

MUSKINGUM WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO

DIRECTORS

NEWTON MANSFIELD, PRESIDENT
ASHLAND, OHIO

R. K. BROWN, JR.
MCCONNELSVILLE, OHIO

E. D. FRITCH
AKRON, OHIO

March 31, 1945

SECRETARY-TREASURER
BRYCE C. BROWNING

CHIEF ENGINEER
C. C. CHAMBERS J. S. GENA

GENERAL COUNSEL
FISHER, LIMBACH, SMITH & RENNER

Mr. C. P. Siegenthaler
72 North Main Street
Mansfield, Ohio

Dear Mr. Siegenthaler:

This letter will start with my apologies for having delayed so long in replying to the letter from Mr. Wixon, your Secretary. Feeling that we could secure more information from Mr. Brown in a verbal way then we could by asking him to commit himself in writing, I neglected to write Mr. Brown and awaited a trip which I knew he contemplated to this office.

In discussing your situation Mr. Brown informed me that certain complications had arisen with reference to the transfer of certain lands from the Government to the District. Mr. Brown advised that he had forwarded to higher authority the papers in connection with the transfer at one of the other dams. These papers have been returned to his office with instructions to hold them for the time being.

As you know, there has been appointed a Surplus Property Board whose duties consist of disposing of surplus property of the Government, including real estate. Inasmuch as the U. S. Engineer Office has no authority to dispose of materials or lands unless they are classed as surplus, it is Mr. Brown's feeling that the contemplated transfer to the District must pass through this Board. Mr. Brown is uncertain as to when this Board will establish a routine for handling the disposal of lands, and it seems at this time we will have to wait until this Board is in a position to review matters of this kind.

It is unfortunate that this annoying circumstance has developed, but I know of no way in which Government officials can be forced to act except as a result of political pressure. I know of no way in which the District can hasten this transfer, but it is my feeling that if your group wishes to communicate with Mr. Brown you may be in a position to exert more force than can the District.

I wish to thank you for the invitation extended in the postscript to your letter of March 30 and you can rest assured that some time this coming season I will hold you to your promise to give me the boat ride to which you refer.

Sincerely yours

J. S. Gena
J. S. Gena
Chief Engineer

JSG:GF