

approved

Meeting Summary

Water Resources Board Meeting Anchorage, Alaska December 3-5, 1980

The Alaska Water Resources Board meeting was held in Anchorage, December 3-5, 1980. The members of the board in attendance were:

Richard Sims (chairman), Kodiak
Charles Johnson, Nome
LeVake Renshaw, Anchorage
Peg Tileston, Anchorage
Wayne Westberg, Anchorage
David Vanderbrink, Homer
Frederick Boness, Anchorage

Commissioner LeResche was represented by Jeff Haynes and Ted Smith.
Commissioner Mueller was represented by Deming Cowles.

Wednesday, December 3, 1980

Chairman Richard Sims called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He related a meeting with Jeff Haynes that was held in late July. At the meeting the June Board meeting was reviewed as well as some pending items that hadn't been covered or resolved. Jeff asked that the Board question him first on any problems and asked that the Board send him copies of letters and other correspondence. He was assured there would be no objections from the Board as long as he realizes that the letters are serious and are designed to help the public function with regard to water management in the state.

Chairman Sims wanted to make it clear that the reorganization plan he discussed at the Fairbanks meeting was not an official position of the Board, had not been sent to the Governor's Office as a Board recommendation, and was only a starting point for discussion of reorganization of water resources programs.

Chairman Sims next reviewed the field trip to Whitehorse to attend a meeting of the Yukon Territory Water Board meeting. In his opinion they have a good system until the first real conflict. In Alaska the conflicts come quicker. There should be a middle ground that has a good balance of serving the public and protecting the state. The meeting was very informative and the Yukon Board members and staff were gracious hosts.

Brent Petrie, who moved from the Chief of the Water Management Section to the Alaska Power Authority, was thanked for his support from the Board. The meeting summary of the Fairbanks meeting of June 25-27 was approved with no additions, deletions, or corrections.

At 9:00 a.m., Lou Butera of the Water Management Section gave a slide presentation on microhydro power. The presentation covered all aspects of system design from the initial site evaluation thorough actual construction.

Major Points:

- * Factors that must be considered include system economics through type of system, choice and installation of intake structure, penstocks, turbine, generator, protection systems, power transmission, co-generation, regulations and permits.
- * State-of-the-art technology was discussed with slides depicting applications.
- * Actual microhydro installations were shown with comments on what was done right and wrong. Generalizations can be made for microhydro but each installation must be specifically designed for a particular site taking into consideration local conditions.

Next, was the Department of Natural Resources report with presentations by Jeff Haynes, Ross Schaff, Ted Smith, Greg Doggett, and Steve Mack. Jeff Haynes gave an overview of departmental activities.

Major Points:

- * The majority of the Department's most recent newsletter was devoted to water resources. The articles included were intended to give an overview of the water situation and the importance of devoting attention to it.
- * In the Department's FY 82 budget submission as it relates to water resources, the Governor's Office has approved one increment to join the Western States Water Council and continuation of increments for existing programs.
- * There will be three water resources related legislation proposals submitted this session. One will allow department personnel access to seafood processing statistics, another deals with enforcement authority and a third with basin-wide adjudication.
- * The Department has initiated state-wide advertisement of the need for water rights.

Ross Schaff followed with discussion on the water programs of DGGS and passed out a summary of those programs. He also discussed the proposed five year resource evaluation programs. Very few projects can be completed in one year and if not funded in the next year the money is wasted. The requested funding is \$49 million is to be used in a five year period; \$10 million is to be used for water data collection and \$15 million for geothermal.

- Q. Wayne Westberg: Is there any provision for requiring ground-water temperature data where there are existing wells? If that were known, the feasibility for ground-water heat pumps could be determined.

- A. Ross Schaff: Once the funding is settled specific work programs can be developed for different areas of the state.
- Q. Wayne Westberg: The \$210,000 in geothermal, is that a specific project or is that general?
- A. Ross Schaff: It is a general assessment program where DGGS is inventorying all the hot springs in the state. In that process we try and determine where there are hot springs, take water samples, and analyze these elements.
- C. Dick Sims: The Board supported the creation of DGGS and has been critical of it in the past. It appears that DGGS is doing a better job and it's much easier to understand what's going on.

