

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
DIVISION OF FISHERIES
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
COOPERATING WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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CONFERENCE ON THE LINCOLN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
OF KENT COUNTY ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1938

At the request of the Lincoln Lake Improvement Association, Michigan Department of Conservation and the U. S. Biological Survey representatives met with the above association to discuss the fish and waterfowl problems of such a venture. (See Institute Report No. 481 covering an initial investigation of the Lincoln Lake flooding project.) Dr. Andy Ammon represented the Biological Survey and Dr. R. Smith, State Geologist, Mr. Claude Lydell, District Supervisor of Fisheries Operations, Mr. W. F. Carbine, Institute for Fisheries Research, and Dr. C. J. D. Brown, Institute for Fisheries Research, represented the Department of Conservation.

We were asked to meet in the County Drain Commissioner's office at 10 a.m. We waited until 11:00 before anyone showed up, and then the Commissioner arrived and said the meeting was scheduled at 2 p.m. out at the lake. We arrived at the lake at 2 p.m. and the meeting started at 3 p.m.

After a round of beers, which had been prepared by the Improvement Association, Dr. Smith, State Geologist, was asked to speak. He pointed out the legal relation of his division to such matters and indicated that the project, no matter how desirable, was quite a legal undertaking, since it concerned frontage property of so many people. He also pointed out that

a careful topographic map would have to be made in order to determine the effect and extent of flooding.

The president of the Lincoln Lake Improvement Association said he already realized this fact and admitted that the prime reason for inviting ~~and~~ state and federal representatives was to secure financial support for such a survey. Several of the association members bespoke themselves concerning the duty of the state and federal agencies to support their project.

Mr. Carbine and I were asked if the Department of Conservation couldn't be persuaded to give financial support because of the increased fish production. Our answer was that we were not sure it would increase the fish production.

Mr. Ammon of the Biological Survey was then asked if the Biological Survey might not finance their project. He answered that unless the whole area were turned over to the Biological Survey and that unless the region showed indications of being suitable for a waterfowl refuge, that the Biological Survey probably wouldn't be interested.

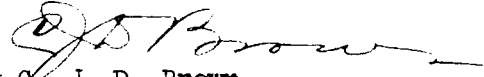
The meeting ended in a wrangle between the association members.

It was quite evident that the only reason for requesting consultants from the state and federal agencies was a financial one. The only interest the organization showed in fish was from the purely economic angles of real estate value and tourist trade.

It is exceedingly doubtful if the increased acreage of water could be justified from the point of view of fishing except as it would probably make room for more fish. The assumed increase in shoal would have to be studied after a complete survey--remembering that a raise in the water level would destroy the rather abundant existing shoal.

If this project goes through, it would probably be worth while to make pre- and post-surveys, as an experiment in determining the effects of impoundment.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH



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*Original in file
10/15/54
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