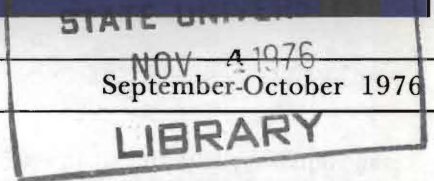


Doc.
Y 3. m69/2:
3/v. 4/no. 1-6

v. 4 no. 1-6



basin bulletin



Vol. 4, No. 1

MRBC 18th meeting to be held in Omaha Nov. 11-12

The Missouri River Basin Commission's (MRBC) 18th quarterly meeting will be held in Omaha Thursday and Friday, Nov. 11-12.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. Nov. 11. Business will be concluded by noon Nov. 12. The meeting will be held at the Omaha Hilton, 16th and Dodge Streets.

The comprehensive, coordinated joint plan (CCJP) for the Missouri River Basin will be a major item of business to come before the commission.

The MRBC Policy Committee is expected to recommend that MRBC staff follow a work schedule to complete a first-cut CCJP by Oct. 1, 1977.

This will be the most current comprehensive plan for water and related land resources in the Missouri River Basin.

The first-cut plan will include those projects, programs and recommendations for future actions that can be agreed on by the commission at this time.

It will be transmitted through the U.S. Water Resources Council to the President and to the Congress where it will serve as a guide to decisions on water resources management and development in the basin.

Nicholas L. Barbarossa, MRBC director of planning, stressed that development and updating of the Missouri Basin CCJP will be a continuous process. Starting with what can be accepted now, the plan will be improved and become more and more complete as planning continues and subsequent reports are published, he said.

Robert Madsen, study manager of the MRBC-sponsored Yellowstone Basin and Adjacent Coal Area Level B Study, will report to the commission on that study's progress.

Madsen will discuss, among other things, the planning tools developed by Harza Engineering Company for analyzing various possible levels of future coal development in the area. Such analyses are necessary for determining impacts on water resources.

Dee Walker of the U.S. Water Resources Council (WRC) will report to the commission on the controversial Section 80(c) study regarding the level of federal versus non-federal cost sharing on water resources projects.

The dispute exists between WRC, which recommends maintaining a high level of federal cost sharing, and the Office of Management and Budget, which favors forcing states and private interests to assume most of the costs of water projects.

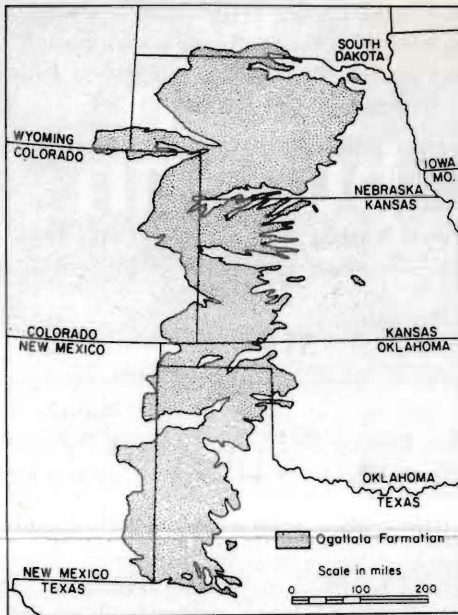
Dr. Pat Choate of the Department of Commerce will report on the Economic Development Administration's proposed High Plains Study.

The Water Resources Development Act of 1976, signed recently by the President, authorizes \$6 million to study the declining water resources of the Ogallala aquifer and to develop plans to increase water supplies in the area.

(Continued on next page)



... MRBC 18th meeting (Continued from front page)



Ogallala aquifer

The Ogallala aquifer underlies portions of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Nebraska. Commerce is directed to work with the Corps of Engineers and other appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and the private sector in developing its recommendations.

MRBC Chairman John W. Neuberger has asked that Commerce Secretary Elliott Richardson appoint a representative from the Missouri River Basin Commission to the High Plains Study advisory group.

The report of the High Plains Study is to be completed in 1980.

Luncheon speaker at the 18th MRBC meeting will be Warren C. Wood, federal co-chairman of the Old West Regional Commission. The Old West Regional Commission promotes economic development in the five-state area of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska.



Warren C. Wood

The 19th regular quarterly meeting of the Missouri River Basin Commission will be held in Denver Feb. 2-3.

MRBC publishes second assessment report

The Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC) has published its second report for the 1975 National Water Assessment.

The report, entitled "Water and Related Land Resources in the Missouri River Basin — Present and Future Uses and Associated Problems and Issues," was completed in August.

The report is a compendium of socio-economic, water use, land use, and hydrologic data for each of 11 large drainage areas in the Missouri River Basin.

The report also presents comparisons of regional data with corresponding data prepared at the national level by the U.S. Water Resources Council.

A list of areas in the basin with severe and urgent water problems completes the main portion of the report.

Bill Hutchinson, assistant regional study director for the assessment, said the 394-page report is the "most definitive and complete statement about the condition of the Missouri River Basin's water resources since the 1971 Missouri Basin Framework Study."

The report will serve two important purposes, in addition to serving as a general source of information about the Missouri River Basin, Hutchinson said.