Next Reed Stoops of the Division of Research and Development explained the Department's regional planning process.

Major Points:

- * A state-wide plan was developed which as aimed at the resources needed for long-term development in Alaska. The next step was element maps for single resources.
 - * At this scale water is not handled but it will be in areas plans.
 - * The focus of planning is state lands.
- C. Ted Smith summarized requirements for easements along rivers and streams for state lands that are being disposed. Members of the Board expressed concerns that a short sighted policy might be adopted.

Ted Smith and Greg Doggett reviewed the activities of the Division of Forest, Land and Water Management. Steve Mack discussed the Title III program.

Major Points:

- * The water rights administration budget state-wide is approximately \$995,000. For FY 82 it is intended to process 2,100 water rights case files, permit certificates and closed casefiles during this fiscal year. Our goal is meeting 75% of the water rights complaints, adjudicating four basin wide actions and processing 10 new dam constructions. It is also intended to go into an implementation phase in in-stream flow and adjudicate in-stream flow reservation.
- * The Water Board budget is at the same level with an inflation increment.
- * The goal of the federal reserved water rights project is to adjudicate two federal reserved water rights situations, one of which is Ship Creek.

- * The Water Management plans project intended to prepare plans for two critically water short areas, and provide detailed figures for two water use adjudications and six individual complex cases such a seafood processing refinery.
- * The FY 80 Title III program ends December 31, 1980. The application is being prepared for next year's program which will be funded at approximately \$200,000 and be used for interagency coordination and projects within DNR.

The dam inventory program funded by COE was started with approximately 40 significant dams known. Now in the inventory are 115 with several hundred smaller dams. To follow up this program the Division requested a dam safety program which was not approved by the Governor's Office.

- Q. Dick Sims: How much of the \$995,000 in the Water Administration actually is allocated toward water rights.
- A. Greg Doggett: A component of \$125,000 was received for a fiscal note for the in-stream bill, other than that the entire amount is for water rights.
- C. Greg Doggett and Len Johnson: The processing quota for water rights is 2100 with 1400 for the Southcentral Office. Most of those are single family domestic. With increased staff the present backlog will be taken care of but the advertising program should change that.
- C. There was a general discussion on the instream flow bill. Greg Doggett and Ted Smith summarized the Division's activities with development of regulations the primary concern. The regulations should be ready for public hearing by the next meeting.
- Q. Dick Sims: Who will be Alaska's representatives for the Western States Water Council?
- A. Steve Mack: That hasn't been decided. The present member states have different policies. Most designate state employees involved in water rights administration, water quality or law but also private water lawyers and commission members are designated.

After this the meeting adjourned for lunch.

After lunch Floyd Summers with the Alaska Power Administration gave a slide presentation of the Administration's project on water source heat pumps.

Major points:

- * Alaska Power Administration became involved in heat pumps because of its interest in future developments in energy. Fuel oil prices will continue to escalate and hydroelectric power will

become more plentiful, but conventional electric heat is not very efficient. Heat pumps may be better if feasible.

- * Heat pumps work on the same principle as a refrigerator only in reverse. Air source heat pumps are more common but for Alaska it might be better if a more temperature stable medium such as water was used as a source. Air source heat pumps don't work well below 10°F.
- * In Southeast Alaska because groundwater is not available in many locations, sea water is a more readily available heat source.
- * The study showed that water source heat pumps are efficient providers of heat but the technology is not readily available, has high capital costs and with sea water fouling is a problem.
- * In terms of energy consumption water source heat pumps use roughly 15-20% less than air source heat pumps which use half that of electric baseboard.

Next, Wendy Wolf from the Office of Coastal Management gave a presentation on Alaska's Coastal Management Program.

Major Points:

- * The Office of Coastal Management is headquartered in Juneau, has several sections working on different projects but the meat of the program is coordination with district programs.
 - * Uses of state concern have been an area of interest to the Water Board. Resolution 13 by the Alaska Coastal Policy Council addresses that by requiring state agencies to identify those uses.
- Q. Dick Sims: Is the program working? How many district plans have been completed?
- A. Wendy Wolf: It's working but the district plans have to become operational to be certain. Haines has a plan and Anchorage's plan is soon to become on line.
- C. Dick Sims: It still isn't clear how conflicts become resolved. The state can push local governments around.
- A. Ike Waits: He explained DNR's process. Local governments have tools to have their way if they use them. Too often local governments back down.

