

mrbc

basin
bulletin

STATE UNIVERSITY

APR 5 1976

LIBRARY

Vol. 3, No. 4

January-February 1976

MRBC to forward schedule of regional priorities

The Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC) is preparing to forward its report of regional water and related land resources priorities for the fiscal period October 1977 through September 1980.

The priorities were adopted by MRBC at its 15th regular quarterly meeting Feb. 4-5 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Kleppe named WRC chairman



Thomas S. Kleppe, secretary of the Interior and former North Dakota businessman and congressman, has been designated chairman of the U.S. Water Resources Council (WRC) by President Gerald R. Ford.

The additional duties of heading WRC were assigned Kleppe in a Nov. 29 letter in which the President called water resources planning "a vital national concern."

The priorities were recommended in six categories -- basic data collection, planning-related research, special studies, regional or river basin planning, implementation studies and implementation of projects.

The initial stage of the Oahe Irrigation Unit in South Dakota received the No. 1 priority among projects to be implemented in the 10-state Missouri River Basin. Flood protection in the Blue River Basin in Kansas and Missouri was second. The Kanopolis Irrigation Project in Kansas was third.

Two irrigation projects in Nebraska -- the O'Neill Unit and the North Loup Division -- were fourth and fifth, respectively. The sixth priority in the implementation project category was for bank stabilization on the Missouri River in Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

In the category of implementation studies -- studies to determine the feasibility of projects -- the No. 1 priority went to Level C studies of selected areas of the Yellowstone River Basin and adjacent

coal areas of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The second priority for implementation studies went to the Apple Creek Irrigation Unit in North Dakota. A municipal and industrial water supply study for the Coal Creek Basin of Colorado was third.

A comprehensive study of the James River Basin in North Dakota and South Dakota topped the category of regional or river basin planning. A level B study of the upper Missouri Basin in Montana was second. Phase III of the Colorado state water plan in the South Platte Basin was third.

Among special studies, the No. 1 priority was given a study to identify the institutional arrangements needed to effectively manage the flood plain of the Missouri River in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota. The No. 2 priority went to a Missouri Basin study that includes identification of problems and issues of reserved water rights and related land resources on Indian and federal lands.

High regional priority was given to six topics in the planning-related research category. Included were recommendations for research on weather modification, non-point source pollution and maintenance of minimum stream flows.

A hydrologic study of the Madison Limestone Formation, which underlies portions of Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming, was the No. 1 priority for basic data collection. Soil surveys and topographic mapping on a regionwide basis were second and third, respectively.

The entire report listing MRBC priority recommendations together with supporting information provided by basin states will be forwarded to the U.S. Water Resources Council and to the Office of Management and Budget for use in preparing the President's budget.

MRBC Chairman John W. Neuberger said the commission's recent state and federal program review shows that a number of the priorities have already been included in 1977 budget requests.

"We feel that the fact that these items are already included in state, federal and MRBC budget requests shows that the annual MRBC priority exercise is beginning to bear fruit," Neuberger said.

MRBC accepts report of Platte Level B study

The Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC) formally accepted the final report of the Platte River Basin, Nebraska, Level B Study at its 15th regular quarterly meeting in Sioux City Feb. 4-5.

The report will be printed for distribution in April, according to John W. Neuberger, MRBC chairman.

The report of the Platte study contains a plan for future water management in the Platte River Basin of Nebraska over the next 20-25 years and points out possible problems and needs through the year 2020.

The plan contains more than 100 structural and nonstructural projects and programs that would require an investment of some \$530 million if implemented during the next 25 to 40 years.

Chairman Neuberger told commission members in Sioux City that acceptance of the Level B report was a mile stone for MRBC.

"This is the first Level B or comprehensive river basin plan completed since MRBC was formed in 1972," Neuberger said.



Eason

Nebraska Gov. J. James Exon's representative on the commission, Tom Eason introduced the motion that led to acceptance of the report.

Eason moved that the plan and recommendations in the report be accepted as a guide for conservation, development and management of the water and related land resources of the Platte River Basin of Nebraska and that elements of the plan which do not involve national laws or policy changes be adopted as a portion of the comprehensive, coordinated joint plan (CCJP) for the Missouri River Basin.

"Those report recommendations concerning changes in national laws or policy will be referred by the chairman to the MRBC Policy Committee for study," Eason said.

Chairman Neuberger stressed that the plan is to be used as a flexible guide for future water resources management. Projects or programs can be added or deleted as conditions change in the future, he said.

Neuberger noted that several changes were made in the draft report as a result of the state and federal agency review conducted by the commission during the period September through December 1975.

He said public input during the course of the study was significant and undoubtedly reduced the amount of change required before the final report was accepted by MRBC.

Billings, Mont., to be headquarters for MRBC Yellowstone study

Billings, Mont., will be the headquarters for a multiagency water resources study of the Yellowstone River Basin and adjacent coal areas sponsored by the Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC).

Helena, Mont.; Cody, Wyo.; and Bismarck, N.D. will be the locations of branch planning offices and assistant study managers for the study.

Nicholas L. Barbarossa, MRBC director of planning, said Robert Madsen, Billings, a water resources planner for 18 years with Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, will serve as manager of the Yellowstone Study under an intergovernmental transfer.



