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Vol.6, No. 1

September - October, 1978

## Guy Martin will discuss implementation of Carter water policy

Guy R. Martin, assistant secretary for land and water resources, Department of the Interior, will discuss implementation of President Carter's water policy at the 26th regular quarterly meeting of the Missouri River Basin Commission Wednesday, Nov. 1, in Omaha.

Martin will address a noon luncheon at the start of the commission meeting at the New Tower Hotel Courts, 78th and Dodge Streets. The meeting will conclude by noon Thursday, Nov. 2.



Martin

Martin has been the administration's front man throughout the country for water policy since he was appointed assistant secretary two years ago. Martin's boss, Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, has primary responsibility for overseeing implementation of the President's water policy directives issued to the federal agencies July 12.

The Missouri River Basin Commission will adopt basin water resources priorities for 1981 through 1983 and will discuss the possibility of Indian representation on the commission during its business session following the luncheon.

The priorities, as in the past, will be recommended for water and related land resources studies, research, data collection, and implementation of projects and programs of regional significance in the Missouri River Basin.

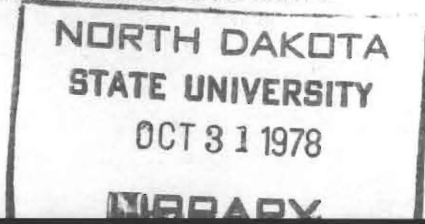
A recommendation concerning Indian representation is expected from the commission's Policy Committee, chaired by commission Vice-Chairman John E. Acord of Montana.

Acord also will serve as presiding officer for the 26th meeting in the absence of a presidentially appointed chairman.

### WRC problems stem from 'weakness,' 'benign neglect,' Brown says

The U.S. Water Resources Council is in trouble because of "an inherent weakness in its organizational structure, the unwillingness of the Office of Management and Budget to support the mission of the Council, and from the benign neglect of executive branch leadership over the years."

That assessment was made by Richard E. Brown, executive secretary of the Missouri River Basin Commission, before the 51st Annual Convention of the Association of Western State Engineers Sept. 21 in Bismarck, N.D.



Brown had been asked by the association to discuss the future of river basin commissions with or without the Water Resources Council.

Brown said the topic was timely in view of recent congressional action to delete funding for Water Resources Council activities in fiscal year 1979. He said such action would transfer administration of river basin commissions and federal planning grants to the states to the Department of the Interior.



*Brown*

President Carter vetoed the appropriations bill because, in addition to opposing certain public works projects funded by the bill, he favors a strengthened council role in federal water resource management activities.

"In my view, the Water Resources Council as presently organized and structured does not represent the most effective mechanism to address the responsibilities and duties which Congress established for it in P.L. 89-80," Brown said.

"The council as an interagency coordinating committee of federal agencies has traditionally lacked the authority to enforce meaningful coordination among its membership.

"Each federal member of the council currently determines the extent to which it will participate in the programs of the council and the extent to which it will permit itself to be subject to coordination," he said.

"In order for a river basin commission to remain a viable planning and coordination mechanism, its programs

#### **House supports veto**

The House Oct. 5 sustained President Carter's veto of the \$10.2 billion public works appropriations bill. The Associated Press reported that leaders of both chambers said no effort would be made to rewrite the public works bill to suit the President before Congress adjourned. It was expected, instead, that a routine continuing resolution would guarantee financing for existing projects. Such a resolution also would continue funding for the U.S. Water Resources Council, which would have been left out under the bill the President vetoed.

must be relevant and responsive to state needs while reflecting national water policy interests through the active participation of regional federal agencies.

"For this reason, I see the need for increased cooperation and coordination of federal agencies in the area of water resources development and conservation to be as great today as it was prior to the passage of P.L. 89-80," he said.

Brown said the 10 MRBC state members are on record in support of a stronger Water Resources Council to bring about coordination between states and federal agencies at the regional as well as at the national level.



**Army names new  
MRBC commissioner**

*Col. Clyde A. Selleck is Army's new member on the state-federal Missouri River Basin Commission. Selleck was named Sept. 15 to become division engineer for the Corps of Engineers' Missouri River Division. He succeeded Brig. Gen. William E. Read, who was reassigned to Washington, D.C.*

#### **MRBC study introduces newsletter**

The Upper Missouri River Basin Level B Study has introduced a newsletter called the "Upper Missouri Messenger."

The study is sponsored by the Missouri River Basin Commission and has an office in Helena, Mont. Ralph Waddington is study director.

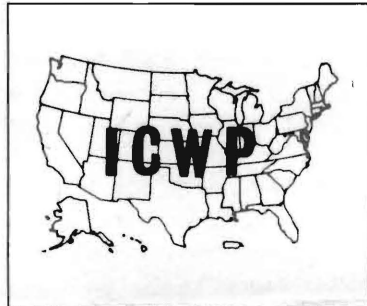
The study's first newsletter announced members of the management board monitoring the study and discussed study progress. The next issue will contain the names of members and alternates on the study's citizen advisory committees as well as another study progress report.