Next, Dick Dworsky of the Southcentral Alaska Water Study (Level B) gave a brief summary of Level B activities since his last presentation to the Board.

Major Points:

* Level B study is nearing completion and the final report is currently out for technical review. In its final form, the study discusses needs of Southcentral Alaska and gives recommendations for programs, some of which are currently being funded but need continued funding.

* One finding is a need for some comprehensive water resources framework or state plan to look at the coordination of water quality and quantity similar to what the Board discussed in June at Fairbanks.

* Tanana River Basin Overview has been completed. It identified some of the critical resource problems in the basin.

Q. Wayne Westberg: It appears Level B planning is duplicating much of what DNR is doing.

A. Dick Dworsky: Yes, in part. The DNR regional planning has overtaken Level B in some respects. If this were done again perhaps it should be concentrated on a smaller area and collect more basic data.

Next, Dan Wilkerson, also from the Southcentral Alaska Management Team, summarized the institutional study funded by the U.S. Water Resources Council through the Alaska Water Study Committee.

* The Water Resource Council has decided it will not fund establishment of any single state management process, so this study's funding was cut off at the draft stage and it will be distributed as such.

* Interest exists among state agency people to set up a more formalized coordination structure. A proposed administrative order is being circulated for comments. Some of the recommendations suggest that the Board have a role.

C. Dick Sims: After the members has a chance to read these documents this subject will be brought up again on Friday.

Following this Jeff Haynes and Ted Smith returned to answer questions from the Board.

Q. Dick Sims: After the last meeting the Board sent a letter to the Governor on funding for trash removal along rivers. Did anything happen with this?

A. Jeff Haynes: Because most of the littering is not on state or Division of Parks land it is not in their jurisdiction. New facilities can get funded but operations and maintenance money is difficult to get.

Q. Dick Sims: What are DNR's coordination efforts with the DEPD on the Pilgrim and Unalaska geo-thermal projects.

- A. Jeff Haynes: There was an RSA to the DEDP and then to DGGS. They are working together in both Anchorage and Fairbanks.
- Q. Dick Sims: What is the status of the triagency placer mining task force?
- A. This was the first year and it was much less of a success than hoped for because of bugs that needed to be worked out. Next year should go smoother.
- Q. Dick Sims: At one of the meetings last year the Board heard a report that DNR was reluctant to participate in the master permit application. Why is that?
- A. Jeff Haynes: Most of DNR's permits are proprietary in nature and are different from the regulatory permits covered under the master permit application. DNR permits have statutory requirements that need to be addressed.
- Q. Dick Sims: What is the progress on filling the Chief of Water Management position?
- A. Ted Smith: Personnel is still processing applications. When that is done it will be possible to call the register.
- Q. Dick Sims: He asked Jeff Haynes for his reaction to the reorganization discussed in Fairbanks.
- A. Jeff Haynes: Alaska is like a developing country. To facilitate development resources should be centrally administered so that all are equally considered in the planning and development stages. Water should not be split from other resources.
- Q. Wayne Westberg: In the discussion on the budget it was never made clear who was responsible for the well log program.
- A. Bill Long: Both DGGS and Water Management funded but DGGS is responsible. The program is still evolving but should become more useful now that positions have been filled.

After this the Board adjourned for the day.

December 4, 1980

Jim Sanders started the 208 PAC part of the meeting with a presentation on the state 208 program.

- * Currently, the first grant that the department received has been completed, with the exception of one problem. The transportation D&P corridors that was produced as one of the products, has to be signed off by DOT. Until they sign off, the project cannot be closed out.

