

It was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000),
RF 73037

or as much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it hereby
is, appropriated for allocation by the officers toward the
costs of a study of research needs and priorities on environ-
mental issues in the metropolitan New York-New Jersey area
and the Hudson River Basin; this sum to be available for
allocation during the two-year period beginning May 1, 1973.

The above action was taken after an oral presentation of the
project by Dr. Wortman and following discussion.

Among the considerations presented were:

Natural and Environmental Sciences: Quality of the Environment
(Regional Environmental Studies)

Previous Interest: None.

General Description: During the past two years, Foundation officers
have been informed by numerous scientists, educators, and officials
of state and federal agencies that the nation's progress in improving
the environment could be accelerated markedly if specialists in many
disciplines and institutions were to work together to identify critical
issues and resolve problems of defined geographical regions. This is
difficult, however, in regions that have not only high-density urban
complexes but also suburban, rural, and wild areas; where governments
of several states, as well as federal, country, and local agencies,
are involved; and where expertise is dispersed among many institutions.

Of concern to many civic leaders, scientists, and public of-
ficials is the reported lack of reliable information - properly
marshalled and objectively evaluated - on which legislative action,
administrative priorities, and investment in major public works can be
confidently based. Most federal environmental efforts are focused
separately on problems of air, water, or land. Other programs, still

narrower in scope, deal in isolation with problems of energy supply, transportation, sewage or solid-waste disposal, reduction of waste discharges by industrial plants, or regulation of the use of household products deemed detrimental to the environment. State agencies must generally rely for information on research conducted at a variety of institutions - state, federal, and private. Official cooperation among state and federal agencies is complicated by political or jurisdictional factors. Research efforts are scattered and fragmented because of disparity of interests among scientists and disparity of policies or concerns among funding agencies.

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In the officers' discussions with authorities from various parts of the nation, several geographical regions have emerged as possible sites for an initial experiment to assess the adequacy of information available for use in environmental planning. The area comprising metropolitan New York and adjacent parts of industrialized New Jersey, together with the watersheds of the Hudson and Mohawk rivers and their tributaries (for brevity called the Hudson Basin) has been selected, for the following reasons:

1. It is expected to be among the nation's first major regional environmental testing grounds, in that problems of energy use and consumption and power-generating capacity are believed to be reaching crisis proportions. Decisions must be made - some of them soon - for this region. And the solutions arrived at will probably have far-reaching influence on future environmental policies, for other comparable regions and for the entire nation.

2. The complexities of the region are recognized, but other areas, such as the country's larger river systems, are even more complicated politically. In the proposed region only two states are involved, and their governments have shown themselves to be quite willing to have their agencies cooperate. And some interstate agencies, such as the Port of New York Authority, have proven effective in long-range planning and large-scale execution.

3. The region includes extensive urban, suburban, rural, and wild areas.

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4. The region is mostly in New York State, which has demonstrated its concern for the environment by establishing one of the first statewide consolidated environmental agencies.

The Hudson Basin contains many educational institutions, research centers, and action agencies concerned with various aspects of the environment. But neither they, nor municipal, state, or federal agencies, have thus far been able to address the problems of this complex area comprehensively and in depth. Each institution tends to be constrained by its own operational responsibilities, professional orientation, or limitations in time or resources.

A considerable body of knowledge is available concerning the metropolitan area, the Hudson River and its Basin. But it is scattered; subject to many, sometimes contradictory, interpretations; and not organized or consolidated in such a way as to provide a coherent basis for regional planning or even for less comprehensive policy formulation. Authorities in the region believe, however, that the information that now exists - were it to be assembled in an organized fashion - could lead to a much better understanding of the problems of the Basin's environment and man's relation to it.

The primary objective of the proposed project would be to develop a provisional overview of the region's principal environmental problems and of the data available concerning them. At the outset, the project director and a small staff, assisted by a highly qualified advisory panel, would decide upon the major problems requiring study and identify appropriate members of skilled professional study teams - drawn primarily but not exclusively from within the region.

The advisory panel would include Richard J. Sullivan, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection, State of New Jersey; Henry Diamond, Commissioner, Environmental Conservation Department, New York State; Norton Nelson, Director, Institute of

Environmental Medicine, New York University; John Keith, President, Regional Plan Association, New York City; Keith Kennedy, Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University; Ruth Patrick, Chairman, Department of Limnology, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; and Gordon MacDonald, Henry Luce Professor of Environmental Studies and Public Policy and Professor of Earth Sciences, Dartmouth College. (Continued)

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Over a period of about 18 months the study teams would work toward a description and assessment of the state of knowledge on specific subjects, such as land use, energy production and consumption, water supply, biological and economic systems, and cultural patterns. The teams would attempt to describe the regional situation with respect to their particular topics, to improve understanding of the relationships among events and actions that affect the environment, to clarify policy issues, to discover gaps in existing knowledge, and to match the needs for further research with the capabilities of particular institutions.

After the study teams had done their work, their findings would be thoroughly reviewed by a larger body of scientists and non-scientists, who would attempt to integrate the results of their work and develop a comprehensive statement - including a preliminary ordering of priorities - on the environmental problems of the Hudson Basin. It would be expected that the statement would reliably establish the consequences of certain dispositions of environmental issues, and that therefore it would be extremely useful both for the bodies that must resolve those issues in the Hudson Basin and - indicatively rather than authoritatively - for bodies responsible for the resolution of similar issues elsewhere.

Evaluation: The comprehensiveness, quality, and usefulness of the overall statement that the project would produce would be the principal criteria by which it would be evaluated. Evaluation would be carried out through: (1) an assessment by the advisory panel of the statement and the general execution of the project; (2) solicitation

of the views of the principal agencies and institutions concerned with the environmental problems of the region; (3) the assessment the statement receives in the professional literature; and (4) officer observation of the degree to which the statement is used as a guide by bodies involved in environmental management or responsible for the resolution of environmental issues.

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To the extent that the statement establishes the need for additional research on questions considered by the study teams, it may be secondarily evaluated in terms of the degree to which it stimulates interest in, and the availability of funds for, such research.

Finances: The proposed appropriation of \$400,000 would be available for allocation by the officers during the two-year period beginning May 1, 1973, approximately as follows:

Personnel services (research and secretarial assistance)	\$ 90,000
Travel	10,000
Office space outside New York City	30,000
Documentation and publications	10,000
Consultants and study teams	
Professional services	75,000
Travel	25,000
Meetings and related expenses	35,000
Synthesis of study team reports and preparation of summary statement	<u>75,000</u> . . 210,000
Forums, conferences, and technical advice and consultation	<u>50,000</u>
Total	\$400,000

Comment: From the inception of the officers' discussions with leaders in education and science and officials of state and national agencies regarding a regional approach to the environmental problems of the Hudson Basin, there has been agreement that some long-term mechanism is needed to facilitate cooperative, concerted research by the region's specialists. But it is not clear either what that mechanism should be over the long term or what specific problems require additional research. The proposed Hudson Basin Project is seen by the officers

as an instrument for laying down the necessary data base, identifying the weaknesses in present knowledge, pointing the way to future research, and encouraging the individual specialists and specialized institutions in the region to work together toward these ends.

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Future Implications: Further support may be recommended if, in the judgment of officers and the advisory panel, the project is successful and the Foundation's continued involvement is critical to increased institutional collaboration.
