

THE WEATHER

Tuesday - Sunny and warmer with a high in the high 70s.

ALAX GAZETTE



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Blue Ridge Project

Group Named To Draft Bi-State Pact For APCo Dams

By Arthur Gurley

INDEPENDENCE -- Steps were taken here Saturday to formulate the initial draft of a bi-state compact which would have supervision over the area encompassed by the proposed Blue Ridge Project.

Members of study commissions, sponsored by the governors of Virginia and North Carolina to consider such a two-state authority, held their first joint meeting following preliminary sessions in their respective states.

Del. Jerry N. Gestler of Hillsville, chairman of the Virginia Study Commission, presided and was named permanent chairman of the combined commissions. Sidney Gambill of Ashe County, chairman of the North Caro-

lina Commission, was named co-chairman. Lorne R. Campbell, independence attorney and a member of the Virginia Commission, was named secretary.

Greater Gambill and Campbell were given the responsibility of selecting members of a special committee to prepare a draft for consideration by the full commission.

It was agreed that facilities and personnel of the Statutory and Research Divisions in the respective states would be sought in preparing the draft. The final recommendation brought by the study groups to become effective, must be approved by the legislatures in Virginia and North Carolina.

Overall goal of the study is to set up an authority that would provide uniform and effective local control over the area affected by the Blue Ridge reservoirs that encompass areas in two North Carolina counties--Alleghany and Ashe--and Grayson County in Virginia. The two dams would be built on New River in Grayson County.

The commission members agreed that a summary of the actions taken at the preliminary meetings and the joint meeting here would be prepared and forwarded to the Appalachian Power Company, the Federal Power Commission and other interested agencies.

A representative of the power company is to be invited to future sessions of the joint commission in an advisory capacity.

Dr. Mitchell Windell of Washington, a consultant on governmental affairs, attended the session at the request of the Virginia Study Commission.

Windell suggested that a bi-state compact between California and Nevada governing the area around Lake Tahoe possibly could be used for guidelines for drafting the Carolina-Virginia North Compact.

He explained that an authority or agency provided for in a two-state compact should be empowered to contract with the owner of the facility (APCo) in certain necessary matters.

On motion by N.C. Rep. P.C. Collins, seconded by Virginia State Sen. D. Woodrow Bird, the joint commission agreed that in addition to the power company being invited to sit-in on the draft committee meetings, the attorney general from the two states, as well as other concerned state agencies, be included.

Those attending the session, in addition to Gestler, Gambill, Campbell, Bird, Collins and Windell, included Elbert Cox, commissioner of outdoor recreation, Gerald L. Ballie, Virginia assistant

attorney general, Ben Bolen, director of Virginia State Parks, Mrs. Sharon Sider, environmental representative of the Virginia Division of State Planning and Community Affairs,

Alfred Houston, N.C. Planning Division, Robert L. Buckner, N.C. Department of Local Affairs and Recreation, Guy Halsey, chairman of the Grayson Planning Commission, Grayson Supervisor James Carrico,

Also, Jack Phipps, president of the Grayson Businessmen's Club, Blake Hampton, Alleghany County Commissioner, J.H. Gambill, Alleghany County Commissioner, Edmund Adams, attorney for Alleghany and Ashe Counties,

J. Cam Fields, chairman of Grayson School Board, Dr. D.J. Freund, head of the Providence Children's Association, the Upper New River Valley Association and Jim Todd, secretary of the Upper New River Valley Association.



Garrett Photo Service

BI-STATE COMPACT STUDY -- Commissioners from Virginia and North Carolina met Saturday in Independence to consider the drafting of a bi-state compact for the Blue Ridge project area. Shown in picture, left

to right, Elbert Cox, Arthur Gurley, Alfred Houston, Mrs. Sharon Sider, Dr. Mitchell Windell, Del. Jerry Gestler, State Senator D. Woodrow Bird, Rep. P.C. Collins, Lorne R. Campbell and Edmund Adams