

Thus from the above it will be seen that the establishing of a Conservation Authority is a simple legal matter. At the preliminary meeting the presiding officer is a senior civil servant, who together with a secretary chosen at the meeting forwards a report with the resolution to the Minister of the Crown. In some cases small adjustments have been made in the area under consideration before the Order-in-Council is presented for approval, but since the inception of the work not one request for establishing an Authority has been refused.

The number of Authorities, including a Conservation Commission, which was formed before 1946, is 30. The area covered is 19,671 square miles; the number of municipalities 434, and the total membership 695.

Senator STAMBAUGH: Why would the total membership be different from the total number of municipalities?

Mr. RICHARDSON: Some of the watersheds overlap and some townships may be within two authorities.

The Authorities vary greatly in size, from the smallest with an area of 86 square miles and 8 members to the largest with 2,614 square miles and 78 members—that is the Grand—the length of the smaller one being 20 miles and the largest one 118 miles.

The Conservation Report

While most of the early Authorities were brought into being because of flooding, all were aware of the necessity of carrying out such supplementary measures as improved methods of land use, reforestation, proper woodlot management, prevention of pollution, investigation of underground water supplies, fish and wildlife studies and recreation. But the Authorities were not equipped to carry out the extensive investigations that would indicate where such work should be done. Consequently the Conservation Branch of the Department of Commerce and development undertook to carry out, at no expense to the Authority, preliminary investigations as a service to the Authorities, to appraise, by means of surveys and reports the conservation needs of each watershed and to submit to the Authority a detailed report outlining the conservation measures that should be followed.

These reports are in the form of a working plan, and are intended primarily for the Authority members. On large watersheds they run to 600 pages, 100 maps and charts, 150 illustrations, and contain as many as 75 recommendations. In addition to the full report, a summary of this in printed form is sometimes issued for general distribution.

The survey work which is written into the report is grouped under six general headings: History, Land Use, Forestry, Water, Wildlife and Recreation. The scope of the studies made in each of these subjects varies with the condition and needs of the area under investigation, with the result that in the completed report the findings recorded are directly related to the major problems to be solved.

History:

A certain amount of historical matter is used in each report as a starting point for the study. An attempt is made to get as true and localized a picture of past conditions as possible. Experience has shown that this historical approach is of great interest to the people of regions dealt with. It often serves to promote an interest in conservation among people who would otherwise remain indifferent. In other words, it is a sort of sugar coating on the pill.

Land Use:

The approach to this subject is on a watershed basis and the relations between soil, agriculture, forestry and water are carefully considered. All existing data, of which there is a considerable amount, are heavily drawn