- * The second grant has also been completed, there was a balance of \$38,000 that was re-programmed into a placer mining demonstration project.
- * The third grant is going on now, with several different projects including development of a watershed planning handbook, water quality assessment and on-site waste disposal. Several of these projects are behind schedule, but work is being done to clear this up and prevent it from happening in the future.
- Q. LeVake Renshaw: Doesn't DEC have a contract control officer whose responsibility it is to oversee contracts with consultants?
- A. Jim Sanders: No, for each project the project manager has responsibility for that. Also, all changes have to be approved by EPA.
- C. There was considerable discussion on the consultant selection process involved in the 208 program.
- * The 4th year grant has four projects on-going presently. The placer mining demonstration project will have the settling pond constructed next spring. Other programs are forest practices training, industrial sludge and agricultural BMP's.
- Q. Dick Sims: Why is there a project on agricultural BMP's if the forestry BMP's don't give loggers an affirmative defense? There doesn't seem to be any benefits from them.
- A. Deming Cowles: BMP's are an attempt to show how standards may be met. Even if BMP's are not officially an affirmative defense, state agencies are not going to go after operators who are trying to do it right.
- * Work plans are currently being developed for the 5th year grant. The projects proposed are: Wetlands BMP's, village facility management and operations, and placer mining surveillance and enforcement.
- C. The Village Facility Management and Operations project generated considerable discussion. The concept was well liked by the Board but concerns were expressed over spreading the project too thin and the need to have a practical approach, hiring people with good mechanical skills. Jim Sanders replied that DEC was directing the project with that approach but receiving some resistance from EPA.
- * It's time to start thinking about projects for the 6th year grant. DEC will try to get the Board involved earlier in the selection and review process.

Next was Dan Crevensten giving an overview of the Municipality of Anchorage 208 Program.

* The 208 program in Anchorage was started in 1976 and continued on through 1979. This resulted in the development of the 208 plan for Anchorage which sets detail control strategies to control urban runoff, snowmelt water and erosion runoff from construction sites. The plan was approved July 1979 and is now being implemented.

* Specific projects included a study of wetlands within Anchorage and a study of the waste water disposal problem of the Hillside area. Another series of studies that essentially are integrated are storm water drainage and water quality management plans for individual subbasins in Anchorage. Other projects are a technical assessment of control measures and an institutional financial study.

Q. Dick Sims: These 208 grants were direct to the city or through the state?

A. Dan Crevenston: They were directly to the city but the state has to more or less sign off on them.

C. Peg Tileston: The wetlands study may be looking closely at a particular wetlands but also needs to consider surrounding drainage area. Potter Marsh is a specific example of this.

Q. Dick Sims: Is the Anchorage program receiving cooperation from the State?

A. Dan Crevenston: Yes, but a problem exists with turnover in DEC.

Next, was Sid Clark giving a presentation on the Hillside waste disposal study, a part of the Anchorage 208 program. He passed out the survey questionnaire that is being distributed to Hillside residents to develop more information on waste disposal problems in the Hillside area.

* The study has had much input from Hillside residents, especially the Hillside Advisory Committee. Ted Burton, a member of the Advisory Committee, was asked to sit in on the discussion.

Q. Wayne Westberg: Isn't there some concern about truthfulness in the answers? If someone admits to problems, the city could come in and require him to fix his system.

A. Sid Clark: Yes, it was not possible to make the questionnaires confidential.

* The survey was needed because of the lack of data. Municipality records show only one case of septic tank failure but there must be more. There are many claims about water quality problems but no data.

* Geologic and wetlands mapping will be combined with the survey results and existing information to develop alternative solutions from waste disposals.

- C. There was considerable discussion of consultants selection and contract negotiation process. Much expense often goes into the proposal. DEC has a good process of narrowing the field to spare expenses of those who they are not very interested in.

After Sid Clark's presentation the Board adjourned for lunch.

At 1:30 the Board reconvened. First on the agenda in the afternoon was Judy Stanek with a presentation on the Anchorage 208 Program Public Participation.

