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Report of Everglades Engineering
Board of Review
May, 1927

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Tallahassee, Florida, May 3, 1927.

*To the Board of Commissioners,
Everglades Drainage District.
Honorable John W. Martin, Governor,
Ex Officio Chairman.
Honorable Ernest Amos, Comptroller.
Honorable John B. Johnson, Attorney General.
Honorable J. C. Luning, Treasurer.
Honorable Nathan Mayo, Commissioner of Agriculture.*
Gentlemen:

On March 22, 1927, immediately after your first conference with the Everglades Engineering Board of Review, then just appointed by you, you sent to each of us the following letter of instructions:

Tallahassee, Florida, March 22, 1927.

Messrs. Anson Marston,
S. H. McCrory, and
Geo. B. Hills, Engineers,
Capitol.

Gentlemen:

The Drainage Board desires you to review carefully and in detail the original plans made by the Isham Randolph Commission, which this Board and past boards have been trying to carry out for the purpose of draining the Glades.

Secondly, the Board desires you to check up carefully the work that has been done by this Board and previous boards and ascertain whether they have followed the Isham Randolph plan or not.

Further, the Board desires you to state, if you can, whether the Isham Randolph plan, as laid out by these engineers in 1913, was the proper plan to follow.

Further, the Board desires you to go into every phase of the engineering work that has been done in the Glades and to report as to whether it has been done correctly and properly.

The Board further requests that you make such recommendations for the future drainage of the Glades as you deem proper, as engineers, for this or any other board to follow in order that the work may be completed.

Further, the Board desires you to check up the amount of work that has been done by this and previous boards, and the money that has been spent in payment of this work and report whether it has been economically spent or not.

The Board would like a report as to whether it will be possible to drain the entire Everglades in one plan or whether it would be better to drain the Everglades by unit plan.

The Board further requests that if you find any additions to the Isham Randolph plan, made by this or any previous board, or any deviation from the said plan, you report as to whether these additions were proper to have taken place under the circumstances.

Further, gentlemen, the Board desires you to give us any and all information that you think

would be needful and helpful, proper and wise, for this or any other board to follow in the final drainage and reclamation of the Everglades.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN W. MARTIN,

Chairman of the Commissioners of
the Everglades Drainage District.

These instructions and our conference with you prescribed that our work was to be that of an engineering board of review, confining its attention to the engineering features of Everglades drainage.

We proceeded at once to undertake actively the work called for in the letter of instructions. Nearly two weeks were spent in personal examination of the Everglades and of the Everglades drainage works, during which, aided by favorable weather, we visited sections representative of all types of Everglades conditions, and inspected all the most important drainage works. Returning to Tallahassee, we obtained at the office of the Chief Drainage Engineer a great mass of records and data, and entered upon a most intensive study of the Everglades drainage problem in all its engineering phases. This study has continued every day and far into the evenings, till now we have the honor and pleasure of transmitting to you our report herewith.

We desire to express our appreciation of the uniform courtesy and willingness to supply desired data and other information which we have constantly experienced in our work, from many people interested in the Everglades as well as from officials and employees of Everglades Drainage District.

Yours very sincerely,

ANSON MARSTON,

S. H. McCRORY,

GEORGE B. HILLS,

Members of Everglades Engineering
Board of Review.