

CHAPTER XXI

The Interstate Commission on the Ohio Basin

Incoho

WHILE flood waters were still rising in the Ohio Valley, officials from forty-five states were gathered in Washington, January 21, 1937, for the Third General Assembly of the Council of State Governments. Upon demands of



JAMES O. MONROE
Chairman

delegates from the affected states, the General Assembly voted to set up an interstate agency to control, regulate, and conserve the resources of the Ohio Basin.

As directed by the Assembly resolutions, Honorable Paul V. McNutt, President of the Council, issued a call for official representatives of the nine basin states to meet at Columbus, Ohio, on February 5 and 6. At that meeting, together with the state representatives, were members of the National Resources Committee, the Corps of Engineers of the U. S. Army, representatives of the U. S. Forestry Service and of the Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Each of the state planning boards of the nine basin states was represented and the individual state's point of view presented to the conference.

The delegates to the Columbus conference set the date for the organization meeting of "Incoho" as February 19 and 20, at Indianapolis. At that meeting the commission elected Senator James O. Monroe, of Illinois, chairman of the commission.

Articles of organization adopted there provide that each of the nine states shall have three representatives on the commission. These are appointed by the Chairman of the Commission of Interstate Cooperation from among its members—one from the senate, one from the house, and one of the governor's appointees, preferably a planning board member. In any state where there is no Commission on Interstate Cooperation, appointments are made by the governor.

Twenty-one of the twenty-seven members of the commission have been appointed. Terms expire on February 1 annually, but each serves until his successor is appointed.

To coordinate the work of the commission with the Council of State Governments, it is provided that the Council's district representative for district number five shall serve, ex-officio, as chief of staff and secretary-treasurer of the commission.

Specific provision was made for cooperation with federal agencies in working out a program for the basin. The articles provide that the National Resources Committee and the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army shall be requested to send representatives to each meeting of the commission.

Resolutions

The commission, at its first meeting, adopted the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the delegates to this meeting of the Interstate Commission on the Ohio Basin are instructed to undertake, in their respective states, the immediate compilation of studies and plans for the needs of the respective states for the development of the Ohio Basin, including water conservation, flood control, and related matters, for the welfare of the

people residing in the Ohio Basin. That this commission's chief of staff shall promptly collect and make available to the members of this commission such plans and programs as have already been developed by various agencies for the development of the Ohio Basin.

WHEREAS, The National Resources Committee, in its report to the president, recommended joint investigations of *selected river basins* by state and federal agencies to provide bases for interstate action or permanent programs of water-use and control, utilizing the National Resources Committee for correlation and coordinating;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the additional studies of the Ohio Basin, as enumerated in the Report of the National Resources Committee, be carried forward by that committee, and

That the Interstate Commission on the Ohio Basin, in order to carry forward these investigations, request the National Resources Committee to assign one or more planning consultants to work jointly with this commission and the Ohio Valley Regional Planning Commission.

And further this commission expresses its appreciation of the helpful and cordial cooperation which it is receiving from vari-

ous federal agencies, especially from: The Department of Agriculture, the Army Engineers, and the National Resources Committee.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That the states designated below be requested to contribute the sums specified toward the establishment and maintenance of the permanent office of this commission:

Pennsylvania	\$ 500	Indiana \$ 500
Ohio 1,000	Illinois 1,000
West Virginia	500	Virginia 250
Kentucky 500	New York	... 250
		Tennessee	\$500
		Total	\$5,000

Committees

Five standing committees to carry on the work of the Commission were authorized at the Indianapolis conference. They are: Planning and engineering, legal affairs, public relations, federal-state relations, and budget.

The Interstate Commission on the Ohio Basin, working cooperatively with federal and state agencies, will take any steps necessary to unite federal programs with state action. Its aim is coordination, and not duplication, of state effort.

Membership of the Interstate Commission on the Ohio Basin

Senator James O. Monroe, Chairman
Hon. J. W. Cammack, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Illinois: Senator James O. Monroe
Hon. Paul Powell
Hon. Charles P. Casey, Director, Department of Public Works

Indiana: Senator Jacob Weiss
President Pro Tem of the Senate
Hon. William E. Treadway
Dr. B. D. Myers, Vice-Chairman, State Planning Board

Kentucky: Senator J. Joseph Hettinger
Hon. John Kirtley
Hon. James W. Cammack, Jr., Public Service Commissioner

New York: Senator Erastus Corning, II
Hon. Harold C. Ostertag
Mr. Wayne D. Heydecker, Director, New York State Planning Council

Ohio: Senator Emerson Campbell
Hon. P. E. Ward
Mr. Alfred Bettman
Ohio Valley Regional Planning Commission

Pennsylvania: (to be appointed)
(to be appointed)
(to be appointed)

Tennessee: Senator Andrew Jackson Graves
Hon. R. G. Kinkle
Mr. Gerald Gimre, Consultant, State Planning Commission

Virginia: (to be appointed)
(to be appointed)
Hon. Morton L. Wallerstein
Chairman, State Planning Board

West Virginia: Senator J. Patrick Beacom
(to be appointed)
Hon. John J. D. Preston,
Chairman, Public Service Commission