Persons wishing to receive the newsletter may write Waddington at 1123 Missoula Avenue, Helena, MT 59601.

## ICWP reaffirms support for state water rights

The Interstate Conference on Water Problems (ICWP) reaffirmed its support for state water rights at its 20th annual meeting Sept. 25-28 in Charleston, S.C.

The ICWP accused some federal agencies of attempting to "usurp and ignore the primary role of the states" in water laws and water management systems.



ICWP specifically cited the Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency. ICWP said the actions of those agencies "contrast sharply" with what ICWP called the "cooperative attitude" of Agriculture's Forest Service.

The ICWP resolution on state water rights read in part:

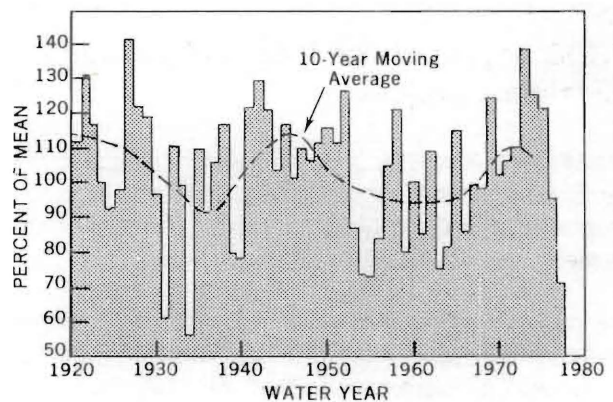
ICWP will continue to seek to insure Federal compliance with state water law and procedures and urges federal agencies to comply fully with the stated intent of Congress, the President, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

ICWP members also supported continuation of the U.S. Water Resources Council in 1979, but voiced strong criticism of the 1975 National Water Assessment that the council completed recently.

ICWP said the water assessment "contains serious flaws and shortcomings. Numerous discrepancies have been noted between the federal input and that provided by the states."

ICWP recommended that assessment information be corrected and supplemented before it is used as the basis for decisions by the Water Resources Council or other federal agencies.

ICWP's 1979 annual meeting will be held Aug. 26-30 in Idaho.



### Nation's water supply constant

Although the nation's total streamflow—one measure of the available water supply—has ranged greatly from year to year, the long-term "10-year view" shows the flow has been remarkably constant and no general downward trend is evident, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. (Yearly flows are shown as a percentage of the mean or average annual flow of about 1,200 billion gallons a day.)

### EPA to sponsor conference on water conservation and municipal wastewater

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will sponsor a two-day National Conference on Water Conservation and Municipal Wastewater Flow Reduction in Chicago Nov. 28 and 29. Sessions will be held at Ramada—The O'Hare Inn (Chicago O'Hare Airport).

Conference attendance will be limited to 500, with no registration fee required. Issues covered in the conference will include:

- Water and wastewater management issues
- Regulations affecting water supply, wastewater and their treatment
- Water and wastewater conservation technology
- Public participation, education and information in water conservation
- Case studies of water conservation, wastewater flow reduction projects

Persons interested in attending or wanting additional information should write: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, c/o Enviro Control, Inc., P.O. Box 1687, Rockville, MD 20850, ATTN: Richard E. Tucker.

## MRBC begins phase II of coal planning assistance project

The Missouri River Basin Commission has entered into agreement with the Resources and Land Investigations Program of the Geological Survey for phase II of the Western Coal Planning Assistance Project.

The major objective of the planning project is to assist local citizens in Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming in coping with problems associated with coal development. Impact assessment techniques and information developed should also be useful throughout the Missouri River Basin.

MRBC will receive \$200,000 for the phase II effort, bringing to \$550,000 the total received for the Western Coal Planning Assistance Project.

Phase II, to be conducted over the next year, will build upon the first portion of the project by making products of the project available to planners and decision makers and by training those individuals in the use of the products.

Titles of the planning assistance documents produced during phase I are:

- A Guide to Methods for Impact Assessment of Western Coal/Energy Development
- Forecasts for Western Coal/Energy Development
- Fact Book for Western Coal/Energy Development
- Source Book for Western Coal/Energy Development

A second thrust of phase II will be to update and modify the energy model developed during the commission's Yellowstone Basin and Adjacent Coal Area Level B Study. Its goal will be to provide forecasts and impact assessments for areas as small as counties.

The Yellowstone energy model was identified by phase I of the Western Coal Planning Assistance Project as being the most practicable forecast system for direct application by local planners and decision makers in evaluating energy development impacts.

Jerry Zimmerman, MRBC principal planner, is the staff coordinator of Western Coal Planning Assistance Project activities.

## Water resource film available

A color sound motion picture on water resource investigations has been produced for the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, and is now available for public viewing.

The 28-minute film explains how the USGS, the nation's largest water resources investigating agency, appraises the quantity, quality, distribution, and occurrence of surface and ground water.

The film, titled "The Subject is Water," may be obtained on loan for viewing by contacting the U.S. Geological Survey's Branch of Visual Services, 303 National Center, Reston, VA 22092.



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