Major Points:

- * First some information on the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) was given. The FCC was awarded the grant by EPA to encourage citizen participation in the programs. The FCC is a non-profit corporation composed of 35 community councils. The community councils are neighborhood associations that are recognized by the municipal charter and organized by volunteers. The purpose is to provide members with a means of expressing their concerns. The main things they are dealing with are park development, bike trails, neighborhood stream maintenance, traffic problems and zone changes.
 - * The "public" can be broken down into several publics: general public, the organized public, representative public, and the public who has an economic interest in an activity. The 208 Program needs to reach all these publics. FCC is aimed at the general and organized public.
 - * The goals of the program are (1) to make the public more aware of water quality problems, (2) to provide resources to FCC to allow community councils to participate, and (3) to ensure the municipality fulfills its obligation to provide information.
 - * Reports need to be much more available and the public more informed that documents are available.
 - * The Public Participation Program is working through the Federation of Community Councils. The FCC produces a newsletter that has news from member community councils. The FCC takes no stands but community councils do. Community councils are not another layer of government but allow the public to become involved in issues they are concerned with at a level at which they feel comfortable.
- Q. LeVake Renshaw: How successful is the program in gaining a consensus of public opinion?
- A. Judy Stanek: On the whole a balanced view comes out.

Next was the Anchorage 208 Policy Advisory Committee. In attendance from the Anchorage program was Bill Lloyd, a PAC member, Dan Crevensten, staff for the program and Ted Burton, Chairman of the Hillside Advisory Committee.

Major Points:

- * The Anchorage PAC has nine members representing public officials, private citizens, economic interests, public interest groups and as an ex-officio member, the Chairman of the Hillside Advisory Committee. The PAC meets every six weeks.
- Q. LeVake Renshaw: Has the PAC participated in the development of the programs.
- A. Dan Crevesten and Ted Burton: Most programs were developed without PAC input. The Hillside Study was changed substantially in response to input from the Hillside Advisory Committee. The Hillside Committee achieved its input by being very aggressive.
- C. Ted Burton: The Municipality does not consider the projects funded by 208 to be worthy of local funding nor worth requesting funding from the state government.
- * Derrill Cowing from USGS was present to discuss the water quality data collection efforts done in conjunction with the Anchorage 208 Program and the Hillside Study. The program started out to be a three year program to monitor surface water but the Municipality is having difficulty finding funds for the third year.
- Q. Dick Sims: Did PAC have any input into this program?
- A. Dan Crevenston: No, funds were not from EPA.
- C. Dick Sims: Then the PAC is used strictly for 208 programs?
- C. There was considerable discussion of using state Health and Social Services Laboratories for testing domestic well water. If the public would do that on their own it would cut down the data gathering need. The public needs to be informed that such services are available if they are. Perhaps the FCC newsletter is one way of getting the news out.
- C. LeVake Renshaw: The overriding concern here is one of public health. Whether it is water supply or sewage, we are getting into serious health considerations that need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

Next, Dr. Robert Carlson, Institute of Water Resources, gave a presentation on the Institute's activities and on his concern over the state's role in data collection.

Major Points:

- * Since the last meeting the Institute has put in proposals for two projects, one concerned with land clearing at the Delta Agriculture Project and the other with placer mining. EPA did not feel these

were of national significance. Alaska is probably going to run into this more frequently in the future and will have to realize that we must take care of ourselves. The state agencies should consider more carefully the funding of research, something that hasn't happened much in the past.

- * Alaska is rapidly developing on a very poor data base. The Susitna Hydroelectric Project, for example, is one of the largest projects undertaken and there is literally no data base behind it. In the past, Alaska has depended on federal agencies for data collection. Alaska should be taking a strong leadership role in directing the federal agencies and in providing funding.

- C. Bill Long summarized the DGGS proposed data collection program. Dr. Carlson said it appeared to be what the state should be doing and urged support for it.

Next, Charles Johnson and Fred Boness notified the rest of the Board that they would miss Friday's session. Chairman Sims asked them to tell him if there were any topics for the Board to address while they were present.

Charles Johnson had questions on the Village Facilities Management and Operations Program. His major concern was where the person would fit in and how the project would be evaluated. After considerable discussion the Board agreed to support the project.

Chairman Sims next went down a list of topics. Fred Boness commented that the administrative order idea for interagency coordination was a waste of time. Commissioners do not need another council and would not meet. If the agencies need to meet on water resources the Board meetings can act as a forum and could ask the agencies to get together.

- C. Fred Boness: BMP's are useful in finding out what can be accomplished by industry but that stage hasn't been reached in regards to wetlands.
- C. LeVake Renshaw: Another problem with BMPs in Alaska is that what works in Kenai may not in Nome but often the BMPs are universally applied.
- C. Fred Boness: The Board ought to be concerned with and support easements along lakes and rivers in connection with the state land disposal program.

