

# ACTIVITIES OF THE SOUTHEASTERN WATER USE COMMITTEE

1969

The Water Use Committee was established in 1958, and reports on "Water Projects in Arkansas in Relation to Wildlife and Recreation", and "Opportunities for Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Through Wetlands and Water Use Studies" were presented at the Southeastern Association Meeting in that year. Subsequently the Watershed Study Subcommittee was established with Robert Smith as Chairman.

Over the past 10 years the Committee has prepared or sponsored some nineteen (19) special reports on water use and management in relation to fish and wildlife resources, has sponsored seminars and workshops and its members have prepared at least ten (10) additional reports on special problems directly related to committee objectives. Committee members have been active as participants in state and regional water resource meetings of many types and kinds, have implemented legislative actions, and have worked through their own efforts to bring about changes in water management practices to protect those environments essential to fish and wildlife resources and to those recreational and esthetic values essential to welfare. Attached to this report is a list of papers and reports prepared for or by members of this Committee.

Prior to 1969, the Committee has regularly assembled for a mid-year meeting. In 1969, this meeting was deferred because of the obligations and commitments of Committee members. We did, however, sponsor and support a regional (8 state) seminar on Stream preservation, held at Russellville, Arkansas on December 9, 1968, and Committee members and others from the eight-state area participated in this Conference. A Proceedings emanating from this meeting is in process of publication.

Also, Committee members were active in their own states and areas in assisting with the implementation of legislative actions to preserve streams and wetland habitats, and bring about a better understanding of water problems as they relate to environments for fish, wildlife and man.

As examples of actions taken, Arkansas and Oklahoma prepared legislation designed to preserve streams for recreational and other purposes, and Missouri, Tennessee and other southeastern states pursued actions along these lines. Georgia took direct action to point out the impacts of drainage on streams, and Arkansas initiated a wetlands study through the State Planning Commission. Previously, the Planning Commission sponsored a report, "Stream Preservation in Arkansas" which I prepared for the State Stream Preservation Committee.

Efforts to organize a workshop to study the impact of watershed developments was proposed at the special Committee meeting in 1968, but due to illness of sponsoring members this workshop was deferred. Such a workshop is proposed for the 1970 year. At the 1969 (current) meeting we intend to reorganize the Regional Committee to include sub-regional divisions. A major problem has been that of maintaining contact with members throughout all the states in the region, and we hope to effect a better liaison between the states through this arrangement.

Problems in water management continue. These include the impact of drainage on timberlands and wetlands, the loss of streams valued for recreational, esthetic and other reasons through inundation by increasing numbers of impoundments and ramifying channels, pollution from industry and silt, developments for atomic power, and large scale developments for navigation and other purposes. Problems are created by the narrow (and limited) purposes and objectives, which receive priority in water management, and the legal and policy jurisdictions of the various agencies authorized to manage water resources.

There are indications that a more comprehensive and realistic appraisal of water management needs is in the offing. The establishment of the Water Resources Council and Water Resources Commission provides avenues for the review and analysis of water projects and needs on a more comprehensive basis, and legislation which would set up a national "water bank" program and various state and federal actions taken to preserve streams indicate an increasing awareness by the public sector that engineering and other technological developments are destroying significant water resource values.

The Water Use Committee has, I believe, accomplished certain of its original objectives. At this annual (1969) meeting we propose to increase the scope and capabilities of this Committee and reorient its functions. The protection of fish and wildlife, and environments directly related to the natural waters of the southeast, is one of the most acute conservation problems confronting the professional biologist. We believe the Committee through its members can continue to make positive contributions to this cause.

Submitted by,

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*Water Use Committee, S.E. Section, . .*  
*Wildlife Society.*

Mobile, Alabama,  
October 19-22, 1969.

## AGENDA

### WATER USE AND WATERSHED STUDY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

MOBILE, ALABAMA

OCTOBER 20, 1969

- I. Organization of the Water Use Committee-Subsections, etc.
- II. Meetings—schedules.
- III. Membership
- IV. Subcommittees—Watershed, etc.
- V. Primary Objectives-Problems, studies, reports, actions
- VI. Problem Areas
  - A. Wetlands Drainage
  - B. Small Watersheds
  - C. Impoundments
  - D. Stream Preservation- actions and needs  
Other- Pollution, reactors, urban developments, etc.
  - E. State vs. Federal Jurisdictions
  - F. Legislative- actions vs. needs
  - G. Economics- Costs vs. Benefits- Systems of analysis, etc.
  - H. Criteria for determining intangible, environmental values
  - I. Estuary and coastal problems.
  - J. Research needs.
  - K. Future needs and courses of action for the Committee- Priorities
  - L. Coordination with other states and agencies
  - M. Miscellaneous topics.

The above items present some general guidelines for discussion purposes. Committee members are requested to present other topics for discussion, and action by the Water Use Committee.

HAROLD E. ALEXANDER, *Chairman*