

MINUTES OF THE MCKOWNVILLE WATER DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEETING

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The tenth meeting of the McKownville Water District Citizens' Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman Marion L. Henry on Wednesday evening, April 18, 1956, at 8:20 p.m., at the Guilderland Town Offices.

Members Present: Messrs. Fred B. Abele  
James A. Choules  
William J. Embler  
John J. Feldman  
Marion L. Henry  
Frank E. Miller  
Roy H. Myers  
Drs. M. E. Becker  
Alfred Yankauer

Also Present: Dr. John B. Averill, Health Officer  
Mr. Charles McLaughlin, Sanitary Engineer,  
County Health Department  
Mr. Charles Maneri, Sanitary Engineer,  
State Health Department  
Mrs. Charles Maneri  
Mr. John J. Welsh, Supervisor

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mr. Henry, and accepted as read.

Mr. Henry suggested that the final report of the Committee on Long-Range Planning be considered first; and after that, Mr. Welsh could report on the status of the Thruway situation; and then there could be some discussion of current developments on the present plant situation.

Mr. Henry asked each member of the Committee for comments and suggestions for revising the proposed Final Report. There was lengthy discussion, which resulted in a number of amendments to the report. The details of discussion are not included in these minutes, except where changes were made by motion and also in connection with some of the more important changes.

Mr. Feldman moved, seconded by Mr. Myers, and passed: "If test wells show there is sufficient water, a plan should be made for the production of 350,000 gallons per day; and then, if necessary, additional land should be acquired so that there will be a 100-foot safety margin."

The question was asked of Mr. McLaughlin if the existing reservoir could pollute the shallow wells. He said it definitely could. He was asked if it was a probability or a remote contingency. He answered that it was 'a probability, almost a certainty,' and he stated that in shallow wells chlorination will be insisted upon.

Dr. Becker: "Will lands be required to be fenced?"  
Mr. Maneri: "The Water Power and Control Commission will set up the regulations under which the shallow wells and the entire water supply should be maintained, and they may require fencing and would designate the area to be fenced."

In response to a question, Mr. McLaughlin replied, "If pollution to reservoir is cleared up, no chlorination might be required; if it is not cleared up, chlorination would definitely be required." A decision as to whether or not the shallow wells would need chemical treatment cannot be made at the present time.

Mr. Henry: "Does this Committee want to make alternative recommendations in case the shallow well tests indicate that no such wells should be developed?" Add a recommendation 5, "In the event that testing for shallow wells proves such wells are not feasible, immediate steps should be taken to rehabilitate the present plant to put it in such condition that it can be used for a number of months while other alternatives are being explored." Mr. Feldman moved the foregoing recommendation be added - Mr. Choules seconded - it was unanimously passed.

Mr. Henry: "Will someone move the adoption of this report as revised?" Mr. Choules so moved - seconded by Mr. Myers - unanimously passed.

Mr. Henry then asked Mr. Welsh for a report on the current status of the Thruway negotiations. Mr. Welsh advised that the Thruway engineers had estimated the current capacity of our reservoir at 4,000,000 gallons, which was the same estimate made by Smith and Associates, Inc., of the capacity of the reservoir prior to the time the new water supply was developed. Consequently, the Thruway felt that no appreciable damage had occurred. Mr. Welsh also advised that maps made before the Thruway was constructed showed the upper end of the reservoir completely full and later maps indicated that it had decreased in size,- this is one factor in our favor. There appeared to be no way to obtain a satisfactory settlement from the Thruway Authority, and consequently the matter has been placed in the Court of Claims by our Town Attorney. Mr. Welsh indicated that there was considerable feeling that the case would be settled prior to adjudication by the Court.

#### Current Developments in the Water Situation:

Mr. Henry read Mr. Maneri's report of February 17. On February 21, this report was passed on by Mr. Moore, Head of the Water Supply Section of the State Department of Health, to the Albany County Health Department, attention of Mr. McLaughlin. On February 24, he passed this on to the Town Board, and under date of March 14 - having heard nothing - Dr. Powers wrote a letter to Mr. Welsh asking for a reply within five days as to what action was being taken on the recommendations which had been made.

Mr. Welsh: "The Town Board has considered both report and recommendations. They discussed whether the water districts of the whole town should be put under one head."

Mr. McLaughlin said he wrote a letter to the Town Board saying that he was in accord with Mr. Moore's recommendations,- pointing out that 90% of the troubles at the plant have been the fault of the operator. Everybody seems to know this is so. He further advised there is a man who can qualify as Plant Operator within three or four months. He can obtain a Grade 3 permit in the immediate future and a waiver to operate our Grade 2 plant until he meets the qualifications and obtains a

Grade 2 permit. If the Town Board hires this operator prior to the time he is completely qualified to operate the plant, Mr. McLaughlin stated that he would go on record as the Plant Operator and that Mr. Maneri of the State Health Department would also assist. There is a course at Cornell University in June for Grade 2 Water Plant Operator, and the Town Board would have this man take the course in order to qualify.

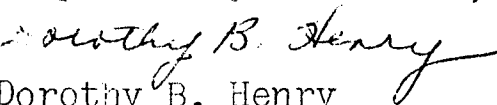
Mr. Welsh: "I did talk to the plant operator and to Mr. McLaughlin. It was discussed with the Town Board, and the five-day deadline could not be met. The County Health Department agreed to give a slight extension."

After the Final Report of this Committee is submitted to the Town Board, it should be distributed to all the residents of the McKownville Water District.

In letter of transmittal to the Town Board, we should bring out the fact that this being our Final Report, we consider that the McKownville Water District Citizens' Advisory Committee, upon this action, is now out of existence.

A motion was made by Mr. Choules, seconded by Mr. Myers, to adjourn the meeting and to dissolve the Committee. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dorothy B. Henry  
Acting Secretary