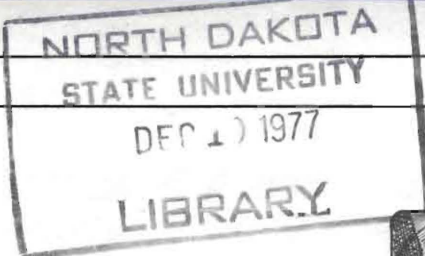




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## MRBC adopts water resources priorities

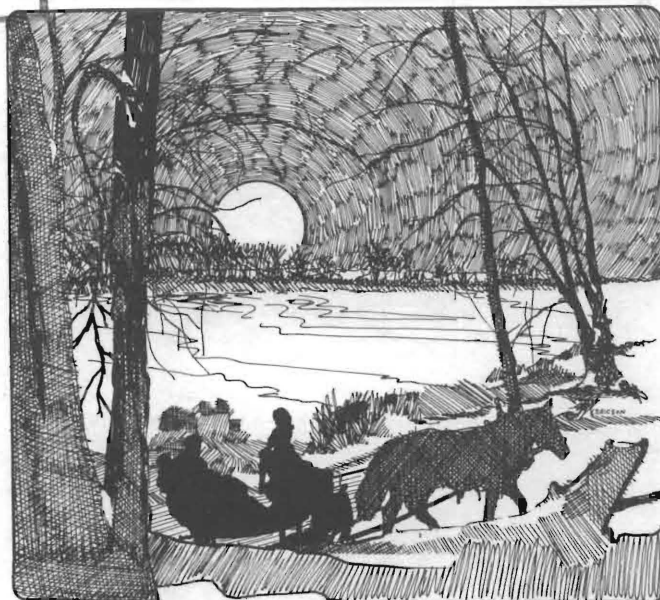
Priorities for implementation of 130 water resources programs and projects were among recommendations adopted by the Missouri River Basin Commission at its 22nd quarterly meeting Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 2-3, in Omaha.

Program or project priorities were recommended in each of six different categories. Top priorities under each category for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 1978, were:

- Data collection and analysis—Acceleration of soil surveys in cooperation with state agricultural experiment stations.
- Planning - related research—Finding ways to turn completed research on efficient use of water into reality.
- Special studies—Studying the possibility of artificially recharging underground water supplies in the South Platte River Basin of Colorado.
- Regional planning—Developing a comprehensive water plan for the Republican River Basin in Nebraska.
- Implementation studies—Studying the possibility of creating a national recreation area along the Lower Platte and Elkhorn Rivers near Omaha.
- Program implementation— Stabilization of eroding river banks below Garrison Dam in North Dakota. Eventually to lead to similar work along the entire Missouri River.

Priorities for work were also included for fiscal years 1980 through 1982.

The regional water and related land resources priorities adopted by the commission will be forwarded to the U.S. Water Resources Council, Congress and other agencies which will decide whether to finance them.



## Seasons Greetings

### Vice-chairman assumes duties

John E. Acord, Montana, state-elected vice-chairman of the Missouri River Basin Commission, has been given additional duties in the absence of a presidentially appointed MRBC chairman.

The commission Nov. 2 authorized the vice-chairman to carry out administrative duties in the chairman's absence. Such duties include supervision of staff and program guidance.

The commission action followed the resignation in October of John W. Neuberger, who served as MRBC chairman since 1972. A successor had not been appointed at the time this Bulletin went to the printer.

DEPOSITED DOCUMENT

## MRBC to meet in Kansas City, Kan., in February

The Missouri River Basin Commission will hold its 23rd regular quarterly meeting Feb. 1-2 at the Holiday Inn Towers in Kansas City, Kan.



Governor Bennett

Kansas Gov. Robert F. Bennett has accepted an invitation to address the commission's noon luncheon Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Business to be discussed at the meeting will include approval of the commission's fiscal 1980 operating and comprehensive planning budgets.