After this the Board adjourned for dinner.

At 7:30 p.m., Chairman Sims called the meeting to order for the public comment session. The session was started out with a video tape on the Terror Lake Hydroelectric project presented by Dick Sims. This presentation was developed by the Kodiak Electric Association to attempt to give the public a balanced view of the studies that are going into the feasibility study. The present holdup to the project is an objection by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This may be resolved by a ruling by the Department of Interior or by land exchanges.

At 8:30 p.m., an informal comment was given by Thomas Smith, representing Providence Hospital. It was requested that discussion be off the record.

Next, Brent Petrie of the Alaska Power Authority, formerly Chief of the Water Management Section, gave some observations that he had from his new perspective.

Major Points:

- * The day before, the Board heard a presentation about an expansion of the resource inventory program. DGGs would be going for a \$49 million program over five years. \$10 million would be for water resource inventory. The Board was encouraged to make sure that the private sector is significantly involved in the design of the program. There's a considerable pool of experience that have good ideas on what needs to be done. This program hasn't been well developed yet and the Board should ask to be kept informed of its progress.
- C. Wayne Westberg: To much of the total resource inventory program is oriented toward what oil companies and mining companies will do anyway to find oil and minerals. No one is going to do the hydrology.
- C. LeVake Renshaw: Also, these programs tend to supplant private industry functions. Government shouldn't get bigger at the expense of private industry.
- * A second point was that the Board was strongly encouraged to support the dam safety program. Large dams that go through FERC licensing are not a problem but there are many old, abandoned dams that do need inspected.
- Q. Peg Tileston: Why wasn't the dam safety program supported?
- A. Brent Petrie: In his opinion there was a fear it might slow down the larger hydroelectric projects, something he doesn't feel would happen.
- C. Fred Boness: An agency other than DNR, such as DOT/PF or the Power Authority show have the program because they have the engineers already on board.
- * A third point is that the most significant problem facing water programs is that no job series exists from which qualified water resources individuals can be hired. All positions must be described as something else-geologist, land management officer, or planner. To hire someone all the unqualified people must be weeded out first. People who are interested in working in water resources look at the state classifications and see nowhere to apply.
- C. There was considerable discussion by Deming Cowles, Fred Boness and Brent Petrie about their problems with the personnel

system. The Board agreed to send a resolution to the Governor on this problem and ask to have someone from Division of Personnel explain it from their perspective.

- * A final point is that the Board should support the proposed legislation giving DNR inspection authority. There are many phantom water rights that DNR needs to have the authority to inspect.

- C. Greg Doggett: To reinforce the need for inspection authority and a dam safety program, the Water Management Section continually receives reports of unsafe structures but a qualified person and the authority to inspect the site without the delay involved in court order is needed.

After considerable discussion the Board agreed to send a letter to the Governor requesting that the dam safety program be funded.

After this presentation the Board adjourned until the next morning.

December 5, 1980

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, with a joint meeting with the Forestry Board co-chaired by Chairman Poland and Chairman Sims.

Mr. Meier presented Chairman Poland with an award from the U.S. Forest Service for her activity in passing the F.R.P.A. through the legislature; her chairing of the Board for the past two years; and her general contribution to the management of natural resources of the state.

Board members introduced each other.

John Clark(ADF&G) made a presentation regarding the draft regulations that Fish and Game is proposing. The regulations are to implement existing statutes (AS 16.05.840, AS 16.05.870, AS 16.20).

Mr. Clark went through the regs. in a general as well as specific nature and explained the review process and timetable as Fish and Game envisioned it.

There was considerable concern expressed by some members of the Board, especially in regard to critical habitat and activities thereon.

Mr. Clark requested that both Boards review the proposed regulations and comment to Fish and Game on them.

Several questions were then directed at Mr. Clark by various Board members.

Mr. Clark discussed the creation of critical habitat areas, and pointed out that the regs, as they now stand, apply ~~only to state-owned land.~~
to all fish stream, big est. within critical habitat or state owned refuge.

