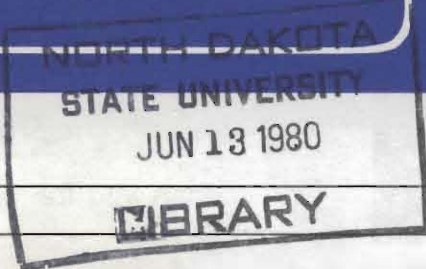


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Vol. 7, No. 4

May-June 1980

Joint session, regional plan on May agenda

The 32nd quarterly meeting of the Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC) will include a joint session with the Arkansas-White-Red Basins Interagency Committee (AWRBIAC). The meeting will be held in Kansas City, Kans., May 5-7. Kansas, the host state, is a member of both regional organizations.

Francine Neubauer, Kansas MRBC member and executive director of the Kansas Water Resources Board, will address the luncheon Tuesday, May 6. She will describe Kansas' relationship with the two organizations and explain the state's unique water marketing program.

The Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Energy (DOE) will present information at the joint meeting. Brig. Gen. Hugh Robinson, corps deputy director of civil works, will speak on "National Hydropower and Waterways Studies." Charles Metzger, DOE region VIII secretarial representative, and Mary O'Halloran, DOE region VII secretarial representative, will discuss "Regional Issues in Water for Energy."

The joint agenda also will include a panel discussion on "Regional Planning for Water Management." Panelists will be MRBC Chairman Millard W. Hall; Herbert W. Grubb, director of the Planning and Development Division, Texas Department of Water Resources; and Richard N. Vannoy, assistant director for operations, U.S. Water Resources Council.

Prior to the joint session, the commission will consider the draft regional plan and environmental impact statement. The plan was first presented at the 31st quarterly meeting in February, but action was postponed at the recommendation of the Planning Committee. The MRBC fiscal year 1982 budget will also be presented for approval.

Workshops to aid local planners in energy-boom areas

The Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC) and the U.S. Geological Survey Resource and Land Investigation (RALI) Program believe timely local planning can help ease the strain of rapid energy growth in the Missouri River Basin.

The two agencies are cooperating through the Western Coal Planning Assistance Project (WCPAP) to sponsor workshops for municipal and county officials on "Mitigating the Impacts of Coal/Energy Development in the Western States."

Coal reserves in North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming have been estimated at 165 billion tons. Coal production in the region was approximately 38 million tons in 1975 and increased to about 48.8 million tons by 1976.

Workshops will be held at four sites in the basin this summer: Bismarck, N.D., June 11-13; Jackson Hole, Wyo., June 25-27; Billings, Mont., July 16-18; and Omaha, Neb., Aug. 6-8.

Participants will learn through case studies and discussion: how to address the secondary and indirect impacts of energy development; how to translate statistics into public demands for services and facilities; how decisions about the location of new growth and development can minimize environmental damage and cut public costs; how other communities in the West have approached similar problems and how their experience is relevant to other local situations; and what local governments can do to cut costs and raise revenues.

Participants also will receive and be trained to use the four-volume Western Coal Planning Reference System published in 1979 by WCPAP.

Registration for the workshops is now under way. Forms may be obtained by contacting the Western Coal Planning Assistance Project, 212 Hedden Empire Building, 208 North 29th Street, Billings, Mont. 59101; telephone (406) 657-6715. Attendance in each location will be limited to 60 participants.

State executives comment on federal role

Nebraska Gov. Charles Thone and Colorado Lt. Gov. Nancy E. Dick both predict the 1980's will be a decade of tough decisions about water. The remarks were made in recent public addresses. Both also spoke out on the "proper" separation of roles between state and federal levels of government in those decisions.



Gov. Thone



Lt. Gov. Dick

Speaking before the 22nd Annual Convention of the Colorado Water Congress, Dick called the prospect of coal, uranium, oil shale, and recreational development facing Colorado "exciting."

She cautioned, however, "the realization of what could happen to this state as a result of unplanned growth and development is sobering indeed. Especially in terms of our most precious and valuable resource: water."

Thone said Nebraska also needs to plan development carefully. Pointing to declining ground water levels in some areas of Nebraska, the governor said the state's primary industry — agriculture — is being threatened. He made the remarks in a speech before the 1980 Nebraska State Water Conference.

"I don't believe I have to spell it out any clearer — we must begin developing ways to adequately address our water problem," he said. "And we must do so in the near future."

Both Thone and Dick were outspoken in views of the ideal state/federal relationship about water.

