made no specific progress in the program for abatement. The secretary was instructed by the members to again contact the industries which failed to reply and to determine what progress, if any, is being made by them in this respect.

It was reported that all industries along the Columbia Slough will eventually be able to utilize the Portland municipal sewerage system for the disposal of their trade wastes.

It was moved by Mr. Veatch, seconded by Mr. McPhillips, and carried that the secretary be instructed to call upon the city of Corvallis and advise its officials that unless they carry out the authority recently granted them by the voters they are not keeping pace with other cities in the Willamette Valley for plans for postwar sewage disposal construction and that unless some real progress be made it will be necessary to cite them for failure to take action.

MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES: The requirement tentatively adopted by the secretary that at least intermediate treatment be provided before discharging wastes from a proposed slaughterhouse into the Columbia River at a point above the Portland Air Base was approved by the members.

Pollution in Gales Creek and the Tualatin River resulting from the operation of sand and gravel companies was reported by the secretary. It was moved by Mr. Veatch, seconded by Mr. Wendel, and carried that said gravel companies be advised to conduct their operations in such a manner that the water in Gales Creek will not be polluted to the detriment of the interests of riparian owners downstream and that if this objective cannot be accomplished in any other way, their operations be suspended during the period from May 15 to October 1.

Pollution in Zolner Creek caused by a discharge of flax retting waste from the Mt. Angel Flax Growers Plant was reported. The secretary was instructed to notify the directors of Mt. Angel Flax Growers Association that all flax retting wastes shall be disposed of by lagooning in order to abate this water pollution.

PROJECT PLANS: The actions taken by the secretary regarding the following project plans were approved by the members:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
1/13/44	Siletz Housing #35273	Sewerage system	Approved
2/26/44	Lebanon	Sewer extensions	Approved
3/10/44	Tillamook Housing #35290	Sewer extensions	Approved
3/13/44	Veneta Housing #35292	Sewerage system	Provisional
3/9/44	Astoria Housing #35294	Sewer extensions	Approved
3/11/44	Toledo Housing #35271	Sewer extensions	Approved
3/15/44	The Dalles Housing #35293	Sewer extensions	Approved
3/20/44	Klamath Falls Housing #35295	Sewer extensions	Approved
3/27/44	Pendleton	Sewer extensions	Approved
3/15/44	Sweet Home F.H.A. Housing	Sewage disposal	Not approved
4/18/44	Salem Alumina Plant	Sewerage system	Approved
5/6/44	Pendleton	Cannery waste disposal	Recommendations made
5/29/44	Scottsburg Housing #35297	Sewerage	Prov. approval
6/16/44	Klamath Falls Housing #35296	Sewer extensions	Approved

ANNUAL BUDGET: The following annual budget for the period July 1, 1944, to June 30, 1945, was approved as prepared by the secretary:

Salaries and Wages

State Sanitary Engineer and Secretary	\$1800.00
Administrative Clerk and Office Secretary	1380.00
Per diem (S. A. Members)	180.00
	<u>\$3,360.00</u>

General, Operating and Maintenance

Travel, State Sanitary Engineer	\$350.00
Travel, Sanitary Authority Members	250.00
Rent	564.00
Office equipment and supplies	268.00
Scientific equipment and supplies	300.00
	<u>\$1,732.00</u>

Total budget	\$5,092
For previous year	<u>4,908</u>
Total Biennial	
Appropriation	\$10,000