- 1977 Coordination Directory, April 1977.
- MRBC Bylaws and Policy Statements, May 1977.
- Official Minutes. (18th, 19th, 20th and 21st quarterly MRBC meetings.)
- 1978 Priorities Report, December 1977. (Ranks water resources programs and projects in six categories from research to implementation.)
- Missouri River Basin State and Federal Water and Related Land Resource Programs Fiscal Years 1978-1981, December 1977. (Lists state and federal programs and expenditures.) (Eleven volumes—1 summary and 10 state.)
- Pilot Study, Missouri River Flood Plain—St. Joseph, Missouri, to Kansas City, Missouri-Kansas, December 1977. (A preliminary evaluation of flood plain management alternatives.)
- Status of Electric Power in the Missouri River Basin, December 1977.
- Proceedings—Scarce Ground Water Management Workshop, March 1977.
- Specific Problem Analysis Summary Report, August 1977. (Technical Memorandum No. 4 of the Missouri River Basin portion of the 1975 National Water Assessment.)
- Abridged Report, Specific Problem Analysis, August 1977. (Further summarizes the activities of the Missouri River Basin Commission in the 1975 National Water Assessment.)

## James River Basin study approved

The Missouri River Basin Commission approved procedures for conducting a comprehensive study of the 22,000-square-mile James River Basin in eastern South Dakota and southeastern North Dakota at its Omaha meeting Nov. 2-3.

The study will focus on problems associated with flooding, agriculture, water quality, fish and wildlife, outdoor recreation, and municipal, industrial and rural water supply.

The study will recommend a plan to deal with those water and related land resources problems. It will be completed by May 1979.

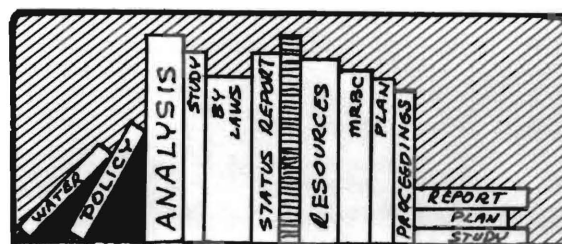
## MRBC publications available

The Missouri River Basin Commission has numerous publications that it produces each year covering a variety of subjects.

Since this is the final Basin Bulletin of the calendar year, it may be beneficial to list the publications that have been prepared or will be prepared in 1977.

Copies are available to the public at no charge for as long as they last.

- Missouri River Basin Water Resources Plan, August 1977. (A comprehensive, coordinated, joint plan for water and related land resources.)
- Proceedings of the Second Annual Missouri River Basin Governors' Conference on Water, May 1977.
- 1976 Annual Report.



## Commission adopts plan elements

The Missouri River Basin Commission added 11 new plan elements to the "Missouri River Basin Water Resources Plan" at the commission's Nov. 2-3 meeting in Omaha.

The new plan elements deal with research, special, regional and implementation studies. They were proposed for addition to the plan after their need and urgency were cited through the commission's priorities program.

The plan elements were adopted through the commission's comprehensive planning process, which requires that recommended changes be approved by the commission's comprehensive, coordinated, joint planning committee prior to commission consideration.

## USGS Hydrologist says more information needed on Madison aquifer

(From United Press International)

More information is needed about the ground water supply in the Madison aquifer before an interstate compact on use of the water can be drawn up, a hydrologist from the U.S. Geological Survey told members of the Missouri River Basin Commission Nov. 3.

Leonard Konikow of Denver said there is a large gap between the precise legal definitions needed for a compact and the current knowledge about the Madison aquifer and how it works.

The Madison aquifer is a huge underground supply of water stretching from Montana through parts of Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Vern Butler, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Natural Resources, proposed that the commission set up an ad hoc committee to study formation of an interstate agreement in the Madison Formation, but withdrew his motion.

The commission decided informally to have the five states involved meet to decide whether negotiations should begin on an interstate ground water compact.

Concern over use of the ground water has been prompted by proposals to pump water from the Madison Formation for industrial uses, specifically to transport coal through slurry pipelines to other parts of the country.

Konikow said even defining the boundaries of the Madison aquifer was difficult because it cannot be considered a separate formation. Water flows into and out of the Madison Formation from other areas, he said.

Measuring the impact of development on the water supply would be difficult and expensive, he said.

"Drilling enough wells to measure the flow (from one state to another) would cost millions of dollars," Konikow said.

There also could be a time lag of several years before the impact of wells can be measured, he said.

The Madison Formation represents "a tremendous reservoir of water," but only a small percentage of the water can be economically used, he said.

The commission also heard a status report on a five-year study begun in 1975 on the Madison Formation.

The head of the project, E. M. Cushing of the U.S. Geological Survey office in Denver, said two test wells have been drilled and a third is planned.

A well 30 miles north of Hulett, Wyo., produced a flow of about 250 gallons of water a minute, and if pumps were installed could produce 1,640 gallons a minute, he said.