"I clearly recognize the need for and support the development of a comprehensive national water policy that truly addresses state water and related resources problems," Governor Thone said. "Any new national water policy should be the result of a cooperative national, not primarily federal, effort," he added.

"Primary authority and responsibility for water management functions, including planning, development, and regulation, rest with the states," he said. "Federal policy must recognize and respect the rights of the states to administer their individual water laws and manage their water resources," he added.

Dick said Colorado has a long-standing policy of support for federal irrigation projects and said that support should be reaffirmed. She cited changing national priorities, intense competition for federal dollars and shifts in congressional alliances as ongoing concerns that "suggest future presidential administrations may also question the value of reclamation programs."

Like Governor Thone, however, Lieutenant Governor Dick drew sharp distinctions between the state and federal roles. "As we seek federal authorization and federal dollars, we are seeking that which is best for Colorado," she said.

"However, we want our problems solved in Denver, in Rifle, in Durango, in Gunnison, in Alamosa not in Washington. We want the solutions to our problems to be created by our Legislature not by Congress," she added.

"We must bring about the understanding that we here in Colorado know what is best for Colorado, and that when we seek federal authorization and federal dollars, we are seeking support and not leadership," she said.

Plan told for 'recreational river'

The Department of the Interior and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have issued a draft management plan and a cooperative agreement for the 59-mile stretch of the Missouri River designated as "National Recreational River."

The plan includes provisions for bank stabilization and recreation facilities along the river between Yankton, S.D., and Ponca, Neb. Stabilization protects farmland, picnic and camping areas, scenery, wildlife habitat, and historic sites that might otherwise be endangered by shifts in the river's current, an interior news release said.

The cooperative agreement spells out roles both agencies will play in managing, protecting, and making the river's natural resources available for public use. Future planning efforts to be based on the two documents include a survey of historical and archaeological resources, identification of scenic areas, and an inventory of wildlife and mineral resources of the river segment.

The plan and the agreement were forwarded to Congress in March. Both will become effective after a 90-day review period.

Copies of both documents are available from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Regional Office, Denver, Federal Center, P.O. Box 25387, Denver, Colo. 80225; telephone (303) 234-2634.

Missouri honors friend of river

If the Missouri River could talk, it would probably say how proud it was that one of its best friends recently was recognized as the "1979 Water Conservationist of the Year" in Missouri.

William Roy Johnson, a commercial fisherman and farmer from Rushville, Mo., received the award in March from the Conservation Federation of Missouri. The citation noted Johnson's lifelong dedication to water conservation and unselfish contributions to wise use of the river.

Johnson has attended many Missouri River Basin Commission meetings as a concerned private citizen and has frequently shared his knowledge of the lower Missouri River with the commission and its Flood Plain Committee.

WRC review of water projects stalls

The "independent technical review" of federal and federally assisted water projects requested by President Carter will not get off the ground in 1980, according to a mid-April communication from the Water Resources Council (WRC). The President had requested WRC to review water project reports beginning in April 1980 for preauthorization and preconstruction project stages.

WRC is now receiving the reports. However, Congress denied FY 1980 funding for the review process, and no reviews will be made this year, WRC officials said.

The impasse has arisen in part because of congressional concern that the Administration is biased against water projects and that the reviews will reflect this bias. The Administration, on the other hand, believes the independent technical reviews will assure soundly planned projects with shorter delays and less controversy.

The WRC review contains no veto over projects. It will result in a statement of findings that will be transmitted along with the project report to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Congress.

These technical reviews will replace the substantive project reviews previously made by OMB. Unlike the OMB reviews, for which no time limit is set, the WRC reviews have definite time limits. In addition, criteria for the WRC reviews have been publicly established and publicized while those for the OMB are not. OMB will continue to review (1) authorization reports for consistency with Presidential policy, and (2) construction funding requests with regard to Presidential budget policies. OMB will not duplicate the WRC review, but will accept WRC findings.



Neubauer is May speaker

Francine Neubauer
Executive Director
Kansas Water Resources Board

Francine Neubauer will speak at the joint MRBC/AWRBIAC luncheon in Kansas City, Kans., May 6. Her appointment as executive director of the Kansas Water Resources Board (KWRB) in September was a natural extension of a varied and dynamic public service career.

Since 1957, Mrs. Neubaueur has held positions on the staffs of two Kansas governors, led an

Two join MRBC staff

Two people have joined the Missouri River Basin Commission staff since March.

Clarence J. Bueltel was well-known to commission staff as an employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri River Division. He retired from the Corps in February and is now employed part time as a ground water specialist working on the Missouri River Basin Hydrology Study.

