

MEETING SUMMARY

ALASKA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

April 3 and 4, 1979

Courtroom "A", State Court Building

Juneau, Alaska

The Alaska Water Resources Board met in Juneau, April 3 and 4, 1979. The Board members were in complete attendance.

The members of the Board were:

Dr. Charles Behlke, Fairbanks
Charles Johnson, Nome
LeVake Renshaw, Anchorage
Peg Tileston, Anchorage
David Vanderbrink, Homer
Richard Sims, Chairman, Kodiak
Ernst Mueller, (ex-officio), Commissioner, DEC
Robert E. LeResche, (Executive Secretary)
Commissioner, DNR

DNR Commissioner was represented by Brent Petrie

DEC Commissioner was represented by Jon Scribner

Tuesday, April 3, 1979

After the call to order and organizational business the Board reviewed legislation relating to water resources. These included acts and resolutions on hydroelectric projects, an instream flow bill, amendments to the Water Use Act, an act giving local governments pollution disposal control without creating minimum standards, and an act transferring control of the village safe water program from DEC to DOT + PF.

Next on the agenda was Judith Anderegg, Assistant Coordinator for the Alaska Coastal Management Program. She explained the role of the Office of the Coastal Management Program in the overall program. Uses of State Concern, implementation authorities, and how the coastal management planning process works were the general topics of discussion.

John Clark, Assistant Chief, Habitat Protection Section, Department of Fish and Game followed Judith Anderegg. He first commented on Uses of State Concern from ADF & G's perspective. He then spoke on the agenda topic, the activities of the floodplain management subcommittee of the Alaska Land Managers' Cooperative Task Force. The composition of the Task Force and Subcommittee was described, and the findings of the earlier Subcommittee meetings was given in brief along with the probable future activities. The Board questioned the lack of private economic interests on the Subcommittee.

After a break for lunch Bill Long, Hydrologist, Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, talked on water resources related activities on the Division. Activities discussed were the well log data program, coordination activities of DGGs, activities of the hydrology Section of DGGs and State funding of data collection activities (stream gages and snow surveys).

Woody Angst, Department of Environmental Conservation followed with a description of the Memorandum of Understanding between DNR, DF + G and DEC on the processing of water permits. He also discussed the permit information centers.

Brent Petrie summarized the activities of the Water Management Section. In his first session he reported the progress of the North Kenai Hydrological Study and he and the Board discussed data management systems that the state might acquire.

At this time Peter Froelich, Assistant Attorney General, arrived and because of his tight time schedule the Board immediately heard his presentation on the Paug-Vik v. Martin case argued before the Superior Court in March. His main points were that the trial was very interesting but the evidence taken was irrelevant under the State's position. Mr. Froelich and the Board discussed the general reserved water rights doctrine.

After Mr. Froelich's presentation Brent Petrie resumed his summary of the activities of the Water Management Section. In this session he reported on the breaching of the Sandra Lake Dam in Prince William Sound, the status of the Water Management Regulations and Water Rights Back-log Reduction.

After dinner the Board reconvened with Frank Uraback of the Southcentral Water Resources (Level B) Study. Mr. Uraback summarized the progress of the Level B Study and gave his opinions on the water resources planning needs of Alaska.

Wednesday, April 4, 1979

Brent Petrie started off the morning session reporting on the North Slope Water Policy Revision and the Dam Inventory and Safety Program. John Scribner followed with a presentation of the Water Quality standards. The major changes of the Standards were discussed with emphasis on areas with which the Board had earlier expressed concern.

Next was Fran Ulmer, Director of the Division of Planning and Policy Development. Ms. Ulmer with Roger Allington, both co-chairpersons of the Coastal Policy Council, first discussed the coastal management program. Uses of State concern and the role of the Coastal Policy Council were the main topics of discussion. Bruce Baker then joined Ms. Ulmer to report on the role DPDP has in coordinating water resources activities in the state. Among the examples he discussed were the MOU between DF + G, DEC and DNR, floodplain management, and the wetlands conference.

The Board next considered resolutions on the pending legislation reviewed the previous day. Action on legislation involving hydroelectric projects was postponed until the presentation of Eric Yould of the Alaska Power Authority. The Board agreed to oppose SB13, an act creating a department of renewable resources, and discussed at length HB186, an act amending the present water use act, supporting it with amendments.

After lunch the Board reconvened with Eric Yould, Director of the Alaska Power Authority, giving a presentation on the activities of the APA. He explained the activities and organization of the APA and reported on the current projects of the APA. The Board questioned him on the current legislation involving hydroelectric projects.

After Mr. Yould's presentation the Board agreed to take no action on the legislation involving hydroelectric projects. The Board agreed to endorse Commissioner Mueller's letter of March 15 on HB172 and the committee substitute; to endorse HB118 (Instream Flow) with amendments; and to oppose HB68 (Transferring Village Safe Water Program). The Board moved that a letter be written to the Governor emphasizing the need for cooperation of and coordination by state agencies.

In final business the Board agreed to meet next in Fairbanks on July 31-August 1 (this has been since changed to August 7-8). It was requested that the agenda include more input from local governments and the private sector. After closing remarks the meeting was adjourned.