

In 1955 the fresh water run off from Hurricane Diane destroyed several million dollars worth of oysters in the Rappahannock River. The rains occurred in the Valley of Virginia and if this reservoir had been in operation, I am sure the damage to the oysters in the Rappahannock River would not have occurred. We also, believe the salinity of the water in the shell fish growing area in the Rappahannock River can be stabilized to a large extent from this proposed reservoir and this would greatly improve the environment for growing oysters and other Marine Resources.

Next, Mr. Chairman, I have a statement of R. A. Farmar, Sr., of Warsaw, Va., of the Richmond County Planning Commission which reads as follows:

Mr. Chairman and members of the sub-committee, my name is R. A. Farmar, Sr. I am Chairman of the Richmond County Planning Commission, a member of the Planning Commission for the Town of Warsaw, Virginia, and the Northern Neck Planning and Economic Development Commission (Richmond, Westmoreland, Northumberland and Lancaster Counties).

I would like to state that I highly endorse the Salem Church Dam and Reservoir project, and urge the Congress to authorize the construction of the project as recommended in the Senate Document No. 37, 90th. Congress, 1st Session.

It is most evident that the rapid urbanization and increasing population growth of the Rappahannock River Basin Area demands that every effort be made for the conservation of our water and other natural resources so there will be an adequate water supply, flood control, and recreational areas for the orderly and economic development of the entire area.

History has taught us that we must be deeply concerned about the conservation of our natural resources. The responsibility is ours to act, and I urge you to give this project your most serious consideration.

Mr. Chairman, the last letter is dated June 18, 1968 and addressed to you. It is from Walther B. Fidler, who is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, and it reads:

I have reviewed the report prepared by the Department of the Army, dated May 2, 1966, relative to the Salem Church Reservoir Project on the Rappahannock River. I have also conferred with representatives of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at Gloucester Point, Virginia, relative to this Project.

I am convinced that the controlled release of water from this Reservoir can prevent the excessive run-offs of fresh water such as we experienced in 1955 which resulted in the destruction of about 80 per cent of all oysters in the lower Rappahannock River from just below Tappahannock to Urbanna, Virginia, a distance of about twenty-five miles.

I am also satisfied that this project will vastly improve the water quality of the river just below Fredericksburg. I have consulted with the staff of the State Water Control Board of Virginia requesting their comments and opinions, a copy of which is attached. The Rappahannock River below Fredericksburg might be characterized as a pond during periods of very low flow. The tidal influence is not overcome with such a low flow of fresh water. Even the minimal wastes reaching the river are not carried downstream and there is virtually no dilution. In addition, during these periods of low flow, it allows salt water to flow much farther upstream introducing many of the destructive shell fish pests and diseases into the lower river, which pests and diseases can only survive in quite salty water.

This Dam will certainly have the effect of flattening the characteristic peaks and valleys in the flow curve of this river, so that when there is an over-abundance of flow, water can be stored for release during drought periods.

I am restricting my remarks to the features of the project affecting the lower river area which I have the pleasure to represent. I endorse the project and urge its prompt construction.

That concludes my presentation, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SCORR. Mr. Chairman, I think if we might add, that State Senator Paul Manns did have a conflict in Richmond, otherwise he would be here.

He has been a strong advocate of this project.