Pete Authier presented a slide program depicting active logging operations at:

Ketchikan	Craig
Klawock	Shakaw Bay
Irish Cove	Kake

Considerable discussion took place interspersed with the slides.

An update was given to both Boards on the status of the new three-way cooperative agreement between DNR, DEC and DF&G.

Pete Authier presented a short summary regarding existing agreements and the reasons for going with a three-way agreement.

John Clark stated that F&G was satisfied with the material in the draft at this time.

Bob Martin (DEC) spoke on what hopefully would be included in the agreement as far as permit coordination is concerned, and the use of the Permit Coordination Center.

Mr. Meier felt that this agreement was of high priority and should be consummated as soon as possible.

Jeff Haynes stated that it would be a priority item.

Mr. Wallace felt that the agencies, at the field level, were progressing as well as could be expected in regard to coordination of activities.

Mr. Smith stated that the only hangup he could envision might be the results of the permit reform process and the various classes of permits.

Mr. Westberg questioned the inclusion of anything in regard to the Coastal Management regulations.

This precipitated considerable discussion regarding coastal management plans and regulations.

Bruce Baker (DPDP) explained coastal management process, and Mr. Smith explained the process the state had to go through in the coastal area for its activities.

Mr. Anderson felt that the press should be invited to each of the Board meetings to give coverage of the activities of the Board.

Dem Cowles (DEC) made an announcement that Bob Martin would be taking over as Regional Supervisor in Anchorage as of January 1, 1981.

Mr. Begalka brought up the question of affirmative defense under the water quality standards for following BMP's in good faith and a violation of the WQS's still occurs.

Mr. Smith explained the AG's opinion regarding the constitutionality of the affirmative defense issue.

Mr. Cowles reiterated DEC's position and philosophy in regard to affirmative defense and the BMP's. He does not want to be in the position of telling an operator how to do his job. The BMP's need to be used and tested before one can say whether they work or not.

Jeff Haynes stated that he felt that it would be far better to work on the development of BMP rather than to continue to philosophise the pros and cons of affirmative defense, unless a problem actually arose.

Dem Cowles discussed the enforcement discretion section of the water quality standards and how he that this took care of the affirmative defense issue.

Jeff would encourage operators to contribute their ideas to the development of the BMP's.

Mr. Westberg expressed a concern that an operator could get locked into a BMP and might not be able to accomplish a particular job with a simpler, less costly measure which achieved the same safeguards. Some specs may be unattainable.

Mr. Begalka stated that in light of the comments of Jeff and Dem, his mind was a bit more at ease. However, he hoped that this philosophy would filter down to the field personnel.

Dem assured Mr. Begalka that he was sure that this would happen.

Mr. Boness felt that it would be in his estimation, far better for an operator to take a certain amount of risk in his activities rather than have the government tell him how to do his job. He would be willing to take that risk. Government should be telling industry what the outcome should be not how to do the job. It would be absolutely foolish for industry to say it will buy a certain amount of protection if there is a minimal amount of risk involved, and trade that for an unachievable standard.

It all boils down to trade-offs; whatever society demands, in regard to the cost of BMP's.

Reed Stoops discussed the Regional Resources Planning Process, after Jeff Haynes briefed the Boards on how the planning process, in general, works in the department.

Approximately 16 million acres of state land have been classified as forestry interest.

Mr. Wallace stated that the planning process seemed to produce many single use areas rather than a few multiple use areas.

Mr. Williams asked, in regard to the state-wide planning map, what the statistical accuracy was -- coefficient of variance, standard deviation, etc.

Reed answered that they were confident that the acreage was there.

Mr. Williams said that he was not impressed with some of the classifications in the Interior.

At approximately 3:00 the Water Board meeting was reconvened to consider what actions to take in response to the presentations they had heard. Dan Wilkerson was present to speak on the proposed administrative order on a commissioner level Water Council. A similar council was once informally organized but only met a couple of times, if that. It is felt by some that more formal organization is needed. All the agencies recognize the need for more coordination and more communication.

