

Sasquena R. W. Basin Commission
Meeting Minutes, 1972 August 10

2-3-72

*Judge Thoms Rosen
note 7P Res. BMB*

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
3800 MARKET STREET
CAMP HILL, PENNA. 17011

MIN. #72-8

MINUTES OF SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 10, 1972

The meeting was held in the Commission's Offices at 3800 Market Street, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

Chairman Thomas H. C. Webster called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present Were:

- Mr. Ronald W. Pedersen, Alternate for Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, New York
- Mr. Thomas C. H. Webster, Alternate for Secretary of Interior Rogers C. B. Morton, Washington, D.C.
- Dr. Maurice K. Goddard, Alternate for Governor Milton J. Shapp, Pennsylvania
- Mr. Paul McKee, representing James B. Coulter, Alternate for Governor Marvin Mandel, Maryland

Staff Members Present Were:

- Mr. Robert J. Bielo, Executive Director
- Mr. Ralph J. Putt, Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer
- Peter J. Ressler, Esquire, Counsel for the Commission

MINUTES OF JULY 13, 1972

Chairman Webster asked for comments on the Minutes and there being none, Dr. Goddard moved that the Minutes be adopted as distributed and Mr. Pedersen seconded the motion and the action was unanimously passed.

STAFF REPORT

Chairman Webster asked the Executive Director to withhold his Staff Report as it ties in with the subjects under New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

A. General Statement of Policy

The Statement was again discussed and the Executive Director was instructed to assemble comments from the Federal and State agencies, which are to be received no later than September 1, and resubmit the draft to the Commission at the September meeting. If the draft is approved by the Commission in September it will be released for publication in the Federal Register and in comparable State publications for comments from the public.

B. September Meeting - Public Program

The September 14, meeting will be held in Binghamton, New York, with a public panel session in the morning on flood plain management. The Cornell Water Resources Center is helping to plan the program and will recruit speakers having extensive experience in the areas of discussion. The regular Public Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. Both sessions will be held At SUNY - Binghamton in the auditorium or other suitable meeting room.

C. Water Resources Technology Committee

The Executive Director is to report at the September meeting on the progress in establishing a Water Resources Technology Committee. Mr. Bielo noted he will meet with representatives from the University of Maryland, Cornell University and Pennsylvania State University, in early September. These schools maintain Water Resources Centers or Institutes and appear to have the best potential to bring University level research and management work in water resources field to the Commission.

D. Resolutions:

(1) Flood Plain Management Legislation

Dr. Goddard noted that it is the Commission's desire to go on record to support enactment of flood plain

management and flood plain zoning legislation. Resolution No. 72-13 on this matter was moved for adoption by Dr. Goddard and seconded by Mr. Pedersen and unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 72-13 was later amended in a motion by Mr. Pedersen and seconded by Dr. Goddard and unanimously carried, to change the fifth paragraph from or local governmental authorities.....to and local governmental authorities.....

(2) Ratification of Cost of Living Increment

Resolution No. 72-11 granting a general cost of living increase of 5.5% effective July 1, 1972, was moved for adoption by Dr. Goddard and seconded by Mr. Pedersen and unanimously approved.

(3) Working Capital Reserve

The Commission agreed at the June, 1972 meeting that the Chief Administrative Officer be permitted to provide a reserve for working capital in the amount of \$75,000 to guarantee availability of funds at the start of a new fiscal year. The auditing firm of Ernst and Ernst indicated that a formal motion was required by the Commission for the transfer of funds from current operating fund cash balance to a reserve for working capital. The transfer of these funds was moved for adoption by Mr. Pedersen and seconded by Dr. Goddard and unanimously approved under Resolution No. 72-14.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Action Program

Mr. Bielo briefly outlined the staff's immediate action program which is listed with his comments.

1. The first action item to be presented is a recommendation for full support by the Commission relative to the enactment of flood plain legislation in the three signatory states. Pennsylvania and Maryland both have Bills on this topic before their legislatures. However, as the Maryland legislature has adjourned, emphasis might be placed on passage of flood plain legislation in Pennsylvania this year.

2. The staff plans to develop and distribute, with your approval, a publication presenting general guidelines regarding flood plain management and the kinds of uses appropriate for various types of flood zones. It is believed that this type of information is extremely necessary at this time and should be given wide distribution throughout the basin.
3. The staff is coordinating overall activities regarding flood plain mapping and has initiated a program in Pennsylvania to prepare maps of 50 communities, affected during the recent flood, and to plot the Agnes flood lines on these maps.
4. The Commission staff has initiated work to determine intensity of flood plain development, flood plain use, and population density on flood plains in selected portions of the basin.
5. The staff has initiated discussion with appropriate Federal and State agencies regarding the planning and eventual development of an improved flood forecasting and flood warning system in the basin.
6. The staff has initiated inquiry to determine if an improved and expanded flood forecasting system could include instrumentation to record rainfall and water quality information, and transmit same automatically along with other data.
7. At the present time the Commission staff is coordinating State and Federal activities in the basin as they relate to flood damage assessments, flood plain mapping, and aerial photo interpretation as it relates to Hurricane Agnes. The staff has also called a coordinating conference to determine State and Federal efforts on environmental impact studies as they relate to agriculture, fish and wildlife, forestry, outdoor recreation, and water quality.
8. The staff is in the process of preparing a program to evaluate water quality control measures, compliance with requirements, and achievement of State and Federal standards.
9. The staff has initiated a review of future water needs in the basin for power production, irrigation,

recreation, industrial, and municipal purposes.

