

CHAPTER 283.

[H. B. 404.]

COLUMBIA BASIN COMMISSION.

AN ACT relating to the Columbia Basin Project, creating a Columbia Basin Commission, prescribing how the same shall be constituted, and defining its powers and duties, amending sections 1, 3 and 4, chapter 81, Laws of 1933 (secs. 3017-1, 3017-3 and 3017-4, Rem. Rev. Stat., secs. 5724-26, 5724-28 and 5724-29, Pierce's Code) and section 2, chapter 81, Laws of 1933, as amended by section 1, chapter 132, Laws of 1935 (sec. 3017-2, Rem. Rev. Stat., sec. 5724-27, Pierce's Code), making an appropriation and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, The timely construction of the Columbia Basin irrigation system, the orderly settlement and development of the project lands, and the development of the hydroelectric resources of the Columbia River, and the promotion of the discovery and use of mineral, agricultural and industrial resources of the adjacent area are all of vital importance to the United States, to the State of Washington, to the Columbia Basin irrigation districts, the present land owners therein, and to the future settlers upon the project, therefore in the furtherance of the attainment of these objectives,

Columbia Basin development vital.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. That section 1, chapter 81, Laws of 1933 (sec. 3017-1, Rem. Rev. Stat., sec. 5724-26, Pierce's Code) be amended to read as follows:

Amendments.

Section 1. There is hereby created a non-salaried commission to be known as the Columbia Basin Commission, which shall consist of seven (7) members, three (3) of whom shall be designated by and from among the members of boards of directors of the three (3) Columbia Basin irrigation districts; namely, one (1) member by and from among the directors of the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation

Columbia Basin Commission.

District, one (1) by and from among the directors of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, and one (1) by and from among the Board of Directors of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District; three (3) members shall be appointed by the Governor, and removable by him at his pleasure; and the Director of the Department of Conservation and Development shall be the seventh (7th) member and chairman of the Commission. As soon as possible after this act becomes effective, and not later than the first day of February each year thereafter, the respective Irrigation District Boards shall select one of its members to serve on the Columbia Basin Commission for the ensuing year, and shall thereupon forthwith certify such selection to the Governor. The term of any Commission member designated by an irrigation district shall terminate when his successor has been certified to the Governor or upon the expiration of his term as Irrigation District Director. Each member of the Commission, except the Director of the Department of Conservation and Development, shall receive fifteen dollars (\$15) per day and transportation while actually engaged in the performance of his duties within the State of Washington.

Term.

Per diem.

Commission divided.

SEC. 2. The Columbia Basin Commission shall be divided into two (2) groups to be known respectively as the Reclamation Section and the Resources Section which shall function jointly and separately as hereinafter provided.

Reclamation section.

The membership of the Reclamation Section shall consist of the three (3) members representing the three (3) Columbia Basin irrigation districts and the Director of the Department of Conservation and Development, who shall be chairman of the section.

Resources section.

The membership of the Resources Section shall consist of the three (3) members appointed by the Governor and the Director of the Department of

Conservation and Development, who shall be chairman of the section.

SEC. 3. That section 2, chapter 81, Laws of 1933, as amended by section 1, chapter 132, Laws of 1935 (sec. 3017-2, Rem. Rev. Stat., sec. 5724-27, Pierce's Code) be amended to read as follows:

Section 2. The Columbia Basin Commission shall be empowered and it shall be its duty on behalf of the State of Washington to study and promote the development and utilization of the agricultural, water, power, mineral, timber, recreational, and other natural resources of the Columbia River Basin, with special reference to those parts embracing the Columbia Basin irrigation project, Grand Coulee power project and tributary areas. The Commission shall meet, organize, and enter upon its duties immediately after its members have been appointed and designated. A majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. The Commission shall meet at the call of the chairman, and in no event less than twice a year.

Promote
development
of resources.

SEC. 4. The Reclamation Section of the Columbia Basin Commission shall be empowered and it shall be its duty to advise and assist the Board of Directors of the said Columbia Basin irrigation districts in matters relating to the construction and development of the Columbia Basin irrigation project by the Federal Government to the end that full benefits may be realized at the earliest feasible time to the nation, state and region. None of the powers and duties of the Commission shall be construed to interfere, conflict or supersede the powers and duties of the Boards of Directors of said districts, but in order to effectively advise and assist the said irrigation districts, land owners, and settlers, the Reclamation Section shall:

Duties of
reclamation
section.