- C. Peg Tileston: Commissioner's wouldn't meet more than once before delegating this to lower staff so why not start with lower staff. There are other ways to bring a problem to Commissioners' attention.
- C. There was considerable discussion on this subject. Board member consensus was that an administrative order wasn't necessary, that Commissioners would not meet very frequently and the Board was one group that was already providing some of the coordinating and communication that is desired. It was agreed to have this on the agenda for the March meeting. Also, agencies would be requested to discuss their problems and priorities at the meeting.

Next, Steve Mack discussed the Title III grant application for the coming year. It is proposed that much of the grant money would be directed toward funding interagency coordination, by implementing the water resources working group. The Board reviewed the past program and suggested that to be effective they would have to be plugged into the review sooner, perhaps have a list to go through at the summer meeting. Also, this should be tied into the priorities process that the water resources working group is interested in.

Next, the 208 Grant Proposals were discussed. First discussed was the proposal for wetlands BMPs. The Board felt it was acceptable if viewed as guidelines for development.

The Village Facilities Management and Operations proposal was well supported. Jim Sanders of DEC suggested that EPA may not want to fund it and if the Board strongly supported the proposal they should let EPA know. This the Board agreed to do.

Next was the 208 Hillside Study. Deming Cowles found that the public lab would be available for bacteriological water testing given a 30 day notice. They could do five to ten samples per day for eight weeks. The municipality would have to do the coordination to work it into their study.

Next was DGGS budget review. There was considerable discussion on the actual use of the funds and the coordination of that with the regional planning process. Wayne Westberg expressed concern about lack of

coordination with the Well Log Program. He suggested that Water Management staff get together with DGGs staff to sort out gaps in system. Greg Doggett presented the Board with a proposed administrative order on data collection by state agencies. The Board also agreed to request more information DGGs Data Collection Program when it was better developed.

Next, Dick Sims read a proposed resolution on water resources staffing of state programs. After some discussion, the Board approved the resolution and also agreed to write a letter to the Director of the Division of Personnel inviting him to discuss this at the March meeting.

Next, the Board discussed easements on state lands along rivers. The Board decided to request Jeff to have someone present at the March meeting to discuss this more fully.

In final discussions the Board set the next meeting to be March 4-6 in Juneau, agreed that a letter should be sent to the Governor requesting that his earlier letter on trash collection along rivers and streams be followed up and directed that handouts be sent in advance.

After that the Board adjourned.

Alaska Water Resources Board

Resolution 80-6

Water Resources Staffing of State Programs

WHEREAS the Alaska Water Resources Board, at its December 3-4, 1980 meeting in Anchorage, heard testimony from present and former state employees regarding problems in obtaining qualified water resources personnel to staff programs dealing with water rights, water inventory, water quality management and water resources engineering; and

WHEREAS the key problem pointed out is the lack of a professional job series in the state personnel system to attract, promote, and retain professionals in hydrology and water resources management; and

WHEREAS those programs are now staffed from land management officer, land management technician, forester and forestry technician class series which do not provide necessary qualifications or screening for professional work in water resources; and

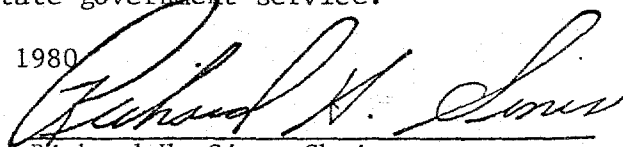
WHEREAS the Board heard additional testimony that individuals with master's degrees in hydrology were denied placement as the land management officer and therefore not available for hire to staff the programs for which they were trained; and

WHEREAS staff of the state agencies of Transportation and Public Facilities, Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation, and Fish and Game instituted formal requests to the Division of Personnel and Labor Relations to establish a hydrologist job series as long ago as May 1979, and

WHEREAS lack of action on this matter is now a significant problem which inhibits staffing of current state programs to reduce the water rights backlog, to administer the instream flow law of 1980, to conduct navigability studies to determine state title to stream beds, to conduct water data collection programs, and to design bridges, airports, highways and flood control facilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Water Resources Board respectfully requests the Governor to direct the Division of Personnel and Labor Relations to immediately conduct the necessary research and pay studies to create and approve a job series for hydrologists and water resource professionals in state government service.

Dated this 15th day of December, 1980


Richard H. Sims, Chairman