10. The staff has initiated efforts to encourage and promote formation of watershed associations throughout the basin and is working with groups in Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg to assist in pulling together a regional watershed organization.
11. The staff has initiated an effort to seek funding for the preparation, printing, and distribution of general educational literature regarding flood plain management, structural flood control measures, water conservation and related topics pertinent to the water resources of the basin.

Mr. Bielo also reported that the staff has initiated a program with the Cornell Water Resources Center regarding the New York State LUNR program to determine how this land use data system can be utilized in water resources planning.

A Service Agreement between the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and the Office of State Planning and Development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the purpose of flood plain mapping of 50 communities was reviewed and found acceptable. Mr. Pedersen moved for adoption of the agreement, Dr. Goddard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

B. Recommendations Re: Phase I Comprehensive Plan

At the July, 1972 meeting the Commission requested that the staff outline a Phase I Comprehensive Plan to include measures to reduce flood damage and to increase protection to life and property. The plan was to recognize, to the extent possible, water quality, water supply, and recreation interests in relation to any structural flood control measures included. The staff submitted an outline of a Phase I plan dealing with flood control measures. The proposal was reviewed by the Commission, and accepted as presented with the exception of some minor changes. These changes are to be incorporated, and the proposal resubmitted at the September meeting.

GENERAL

The Commission will move August 14, to new headquarters located at 5012 Lenker Street, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Miller of the staff briefly described the several flood control structures presented in the Phase I Plan. Generally he noted that by building Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Reservoirs and the suggested other structures at strategic locations in the basin, flood stage could be reduced at critical damage points.

Mr. DeMoss discussed non-structural portions of the Phase I Plan with emphasis on flood plain zoning and land treatment measures. He elaborated on the reaches of rivers and streams that should receive early review and implementation of flood plain zoning, as well as measures to reduce erosion, increase water retention on the land, and reduce debris accumulations that load streams during flood periods.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Rev. William Reid of the Wilkes-Barre City Council expressed a desire for the formation of a citizens water resources association similar to the one servicing the Delaware River Basin. Dr. Goddard responded and suggested that by forming a citizens group and presenting their problems in an organized way, the Commission would be in a better position to listen and take action as deemed necessary.

Mr. Roy Morgans, past President of the Chamber of Commerce in Wilkes-Barre advised that citizens in Wilkes-Barre had re-activated the former Susquehanna Committee and hope to get it moving again.

Mr. Alan Little of the Rotary Club extended an invitation to Rev. Reid to join with their Susquehanna Rotary Conference, or invite them to join with the people of Wilkes-Barre to give as much support to the Commission's programs as possible.

Dr. Goddard suggested that Mr. William Voigt might be a good Chairman for this group as he is well acquainted with the entire basin and its problems.

NEXT MEETING

The September 14, 1972, meeting of the Commission will be held in Binghamton, New York, with a public panel session in the morning on flood occurrence and flood plain management. The regular monthly business meeting of the Commission will start at 2:00 p.m. Details of the meeting will be published later.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m., on a motion by Dr. Goddard and seconded by Mr. Pedersen and unanimously approved.



Executive Director

August 10, 1972
Date

NO. 72-13

A RESOLUTION of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission supporting legislation dealing with flood plain management.

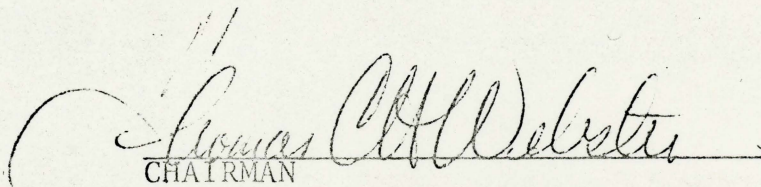
WHEREAS, throughout the Susquehanna River Basin there are located flood plain lands which periodically become inundated because of the flooding of streams and rivers of the Basin;

WHEREAS, as the result of said flooding, loss of life and extensive property damage from time to time occur to people and property located on the flood plains of the Basin; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governmental units are empowered to regulate, through their police powers, the use of lands to protect and promote the general health, welfare and safety of the public.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Susquehanna River Basin Commission strongly supports enactment of comprehensive flood plain management legislation by state, county, and local governmental authorities that is intended to:

1. Protect and promote the general health, welfare and safety of the public.
2. Reduce financial burdens imposed on the State, community, governmental units, and individuals by regulating development in areas subject to periodic flooding.


CHAIRMAN

ADOPTED August 10, 1972
Date

