

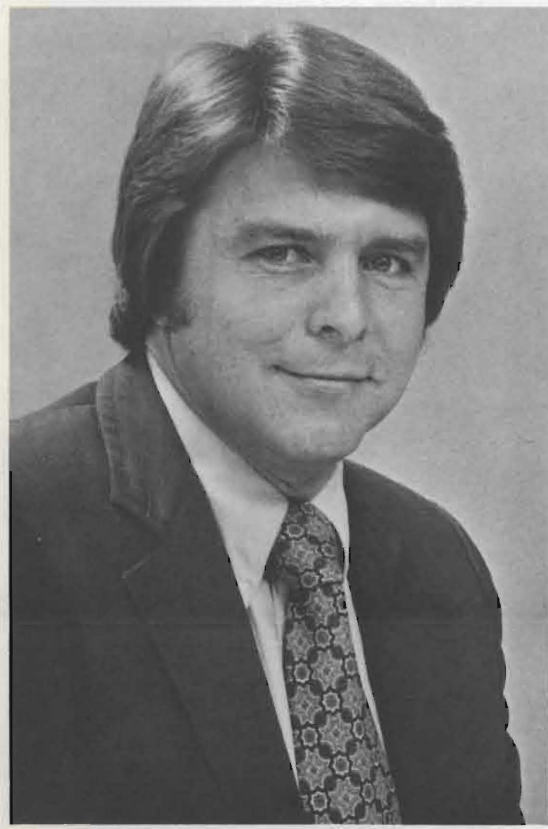
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Millard Wayne Hall becomes MRBC chairman



Hall

Millard Wayne Hall officially assumed duties Dec. 1 as chairman of the Missouri River Basin Commission headquartered in Omaha.

Hall, 42, was named by President Jimmy Carter Oct. 24 to become the second chairman of the 6-year-old commission.

He was sworn in Nov. 1 following a luncheon of the 26th regular quarterly commission meeting in Omaha.

Hall previously was director of the Nebraska Water Resources Center and a professor of civil engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

As MRBC chairman, he will be responsible for coordination of water and related land resources planning activities in the Missouri River Basin of nine federal agencies — the Departments of Agriculture; the Army (Corps of Engineers); Commerce; Energy; Health, Education and Welfare; Housing and Urban Development; the Interior; and Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency.

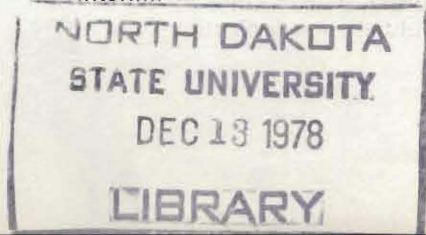
The chairman also will direct day-to-day activities of the commission staff, numbering about 30, and will represent the federal government in federal-state relations on the commission.

State members of the commission are Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Two interstate compacts — the Yellowstone River Compact Commission and the Big Blue River Compact Administration — also are members. Canada is an observer.

Hall, a Georgia native, received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Vanderbilt University and a master's degree and a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of Illinois.

He was an engineering professor and director of the Environmental Studies Center at the University of Maine before coming to Nebraska in 1975.

Hall replaces John W. Neuberger, who resigned a year ago. Vice-chairman John E. Acord of Montana, who was elected by the states, served as acting chairman in the interim.



Andrus accelerates water policy coordination and planning

Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus in November announced a stepped-up effort to carry out the President's new national water policy.

Nineteen task forces are working to implement directives that deal with four principal areas: (1) planning efficiency and planning process reform; (2) environmental quality and water resources management; (3) federal-state cooperation in water management; and (4) national emphasis on water conservation.

Approximately 175 persons from the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Army, and the Water Resources Council, Environmental Protection Agency, and General Services Administration are serving as members of the task forces.

Andrus has assigned lead responsibility for government-wide implementation of the President's Water Policy to Guy Martin, assistant secretary of the interior for land and water resources.

Andrus also announced he will meet with federal-state water policy task force members Dec. 12 at the White House to focus on two aspects of the President's water policy: (1) the impact of federal legislation on state and local governments; and (2) future financial commitments of states and local governments.

Administration trying to be sensitive to state concerns

The Missouri River Basin Commission was told Nov. 1 that the Carter Administration is trying to be sensitive to state concerns in implementing a new federal water policy.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Guy Martin said at the Omaha meeting that states "should target themselves" to work with 19 task forces carrying out the President's directive last June.

Martin appeared at the MRBC meeting to swear in Millard Wayne Hall as the commission's new chairman. Martin called Hall a "smart, tough, authoritative and well-informed individual" who could achieve "progressive compromise" on water issues.

Martin said he was proud to be called Carter's "front man" (Basin Bulletin, September-October) in explaining the President's Water Policy. He described it as a compromise whose biggest problem is "congressional acceptance."

Among other things, the policy places greater federal emphasis on water conservation and enforcement of environmental laws. It also urges states to pick up a greater share of the cost of future water projects.



Hall sworn in

Millard Wayne Hall, right, was sworn in Nov. 1 as chairman of the Missouri River Basin Commission. Assistant Interior Secretary Guy Martin, left, presents Hall with his certificate of appointment signed by President Jimmy Carter.

Indians to have observer status

An Indian observer will join the Missouri River Basin Commission. An alternate also will be selected.

The commission decision to add an Indian observer was reached at the commission's Nov. 1-2 meeting in Omaha.

Selection of the observer will be left to negotiations between the Department of the Interior and the more than 20 Indian reservations in the 10-state Missouri River Basin.

The commission also urged Congress to review Indian membership on the nation's six river basin commissions. Such a review could lead to voting membership. Only state and federal agencies and interstate water compacts now have voting representation.