However, the second well, drilled six miles northeast of Powderville, Mont., failed to produce a significant amount of water, with flow rate ranging from about five to 50 gallons per minute.

Cushing said the lower flow was the result of "differences in the plumbing system" caused by different rock formations.

Cushing emphasized that it was too early to draw any conclusions from the two wells drilled.



### Neuberger receives plaque

*John W. Neuberger, left, outgoing chairman of the Missouri River Basin Commission, receives a plaque of appreciation from MRBC Vice-Chairman John E. Acord, Montana. Neuberger represented the Big Blue Compact Administration at the Nov. 2-3 MRBC meeting in his new capacity as director of the Nebraska Water Resources Commission.*

## Old West Commission approves funding for study of South Dakota-Wyoming aqueduct

The five governors of the Old West Regional Commission have adopted a resolution providing \$320,000 for a study investigating the possibility of piping water from South Dakota's Oahe Reservoir to coal-rich northeastern Wyoming.

The coal development industry is seeking 20,000 acre-feet of Missouri River water delivered to the South Dakota-Wyoming border near Edgemont, S.D. The water would be used for transporting coal through a coal slurry pipeline from Wyoming coal fields to areas where coal burning plants will be located.

A South Dakota to Wyoming aqueduct would not only provide water for Wyoming coal development, but also would provide rural and municipal water along the route of the pipeline in western South Dakota, according to the study proposal.

The Old West Regional Commission study will identify in detail the costs and benefits of such water delivery services to the anticipated users of the aqueduct.

The 15-month study will be conducted by consultants under the overall management of the South Dakota Board of Natural Resource Development, the Wyoming State Engineer, the Wyoming State Planning Coordinator and two South Dakota Conservancy Sub-Districts.

The Old West Commission met in Cheyenne, Wyo., in November.

## Corps, HUD name alternates

The Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have named new alternate members to the Missouri River Basin Commission.

The new corps alternate is Col. Paul C. Driscoll, deputy division engineer for civil in the Missouri River Division, Omaha.



Anderson

Ben Stephenson, Kansas City, is the new HUD alternate. Stephenson is director of the Office of Flood Insurance in HUD's Federal Insurance Administration.

William O. Anderson, administrator of HUD's Region VII in Kansas City, is that department's new MRBC member as reported in the last edition of the Basin Bulletin. His picture was

not available for the last edition, so it accompanies this article.

## Study director, project manager named for new activities

A study director and a project manager have been named for two new Missouri River Basin Commission activities—the Upper Missouri River Basin Level B Study and the Phase I Western Coal Planning Assistance Project.

Ralph E. Waddington will direct the Upper Missouri study. He began preliminary work on the study Oct. 15 in Helena, Mont.

Arthur H. Greenberg will become manager of the coal planning project Dec. 5 in Billings, Mont.

Waddington, a Nebraska native, was assistant director for the MRBC-sponsored Platte River Basin, Nebraska, Level B Study from 1972 until 1975. Since then he has been a senior planning engineer for a consulting firm in the Philippines.

The Upper Missouri River Basin in which the study will be conducted drains 82,750 square miles in Montana.

Water use subjects to be addressed in the area include water for energy and irrigation, streamflow regulation, fish and wildlife preservation or enhancement and outdoor recreation.

The study will officially begin in January and will be completed in 2 1/2 years. Federal funds of \$995,000 have been requested to finance the effort.

Greenberg is a native of New York with a doctorate in geography. He came to MRBC from the Mid-Yellowstone Areawide Planning Organization, Billings, where he has been employed since 1976.

The Phase I Western Coal Planning Assistance Project is a one-year effort funded through the Resource and Land Investigations (RALI) Program of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Purpose of the project is to involve state, regional, local and federal resource planners and decisionmakers in the determination of tools, information and methodologies needed to assess and plan for impacts of western coal development.

Area covered by the project will be southeastern Montana, northeastern Wyoming and southwestern North Dakota.

USGS funding for the project will be \$350,000.

## WRC abolishes COR, 9 committees

The U.S. Water Resources Council (WRC) abolished its Council of Representatives and nine committees at its Oct. 11 meeting.

The move was designed to increase council efficiency.

Two levels of decision making remain at WRC—the Council of Members (COM) and the Council of Member Alternates (COMA).

The members are the secretaries or administrators of 12 federal agencies and departments. Top-ranking assistants comprise COMA. The Council of Representatives was made up of a third level of administrators.



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