(1) Formulate and promote the passage of state and national legislation prescribing the basis for re-

Promote proper legislation.

payment contracts between the Federal Government and the irrigation districts, for appraisal of lands and the disposition of excess land holdings, and for the selection of settlers and the settlement and development of project lands.

Determine safe costs.

(2) Review studies heretofore made and undertake studies of its own in order to determine the amount of irrigation construction costs which can be safely assumed and repaid by the project farmers under the terms of the national reclamation act; aid in securing a sufficient allocation of power revenues from the Coulee Dam power development to cover any portion of construction costs which cannot be safely assumed and repaid by the project farmers, and aid the irrigation districts in securing repayment contracts that are safe and equitable to both contracting parties.

Seek best water plan.

(3) Give broad study to the relative merits of the various plans for delivery and distribution of irrigation water to the several portions of the project area, and suggest and advocate the adoption of that plan which appears to most adequately satisfy future and present requirements.

Promote federal funds.

(4) At proper and opportune times urge upon congress the appropriation of funds for commencement of construction of the irrigation project and for its progressive prosecution at rates commensurate with the rate of settlement and development of the project lands.

Land settlement.

(5) Study methods and plans for settlement and development of the project lands and actively cooperate with and render aid to Federal and other agencies engaged therein.

Provide information.

(6) Engage in a general educational program to gain general recognition of the enduring benefits which will accrue from the project to the state and nation through creation of new wealth, and provide data and information for members of congress, any committee thereof, and for Federal officials as an

aid in securing needed legislation, contracts, and timely appropriations for the project; and the Reclamation Section shall be charged with responsibility for studying and obtaining state wide and national recognition of the potentialities of this project for immediate post-war employment.

(7) Study and further the establishment of such industrial enterprises within or adjacent to the project as will utilize electric energy developed at Coulee Dam and food and fiber crops grown upon the project; and the Reclamation Section may study and make recommendations with respect to any major matters or plan affecting the economic and social aspect of the project and its present and prospective inhabitants.

Seek industries.

SEC. 5. The Resources Section of the Columbia Basin Commission shall be empowered and it shall be its duty to study and promote the development of the hydroelectric resources of the Columbia River and to further promote the discovery and use of all mineral, agricultural, and industrial resources of the Columbia River Basin.

Duties of resources section.

SEC. 6. That section 3, chapter 81, Laws of 1933 (sec. 3017-3, Rem. Rev. Stat., sec. 5724-28, Pierce's Code) be amended to read as follows:

Amendments.

Section 3. The Columbia Basin Commission shall have the power to employ a secretary or secretaries and such other persons as may be necessary to carry out its functions under this act, to fix the compensation to be paid to such secretary and employees, and to expend such funds allocated under the provisions of this act as may be necessary for such purposes. Whenever the Commission shall find it necessary or desirable, in the interest of the attainment of any of its lawful objectives, to delegate its members, officers or employees to temporary duties at points outside the State of Washington, such representatives, in addition to any other compensation herein provided for, may be reimbursed in full for actual

Power to employ assistants.

and necessary traveling, lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred while so engaged, and notwithstanding the provisions of any other statutes now in effect.

Amend-
ments.

SEC. 7. That section 4, chapter 81, Laws of 1933 (sec. 3017-4, Rem. Rev. Stat., sec. 5724-29, Pierce's Code) be amended to read as follows:

State records
available.

Section 4. The records and data of all state officials and departments shall be available to the Commission and its sections, and all such officers and departments are required and directed to cooperate with the Commission and its sections. The Columbia Basin Commission shall report to all regular and special sessions of the Legislature and shall present statements in detail of all activities, expenditures and developments, and may recommend such legislation as may be required to promote the construction and development of said project. The Commission shall also have power to hold hearings and subpoena and serve compulsory processes to compel the attendance of witnesses before it.

Reports.

Appropriation.

SEC. 8. There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Conservation and Development for Columbia Basin activities, including the payment of the necessary expenses of the Columbia Basin Commission and its Reclamation and Resources Sections in carrying out the provisions of this act, for the biennium ending March 31, 1945, the sum of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000), or as much thereof as may be necessary.

Effective
immediately.

SEC. 9. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House March 5, 1943.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1943.

Approved by the Governor March 22, 1943.