Virgil Free, vice-chairman of Nebraska's Winnebago Tribe and president of a group advising 26 tribes on natural resources, told the Omaha World-Herald he was pleased with the commission action. "I think they're (the commission) making an earnest attempt to get Indian representation."

Free said one of the first issues an Indian observer is likely to raise with the commission is better coordination of state and tribal water concerns.

"State entities are not discussing appropriations with Indian tribes," Free said. Meanwhile, he said, Indians are "developing our own water plans and inventories and becoming more sophisticated in developing our natural resources."

Commission adopts priorities

The Missouri River Basin Commission adopted priorities for water and related land resources programs in the basin in six categories for fiscal year 1981 at its meeting in Omaha Nov. 1-2.

Collection of additional ground water data by the Interior Department's Geological Survey and expansion of the soil survey program of Agriculture Department's Soil Conservation Service are the top priorities among data collection activities for 1981.

Research efforts should focus upon instream flows, nonpoint-source pollution and remote sensing, all funded by the Interior Department's Office of Water Research and Technology.

The top priority for special studies was assigned to conducting additional phases of the commission's Missouri River flood plain management study.

A Department of Agriculture cooperative study in Colorado's South Platte and Republican River Basins was assigned top priority for regional planning.

In the category of implementation studies, the commission assigned first priority to a study of the Missouri River loess bluffs by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

Finally, two Army Corps of Engineers bank stabilization projects, one along the lower Yellowstone River and another along portions of the Missouri River, received top priority for implementation.

Bill Patterson, agriculture's alternate on the commission, chaired the Priorities Committee. Alan Hersch was staff coordinator.

Upper basin runoff greatest since 1898

Runoff above the Missouri River main stem reservoirs this year has been greater than for any other year since the Army Corps of Engineers began keeping records in 1898.

The heavy flows tapered off to 69 percent of normal in October, the first month inflows to the reservoirs were below normal since last February.

Evacuation of stored water from the reservoirs to make room for next spring's runoff extended this year's normal 8-month navigation season by about 15 days, the corps reported.

Discount rate set at 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ percent

The interest rate to be used by federal agencies in formulating and evaluating plans for water and related land resources is 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ percent for the period Oct. 1, 1978, through Sept. 30, 1979. The previous rate was 6 $\frac{5}{8}$ percent.

Leo M. Eisel, director of the U.S. Water Resources Council, said the rate is to be used in plan formulation and evaluation of projects for the purpose of discounting future benefits and costs to a common time basis.

The rate is based on the average yield during the preceding fiscal year on interest-bearing marketable securities of the United States which have terms of 15 or more years remaining to maturity.

Using that formula, the new rate would be 7 $\frac{5}{8}$ percent. However, the rate may increase by no more than a quarter of a percent in any year, resulting in the rate of 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ percent.

BLM planning discussed

Dick Barbar of the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) discusses his agency's planning system at the Nov. 1 Missouri River Basin Commission meeting. BLM employs a unique planning approach of considerable interest to other planners.



MRBC to meet in Denver, Kansas City

The Missouri River Basin Commission will hold its next regular quarterly meetings in Denver and Kansas City, respectively.

The commission will hold its 27th regular meeting at the Radisson Denver Hotel Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 7-8.

The 28th quarterly meeting will be held in conjunction with the 4th Annual Missouri River Basin Governors' Conference May 1-3 at the Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City.

MRBC begins computerization

The Missouri River Basin Commission has begun to computerize a large quantity of planning information to increase the overall usefulness of that information.

The computerization effort will focus on converting data associated with Missouri Basin water and related land resources programs and projects into a processible form. The data for each program or project include the names of the agencies involved, its location, purpose, cost and description, and other information needed in order to meaningfully characterize the water program or project.

After the data are entered into the computer system and several computer programs have been written, the data will be available by state, subbasin, subregion, county or a combination of geographical units. While the system will not contain or provide detailed data for each program, it will give the name of each program's lead agency from whom additional information will be available.

The program data will be entered into the system through word processing terminals located in the commission's Omaha office and stored at a local data processing facility through time-sharing.

The information stored in the system will be used in maintaining and updating the commission's basinwide water resources plan, conducting the annual priorities program and in preparing each year's program review report. The information also will be useful to state, federal, regional and local planners throughout the Missouri Basin in determining what programs are ongoing or planned for any given part of the basin.

Bill Hutchinson, a commission staff planner, is supervising the computerization effort.

MRBC publications available

The Missouri River Basin Commission views the exchange of information as a valuable tool for coordinating water and related land resources planning.

The commission published or will publish the following study reports and other documents during 1978:

- 1977 Annual Report
- 1978 Coordination Directory
- MRBC Bylaws and Policy Statements
- Proceedings of the Third Annual Missouri River Basin Governors' Conference
- 1979 Priorities Report
- 1979 State and Federal Program Review
- Revised Vol. 3, Laws, Policies, and Administration — Appendix, Missouri River Basin Comprehensive Framework Study
- Yellowstone River Basin and Adjacent Coal Area Level B Study
 - Vol. 1—Final Draft Report and Environmental Assessment (Final report to be printed in January 1979)
 - Vol. 2—Upper Yellowstone, Montana, Report
 - Vol. 3—Clarks Fork-Bighorn, Montana, Report
 - Vol. 4—Tongue and Powder, Montana, Report
 - Vol. 5—Lower Yellowstone, Montana, Report
 - Vol. 6—North Dakota Tributaries Report
 - Vol. 7—Wind-Bighorn-Clarks Fork, Wyoming, Report
 - Vol. 8—Northeast Wyoming Report
- Report—Section 13(a) Water Assessment for the Upper Missouri River Basin

Copies of all MRBC reports will be made available to the public at no charge for as long as they last.

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