

The Tocks Island Regional Advisory Council (TIRAC) is a rather unique council of county governments which was formed in response to the Federal legislation authorizing (1) the Tocks Island dam and reservoir project and (2) the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA). The Council, which consists of representatives from the seven counties in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania which are touched by the above-named projects, has two primary purposes:

First, to identify the problems and opportunities which will be generated by the Federal development of the Tocks Island reservoir project and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; and

Second, to marshal the resources needed to effectively cope with the problems and opportunities.

Since it was formed in 1965, TIRAC has developed (1) what should, in the next few years, be a comprehensive regional environmental protection system (this involves water, sewer, solid waste and vector control studies and/or programs) and (2) the rudiments of regional planning program which should protect this region from any honky-tonk type of development.

When I first joined the organization in 1965, the most urgent problem we faced was that of land speculation within the authorized boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. We dealt with this problem through taking a long series of actions at the local or regional level. These included: (1) working with the FHA and other Federal agencies to stop Federal mortgage assistance on construction within the DWGNRA's boundaries; (2) working with local realtors and bankers to discourage sale of land and properties within the DWGNRA; (3) working with New Jersey electric utilities to adjust tariff structures (result: builders and/or property owners have to pay to have power lines brought in and taken out when the U.S. acquires the property) on lands within the authorized boundaries; (4) publicity campaigns to discourage persons from buying lots within the authorized boundaries; and numerous other steps.

While these actions helped considerably, they became truly effective only when the U.S. Government finally appropriated funds for the first land purchases for the DWGNRA. Indeed, in our experience, prompt Federal acquisition of land is the only effective way of preventing land speculation associated with the Federal development of water resource and other projects.

For this reason, we are pleased to join with other interested groups in complete support of S. 1401.

Respectfully,

FRANK W. DRESSLER.

STATE OF NEW YORK CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT,
Albany, February 5, 1968.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Old Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: As the Liaison Officer of the State of New York, I wish to advise your Committee of our endorsement and support of the principles and objectives of the proposed amendments of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act as set forth in Senate 1401.

New York has experienced a tremendous demand for expanded outdoor recreational opportunities reflecting the deep concern and vital need of its residents. Since the inception of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, formal applications requiring in excess of \$22 million in matching funds have been received from municipal and state agencies. Unfortunately, only \$12.8 million of federal assistance funds have been made available to the State of New York which has caused the postponement of many desirable projects to some future time.

Delays of this nature can only produce higher ultimate costs to the public as a result of the rising trend in land and construction costs. We must also recognize the serious potential for loss of beneficial public use of these deferred facilities and the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources through diversion to other uses.

This State has made a firm commitment towards providing funding for its natural resource and outdoor recreation programs through two substantial bond issues.