MRBC word processing welcomes Susan Krzycki. Susan previously had been a word processor with an Omaha law firm. She is a graduate of the Nebraska Business College and is an Omaha native.

Senators push stabilization plans

The four senators from Nebraska and South Dakota have asked a Senate Appropriations subcommittee to include funds in the 1981 federal budget for work on a Missouri River bank stabilization and recreation development project.

The project is for the 59-mile stretch of the Missouri River designated "National Recreational River," citing preliminary Corps of Engineers and Interior Department efforts, the senators said \$2.36 million should be added to the Corps' 1981 budget "to assure continuity in the project's development."

In a recent letter to Sen. J. Bennett Johnston, chairman of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, the senators said: "We are all committed to a lean budget and we believe that a lean budget should reflect the high priority that this project has received from state and local governments, the public and members of Congress representing the area." The letter was signed by Nebraska Sens. Edward Zorinsky and J. J. Exon and South Dakota Sens. George McGovern and Larry Pressler.

intercultural exchange between Kansas and Paraguay on the appointment of former Kansas Governor Robert Docking, and held key volunteer positions in numerous community organizations.

She began serving with the Kansas Water Resources Board in 1965 as secretary to the executive director. Two years later, she became an administrative assistant and editor of the KWRB newsletter, and was named acting director of the agency in July 1979. In September 1979, Gov. John Carlin appointed her to her present position.

Born and reared in Brussels, Belgium, Mrs. Neubauer became an American citizen in 1951. In 1969 she received the Americanism Medal awarded by the Daughters of the American Revolution to outstanding immigrants, and in 1970 was honored as the American Business Women's Association "Woman of the Year." She holds degrees in business administration and modern languages and communication.

Announce staff openings

The Missouri River Basin Commission has announced staff openings for one supervisory-level and one entry-level water resources planner. Applications for both positions will be accepted through May 15.

The positions:

- **Director of Comprehensive Planning** — directs the activities of the comprehensive planning group in maintaining an up-to-date regional plan, coordinating priority-setting activities, and managing a computer-based information system.

Qualifications include a degree in environmental or socioeconomic sciences, engineering, or related field, plus nine or more years of experience directly related to water resources planning and management. The position requires proven supervisory and communication skills as well as technical background and experience.

- **Water Resources Planner** — will review and analyze data and reports; write reports, letters, memorandums, and other technical and nontechnical documents; work as a team member for specific planning activities; and report orally to the commission and the public.

The position is open at the assistant or associate level, depending on the following qualifications: degree in engineering, natural resources, life sciences, physical sciences, or social sciences. Little or no related experience is necessary at the assistant level; two years experience is required at the associate level. Familiarity with natural resources planning, proven writing skills and computer applications experience will be given special consideration.

For complete details, contact Carroll M. Hamon, Staff Director.

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The Missouri River Basin Commission is a state-federal body charged with coordination, planning and communication for water and related land resources in the ten-state region drained by the Missouri River, in accordance with Public Law 89-80. Ten states, ten federal agencies, and two interstate water compacts are represented on the commission. They are Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming; the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Army, Commerce, Energy, HEW, HUD, Interior and Transportation, and the Environmental Protection and Federal Emergency Management Agencies; and Big Blue River Compact Administration and Yellowstone River Compact Commission. Canada is an observer.

Dr. Millard W. Hall, chairman; Vern Fahy, North Dakota, vice chairman

MRBC Basin Bulletin is published bimonthly and circulated to 4,500 subscribers. Address changes may be sent to the Missouri River Basin Commission, Suite 403 10050 Regency Circle, Omaha, Neb. 68114. Telephone: (402) 397-5714. Elaine Larkin, editor; Lois Thomas, graphic artist; Mike Larkin, cartographer.

BLM seeks interest in Powder River Basin coal leases

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a call for "expressions of leasing interest" in Campbell County, Wyo. BLM Director Frank Gregg explained that this is the first step, following land use planning, in determining potential tracts for federal coal leasing. The potential lease sites are in the Highlight Review Area of BLM's Eastern Powder River Basin Management Framework Plan.

"The land use planning process was used to determine those areas where coal development is one of the acceptable uses," Gregg said. "Now we are looking for input from the public, industry, small business, public bodies, and state and local governments to identify those areas where they are most interested in federal leasing. This information will be used by the federal-state Regional Coal Team to carry out its responsibilities in the leasing process."

For more information contact the State Director, BLM, Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001. There is a June 2, 1980, deadline for submitting "expressions of interest."



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