First, it will lead the way toward developing a series of recommendations regarding the need for comprehensive and special studies, project and program implementation, research and data collection, and the need for federal and state action in these programs.

Second, the report will provide the initial data and information base for the commission's comprehensive, coordinated joint plan (CCJP).

While nearly 300 copies of the report have been distributed to commission members, the U.S. Water Resources Council and others who assisted in its preparation, a few copies of the report are still available at no charge.



Missouri River Basin

MRBC flood plain committee completes inspection trip



Rulo Bend showing L-head construction above Rulo Bridge.

Members of the Middle and Lower Missouri River Flood Plain Committee of the Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC) took an inspection trip of the Missouri River flood plain from Rulo, Neb., to Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 14.

Committee members and others who attended were Chairman Bill Brabham and Jim Cooper of Iowa, Al Mathews of Nebraska, Paul Harley of the Department of the Interior, Lee Wright of Kansas, Wayne Stufft and John Sedevic of the Corps of Engineers, and Jerry Zimmerman of the MRBC staff.

Purpose of the trip was to give committee members a firsthand look at problem areas in the flood plain.

The committee is preparing a study to provide South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri with recommendations concerning flood plain management policies and programs which can be implemented by the states.

Uniform or compatible flood plain legislation and regulation would enable the use and appropriate development of the flood plain while protecting existing development from increased hazards and minimizing future damages, Zimmerman said.

The committee members discussed problems experienced in the flood plain with local residents along the river.

"One of the more severe problems seems to be associated with potential ice jams occurring along the river," Zimmerman said. "Since river works have been built in the river channel, apparently river stages for the same discharge are much higher now than under natural conditions."

Zimmerman said other problems noted included the numerous recreation homes and other developments that have been constructed along or near the river banks, bridges and non-federal levees that have been constructed which constrict flows, aggradation of the river channel that causes higher river stages and water tables, and water being trapped behind levees that causes agricultural damages.

Zimmerman said that even with a unified management program not all of the existing problems and annual flood damages will be eliminated. But, he said, the increase of flood damages and problems can be reduced greatly.

The flood plain committee will report on its inspection trip at the 18th MRBC meeting in Omaha Nov. 11-12.

Interior signs water marketing agreement with Montana

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Jack Horton announced Oct. 4 that he has signed, on behalf of the Department of the Interior, a contract with Montana that permits the state to market up to 300,000 acre-feet annually from the federally-constructed Fort Peck Reservoir in Montana.

On March 25, 1975, the Interior Department offered the Missouri River Basin states the first opportunity to process any application for industrial water from Upper Missouri Basin federal projects. That offer included the opportunity for the state government to contract for substantial blocks of water behind these reservoirs.

Gov. Thomas L. Judge expressed Montana's interest in contracting with the United States in August 1975. The contract terms were negotiated by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the agencies that will administer the contract.

The agreement establishes that the State of Montana will be the lead agency in processing applications from the 300,000 acre-foot block of Fort Peck water with technical and legal cooperative support from the Departments of Army and Interior. The Corps of Engineers will continue to serve as the reservoir master and will participate in the decision-making process through its Section 10 permit system.

(Continued on next page)



Ft. Peck Dam

. . . Interior signs (Continued)

The contract will not require any payment from the state until Montana might award a sub-contract and receive payment from an industrial user.

The contract recognizes all pre-existing water rights, including specifically those of Indians and Indian tribes. The contract also requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Montana Environmental Policy Act, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

The Interior Department will present a status report on the agreement with Montana and on negotiations with other states at the Missouri River Basin Commission meeting Nov. 11-12.

Missouri main stem water supply adequate

Sufficient water is available in the main stem system of Missouri River reservoirs to continue full service to all project functions in the coming year, despite drought conditions over much of the Missouri Basin this year.

That was the conclusion reached by the Coordinating Committee on Missouri River Main Stem Reservoir Operations, which held its fall meeting in Omaha Sept. 30. The committee is made up of representatives from the 10 basin states and 8 federal agencies.

The committee examined and recommended for adoption the Corps of Engineers' plan for continuation of ample service to all project functions during 1977, including an eight-month navigation season. The plan also anticipates using all water releases for hydroelectric power generation, with available capacity used to conserve oil so far as possible. Water supply and quality for downstream municipal and industrial uses will be more than adequate during 1977.

ICWP reconfirms support of P.L. 89-80, suggests improvements

The Interstate Conference on Water Problems (ICWP) reconfirmed its support for the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-80) at its annual meeting Sept. 7-10 in Biloxi, Miss.

But ICWP also offered amendments to the act for Congress to consider in 1977. The main points covered in the amendments are:

- Independent chairman for the U.S. Water Resources Council.
- Expanded role and responsibilities for river basin commissions.
- Appropriate funding to interagency committees and states where river basin commissions do not exist.
- Expanded Title III program of grants to states.



Missouri River Basin Commission
Suite 403, 10050 Regency Circle
Omaha, Nebraska 68114

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
MISSOURI RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
THIRD CLASS-BULK RATE



North Dakota State University
Documents Librarian
Fargo, ND 58102