

June 5, 1969

Present: F. Elliott Burch
J. Wilmer Bowles
George R. Aud

Meeting convened at 10:05 a.m.

Watershed Field Review

and J. W. Henderson

James Beavin, John Hall, SCS; Robert H. Thompson, Irving G. Hewitt, Steering Committee on Watershed; David K. Bowen, George E. Wheeler, Edward R. Keil, William P. Weldon, State SCS; Gene F. Cheers, Md. Dept. of Forests and Parks; Allen W. Tate, SRC; William B. Groome, Howard M. Bailey, FHA; James L. Weems, William Kribs, Watershed Committee; Robert S. Norton, Jr., Dept. of Water Resources.

Mr. G. Wheeler explained that the purpose of this meeting was to go over the draft prepared in March and make up a final draft before the public hearing this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. This meeting is to prepare a background for formal comments to be submitted to the governor. Mr. E. Keil requested that Mr. Wheeler explain the document and reasons for what is contained in it.

The project consists of the construction of five dams. Site 1 is for the purpose of flood protection and improvement of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Site 2 is designed for flood protection and recreation; Sites 3, 4, and 5 are single purpose flood prevention structures.

Mr. Wheeler reviewed the entire area by use of maps, and stated this is a most unusual watershed and is the most multi-purpose one he has seen. If the sediment is controlled in the St. Mary's River, it will help the oyster industry. He stated there is an opportunity in the future to use this area for surface water storage. A 310 acre lake will be created for recreational use and a 250 acre lake for fish and wildlife improvement. Recreational facilities are expected to accommodate 120,000 users annually. These five sites will control 80% of the drainage area. Mr. Keil stated that the sediment prediction is quite low. Mr. Wheeler said it is because it is low land, and wooded. This project is being developed for the next 110 year period.

Mr. Bowen stated for approval, it takes a resolution by two committees of Congress, with this it can become operational. If we can get this plan to Congress this month they could act on it this year, then it could be funded subject to the money available. This could start acquisition of land and design. They have projected this for FY 70. Mr. Bill Welden will have to make a detailed survey at Sites 1 and 2. Also they will have to make surveys of properties to establish conveyance of titles of the properties. Mr. Thompson stated he had read an article on P.L. 566 in the newspaper which stated there is too much recreation. Mr. Keil stated they do not anticipate problems on property work with this. The only problems they have is funding when it becomes operational.

Mr. G. Cheers stated that the 120,000 persons annually is not an annual visitation. It is a designed capacity established for the acres that was designated for basic recreation facilities of 300 acres. Site 2 is for day use, only.

Mr. Rogers asked if what is in the draft is what Game and Inland Fish is to do. The Game and Inland Fish will be agreeing to pay a certain percent of cost, according to Mr. Bowen. Mr. Burch stated that the Commissioners agreed they would contribute \$100,000 to the project when they met with Mr. Shields and Mr. Rogers. Mr. Rogers stated if it takes more money he would like to know how much.

Mr. Thompson stated they have most of the options for the land and some of the property owners want a friendly condemnation suit because of tax purposes. He also said we must have an attorney for this work and he would like to know who will pay the legal fees. Mr. Rogers asked if the administrator of the contract does the paying of legal fees. He also stated they could not pay for any legal services or surveys because they do not have money in their budget for this. Mr. Thompson read a letter from Mr. Shields, dated September 24, 1968, to Mr. Burch, saying that his department was receptive to the county's proposals. The options are for six months and have an automatic renewal unless given 30 days notice after the six months is up. These options must be worked on this year or else they may lose them, stated Mr. Thompson. Capt. Henderson feels it very important that these surveys are started. Mr. Bowen said we should not go any further with options until this work is done.

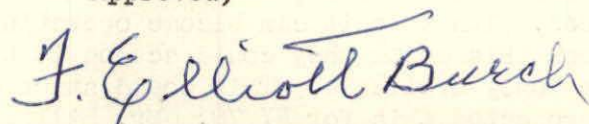
Mr. Burch asked that if the county paid for the legal fees would this be applied to the \$100,000 that the county is contributing? Mr. Rogers stated this should get Mr. Shields approval, and if this was in their budget it would have to be approved and would probably take approximately 90 days. The legal fees should not go over \$2,500 and the survey work is estimated to be \$10,000.

Capt. Henderson stated we should go ahead and get surveys and deeds prepared. Mr. Bowen stated Congress had to approve this before any loan can come through. Mr. Rogers wants to know what the cost will be so that he can go back to Mr. Shields and tell him what their department will be responsible for.

It was suggested that each group get together and work up a draft to be presented at this afternoon's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Approved,



F. Elliott Burch, President