Madsen

Barbarossa said Madsen is extremely familiar with the Yellowstone Basin, having been associated with several previous activities in the area such as the North Central Power Study, the Northern Great Plains Resource Program, the Western U.S. Water Plan, the Missouri River Basin Framework Study and the Yellowstone Basin Total Water Management Study.

The assistant manager with responsibility for the Montana portion of the study will be Keith H. Corrigall, Helena, Paul H. Shore, Cody, will handle the Wyoming portion of the study, and Donald L. Ohnstad, Bismarck, will have responsibility for North Dakota.

"Purpose of the 12-month Yellowstone study will be to develop recommendations for action on potential and agricultural development and conservation as they affect water and related land resources in the 125,000-square-mile study area," Barbarossa said.

"The assistant study managers will be given the major responsibility of heading state teams which will conduct the study in the nine individual planning subareas in accordance with the plan of study," Barbarossa said.



Shore

Ohnstad

Corrigall

Mailing addresses of the study manager and the assistant study managers are as follows:

--Robert Madsen, Study Manager, Room 332, Transwestern Life Bldg., 404 North 31st, Billings, MT 59101.

--Keith Corrigall, Assistant Study Manager, c/o Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation, Water Resources Division, 32 South Ewing, Helena, MT 59601.

--Paul Shore, Assistant Study Manager, Northfork Star Route, Cody, WY 82414.

--Donald Ohnstad, Assistant Study Manager, 601 East Bismarck Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501.

National flood control policy to stress flood plain management

(From the Sioux City Journal)

National Flood control policy will stress flood plain management and flood insurance over dams and levees, the acting head of the government's flood insurance program told the Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC) in Sioux City Feb. 5.

J. Robert Hunter, whose program is within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), said the Ford administration and Congress agree on the need for mandatory national flood insurance to reduce the cost of flood disasters.

The program subsidizes flood insurance premiums for existing structures in flood-risk areas. In return, local governments agree to keep future high-cost development out of flood prone areas or to build above flood levels.

Communities that do not adopt flood plain standards can lose eligibility for many types of federal assistance.

The goal is to reduce flood disaster costs by \$2 billion by the year 2000, Hunter said, by keeping floodways clear of high value development.

In some areas, storage reservoirs, levees and other flood control structures are still needed, he added. But in other areas the availability of flood insurance can reduce the cost-benefit ratio enough to rule out flood control structures.

Flood insurance information in the Missouri River Basin is available from the following HUD flood insurance specialists:

--B.E. Stephenson, Federal Insurance Administration, HUD, Federal Building, 911 Walnut Street, Kansas City, MO 64106

--Joe E. Brown or Jerome Olson, Flood Insurance Office, HUD, 1961 Stout Street, Denver, CO 80202

Members named to scarce resources, power planning committees

MRBC Chairman John W. Neuberger has named members to two committees formed by the commission at its 14th meeting in November.

The Scarce Resource Management Committee was charged with formulating draft principles, guidelines and criteria by which a scarce resource such as water could equitably be allocated among competing uses and users.

Committee members are Keith Krause, Kansas, chairman; John Acord, Montana; Tom Eason, Nebraska; Milton Lindvig, North Dakota; Vern Butler, South Dakota; Carl Clopeck, Environmental Protection Agency; William Rogers, Department of the Interior; and Col. Harry Mumma, Department of the Army.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Power Planning was formed to provide an overview of various power planning issues and potential problems within the Missouri River Basin.

Committee members are Walter Belter, Energy Research and Development Administration, chairman; Gus Karabatsos, Department of the Army; Tom Weaver, Department of the Interior; Lenard Young, Federal Power Commission; Cooper Wayman, Environmental Protection Agency; William Brabham, Iowa; Vern Butler, South Dakota; and George Christopoulos, Wyoming.

Carroll Hamon serves as MRBC staff coordinator for both committees.

New MRBC alternates named

Wyoming, the Yellowstone River Compact Commission, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have all announced changes in their alternate membership on MRBC.

Clement R. Lord has been designated as the Wyoming MRBC alternate member, replacing his son, Joe, who joined a private consulting firm.

George Christopoulos continues as the Wyoming member on the commission with added responsibilities. He also has been named as MRBC alternate member for the Yellowstone River Compact Commission.

Gary Ultican is the new HUD alternate, replacing Chuck Huyett. Ultican recently assumed regional responsibility for the HUD 701 comprehensive planning program and related water resources activities. Elmer Smith is the HUD member.

EPA has designated two alternates in addition to Jack Green. Carl Clopeck has been named second alternate and Walter Robohn third alternate. Jerry Svore is the EPA member.

MRBC coordination directory available

The Missouri River Basin Commission's 1976 "Coordination Directory of State and Federal Agency Water and Related Land Resources Officials" is available upon request.

The 64-page publication lists nearly 400 names complete with addresses and phone numbers. A subject index and an alphabetical index of names will help the user in locating individuals or agencies.

Omaha site of 16th meeting

The Missouri River Basin Commission's 16th regular quarterly meeting will be held at the New Tower Hotel Courts in Omaha May 5-6.

The 17th meeting will be in Minnesota Aug. 4-5 at a location to be announced.



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

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



20

North Dakota State University
Documents Librarian
Fargo, ND 58102