

AIR POLLUTION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

August 24, 1951

Salem, Oregon

The first meeting of the Air Pollution Authority of the state of Oregon was called to order by the Secretary at 1:45 P.M., on Friday, August 24, 1951, in the Board of Control room of the State Capitol Building at Salem, Oregon.

Members of the Air Pollution Authority present were Dr. Harold M. Erickson, Carl E. Green, Oren L. King, Harold F. Wendel; and Curtiss M. Everts, Jr., Secretary. Also present were Chester K. Sterrett, Industrial Manager, Portland Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. Grace Lundquist, stenographic assistant.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

With the consent of the members present, Mr. Everts assumed the office of chairman pro-tem and asked for nominations for Chairman.

Mr. King nominated Mr. Green for the office of Chairman. It was MOVED by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. Wendel that the nominations for Chairman be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Mr. Green as Chairman. MOTION carried.

The chairman pro-tem then turned the meeting over to the new chairman, Mr. Green.

The Chairman then asked for nominations for vice-chairman. Mr. Wendel nominated Mr. King for Vice-chairman. Dr. Erickson MOVED and Mr. Wendel seconded that the nominations for vice-chairman be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Mr. King for Vice-chairman. MOTION carried.

POLICY AND PROGRAM

The secretary reported that he had already received complaints of atmospheric contamination and requests for investigations, and that some potential industries had also inquired as to their status in relation to the law. He requested

the Authority to consider the adoption of an initial program as a basis for considering the proposed budget and for guidance in answering inquiries.

Dr. Erickson expressed an opinion that new industries should be prepared to comply with the act and inquired as to whether any standards for atmospheric cleanliness had been developed which could be used by the Authority.

Mr. Wendel suggested that the Authority should first secure the services of a qualified engineer to head the technical work, provide the necessary stenographic help, and in the meantime accept complaints and requests as they are submitted while the Authority formulates a more definite long range program.

After further discussion of the matter, it was MOVED by Mr. Wendel, seconded by Dr. Erickson, that the secretary with the advice and consent of the Chairman be authorized to employ a competent engineer to supervise the technical program, and, if necessary, a secretary. MOTION carried. It was Mr. Green's opinion that the Authority would experience difficulty in obtaining the properly qualified person for the salary indicated for the position.

In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that it might be possible to recruit other members of the proposed staff before the supervisory engineer was selected. It was agreed, however, that action on this matter could be deferred until the next meeting of the Authority which would be held within the next two months.

At this point, the Honorable Douglas McKay, Governor, entered the meeting and discussed briefly his views on the approach to air pollution control activities in the state. The Governor complimented the Sanitary Authority on the progress made in water pollution control, and stated that the problem of air pollution control was quite similar. He also suggested that the present

approach should be one of study and investigation and cooperation, rather than retaliatory.

After offering the full cooperation of his office in working out the air pollution control program, the Governor withdrew from the meeting.

Mr. King requested that the discussion on program and policy be continued and recommended that as soon as a staff was assembled studies be undertaken to determine the nature of air pollution problems, and establish standards. He also suggested that new industries be advised that standards were in the process of preparation and that they should take every precaution to reduce to a minimum any atmospheric contamination that might be discharged.

Mr. Wendel suggested that until standards could be established, any new industry should be furnished with a copy of the law with the advice that the program was just getting underway and that until such time as standards were established, new industries should do everything possible to minimize air contamination.

The Chairman then recommended that some work of the Authority be undertaken by committees who could concentrate on certain activities. Among the committees he suggested were Public Relations.

Dr. Erickson believed that the Board should work as a unit until a special problem presented itself, and he suggested that the Authority avail itself of the services of the Health Education Section of the State Board of Health for its public relations work.

Mr. Wendel thought that the idea of subcommittees would be a good organizational plan when special problems became too complicated to be undertaken by the whole commission.

The Chairman then asked if the services of the Industrial Hygiene Section could be made available, and Dr. Erickson replied that arrangements had already been made to requisition the service of the Industrial Hygiene Laboratory.

It was MOVED by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. King that the Air Pollution

Authority undertake a program to establish reasonable standards for air pollution control and that industry should then be expected to comply with the standard adopted, MOTION carried.

The Chairman then notified the Authority that it was the intention of the city of Portland to request the Authority to undertake a study in the Portland area.

BUDGET 1951 - 1953

After a discussion of the proposed budget, it was MOVED by Mr. Wendel, seconded by Mr. King that a tentative budget of Salaries & Wages, G.O.M., and Capital Outlay be adopted for the period ending June 30, 1952. MOTION carried.

The secretary was directed to confer with Dr. Robin Moser, Industrial Hygiene Section, State Board of Health, regarding the laboratory equipment which should be ordered in the near future.

FISCAL PROCEDURES

The secretary requested authorization from the Authority for the Business Manager of the Oregon State Board of Health sign vouchers drawn on the Air Pollution Authority budget, explaining that the Business Management Section was adequately equipped to handle such matters. MOVED by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. Wendel, that the Business Manager of the State Board of Health be authorized to sign vouchers for expenses incurred in behalf of the Air Pollution Authority. MOTION carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman then asked Mr. Chester K. Sterrett, Industrial Manager, Portland Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Portland Air Pollution Committee if he would care to make any remarks to the Authority.

Mr. Sterrett stated that he believed the Air Pollution Authority was approaching the problem on a sound basis and that industry would cooperate

on the program. Mr. Sterrett also stated that the Authority should give careful consideration to the selection of its field staff, and that under the present air pollution control act the state could undertake a program of study and investigation leading to the establishment of standards later.

The secretary then brought to the attention of the Authority, a request from the Portland City Council for a study and report on an alleged atmospheric contamination problem in the vicinity of the Smithwick Concrete Products Company plant on Columbia Blvd., Portland. The Authority directed the secretary to advise the Portland City Council that due to lack of a field staff the Authority could not undertake the investigation at the present time.

The secretary was authorized to order such office supplies as were necessary to carry on the business of the Authority.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, October 26, in Portland, Oregon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Curtiss M. Everts, Jr.,
Secretary

August 31, 1951