

THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION AND THE RECREATION AND RESOURCES COMMISSION

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Figure 4.1. The original Natural Resources Commission at a meeting in 1951. From left to right, seated: Cosmos D. Blubaugh, John A. Slipper (Vice Chair), Lewis P. Reese (Chair), Roy Battles, Mabel Stewart (ODNR staff). Standing: Bryce C. Browning, George S. Wenger, ODNR Director Marion, Leo L. Rummell, ODNR Assistant Director James D. Wells, Dr. C.L. Dow. Photo by courtesy of John Wells.

The Natural Resources Commission was created in 1949 by enactment of Amended Senate Bill 13. It approved the appointment by the Governor of the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and advised the Director regarding plans, programs, and policies relating to the management, development, use, and conservation of Ohio's natural resources. The Commission was composed of nine Ohio citizens, seven of whom were appointed by the Governor with no more than four being of the same political party. The Dean of the College of Agriculture, The Ohio State University, and the Director of ODNR served by virtue of their positions. The Director had a voice in deliberations but was not authorized to vote. Quarterly meetings were prescribed and members served without financial remuneration except for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. The original members (Fig. 4.1)

held their first meeting on 17 August 1949, just six days after the creation of ODNR, and Lewis P. Reese of Scio was elected Chair. This Commission was very active in assisting Directors Marion and Eagon in formulating long-range plans and policies for the Department.

In 1963, reflecting the emphasis on recreation during the tenure of Director Morr, the Natural Resources Commission was superseded by the Recreation and Resources Commission upon enactment of Amended Substitute House Bill 573. This Commission, also advisory but without authority to approve appointment of the Director, is composed of the chairpersons of the ODNR advisory councils, five appointees of the Governor with no more than three being of the same party, and the

ODNR Director as an ex officio member. The first meeting of the Recreation and Resources Commission was held 20 December 1963, and John H. Dunlap was elected Chair. Membership has increased over the years through legislative action and by the addition of new Divisions and advisory councils in ODNR. The Commission has 16 members (Fig. 4.2) and meetings are required to be held quarterly.

Many men and women have served on the two Commissions during the past 40 years representing the public's interests and those of various constituencies. They have provided valuable counsel to ODNR administrators and staff to enhance the preservation, conservation, and restoration of Ohio's natural beauty and resources for present and future generations.

**The Recreation and Resources Commission
August 1989**

George R. Quigley, Chair	Cincinnati	Waterways Safety Council
Bayliss L. (Rock) Prater, Vice Chair	Willard	Water Advisory Council
Fred A. Leistiko, Secretary	Canton	Technical Advisory Council on Oil & Gas
* Dr. Joseph L. Anthony	Yellow Springs	Director, Cooperative Education & Placement, Wilberforce University
* Ronald W. Chase	Cincinnati	Director, Cincinnati Recreation Commission
John H. Davis	Columbus	Civilian Conservation Advisory Council
Clarence Durban	Plain City	Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission
Raymond E. Eichel	New Philadelphia	Parks & Recreation Council
Horace W. Karr	Pomeroy	Wildlife Council
Dr. Joseph D. Kasile	Upper Arlington	Forestry Advisory Council
Dr. Charles C. King	Carroll	Natural Areas Council
* Edward C. Kirkpatrick	Washington Court House	Semi-retired Businessman
* Richard W. Lewis	Atwater	Vice Provost for Administration & Public Affairs, Northeastern Ohio Universities' College of Medicine
Robert A. Manning	Dublin	Litter Prevention & Recycling Advisory Council
* Virginia Riemer	Sugar Grove	Retired Executive Assistant to the Director, ODNR
Joseph J. Sommer	Columbus	Director, ODNR

Figure 4.2. Membership of the Recreation and Resources Commission, August 1989. The five members appointed by Governor Richard F. Celeste are indicated by an asterisk (*). The Director of ODNR is an ex officio member, and the remaining members serve by virtue of chairing the designated ODNR advisory council.