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BASIN BULLETIN

MISSOURI BASIN STATES ASSOCIATION
10050 REGENCY CIRCLE - SUITE 515
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68114-0788



Number 1
June 4, 1982



SPECIAL NOTE:

The "Basin Bulletin" will be published by the Missouri Basin States Association following its quarterly meetings. It will be primarily devoted to actions taken by the Association's Board of Directors at the meetings. Other Association news will appear in the "Bulletin" as space allows.

Those receiving this first issue of the "Bulletin" have been placed on the mailing list to receive future issues. Please help keep our mailing list current by notifying Carroll Hamon or Dave Peterson (402) 397-5714 of address changes.

THE MISSOURI BASIN STATES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET FOR THEIR THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING on May 20, 1982, in Omaha, Nebraska. At the meeting, the Directors:

- Adopted a Statement of Purpose for the MBSA which read in part, "The MBSA serves as a forum for the identification, discussion, and possible resolution of issues of concern to the basin states. Issues to be discussed will include matters of interstate comity among the basin states as well as matters of common concern to the basin states that arise due to the actions and programs of (others) . . . the Association may take a position and advocate that position to those in a position to resolve the issue . . . the MBSA may help coordinate activities of a regional significance . . . the MBSA will conduct regular meetings . . . analyze pertinent water resource problems and issues, maintain and operate a computerized water accounting system, assemble and distribute information, and perform such research and studies' as necessary to accomplish (its) purposes . . . (the MBSA) will not supplant the states' role of planning and managing water resources within their boundaries."
- Adopted processes for authorizing and conducting issue analyses, considering position statements and advocating positions.
- Authorized publication and distribution of a quarterly newsletter (the "Basin Bulletin") following each quarterly meeting of the Association.
- Authorized charging a subscription fee sufficient to cover the costs of publication and mailing to those who wish to receive the Association's biweekly "Directors News Bulletin."

- Authorized the transfer of the remaining funds of the Missouri States Committee (a former organization of the Governors of the basin states) to the MBSA.
- Accepted the responsibility for paying unemployment claims against the former Missouri River Basin Commission, thereby clearing the way to receive the Commission's remaining unobligated funds from the U.S. Treasury.
- Identified out-of-basin transfer of Missouri River water as an issue the Association wished to analyze and requested staff to prepare a preliminary issue analysis paper for consideration at the Association's August meeting.
- Scheduled the Association's fourth quarterly meeting in Billings, Montana on August 26, 1982.
- Scheduled the Association's fifth quarterly (and first annual) meeting in Omaha, Nebraska on October 21, 1982.
- Determined not to publish two "overview papers" prepared by the staff concerning the Flood Control Act of 1944 and Methods of Allocating Interstate Waters.
- Expressed the Association's interest in cooperating with the Corps of Engineers in conducting future "reconnaissance level studies" on subjects to be determined later.
- Determined not to issue consolidated state comments on the "Proposed Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies" issued by the U.S. Water Resources Council.

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT GEORGE CHRISTOPULOS APPOINTED A BUDGET COMMITTEE consisting of Directors Bill Crews, John Acord, Jack Hart and Bill McDonald to review the Association's budget for FY 1983 and propose a FY 1984 budget. The committee is to consider the receipt of additional funds from the U.S. Water Resources Council, the receipt of remaining Missouri River Basin Commission funds, and the status of pending state contributions to the MBSA. The committee is to report their recommendations at the Association's August meeting.

THE BOARD AGREED TO REVIEW A PROPOSAL FROM THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION to finance a "test" of the water accounting system that will be developed as part of the Association's basinwide hydrology study. The Bureau proposal, first presented to the Association at its February meeting in Denver, and further refined before the May meeting, offers Bureau technical and financial assistance to test the system by running the computer model with future water uses agreed to by the basin states. The Association Directors' comments on the proposal will be forwarded to the Executive Director who will work with the Bureau to resolve any problems prior to the August meeting, when the Board will again consider accepting the proposal.

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS PRESENTED THEIR RESPECTIVE STATE POSITIONS ON THE ALLOCATION OF MISSOURI RIVER WATERS at the May Association meeting. The positions had been requested at the Association's February meeting as a means of initiating discussion on the subject of allocation of waters of the Missouri River. The position papers have been assembled in a booklet and are available from the Association.

STAFF REPORTS WERE PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION at their May meeting which noted:

- The MBSA workshops to train state personnel in conducting water conservation planning workshops for local governments had begun. Attendance at the first workshop in Omaha on May 4-5 had numbered over 20 with four states represented. The second workshop was to be held in Denver on May 25-26.
- The Office of Management and Budget has authorized the transfer of the remaining, unobligated funds of the former Missouri River Basin Commission to the Association. The funds total \$380,458, out of which the Association must accept responsibility to pay up to \$11,024 for possible unemployment benefit claims against the former Commission.
- The FY 1981 Annual Report for the former Missouri River Basin Commission being prepared by Association staff is in draft form. The report will include a section reviewing the Commission's activities over its nearly ten year existence. The report will be distributed in July.
- The problem area in the progress of the hydrology study being completed by the Association is delays in obtaining state and federal agency review and concurrence in the study's data base. It was also noted that the study's management group had recommended developing an archive program to store primary base data if funds were available from the federal study grant in August. It was also noted that the Association would have to consider the appointment of a management group to oversee the operation and maintenance of the water accounting system at their August meeting.
- The atlas of land use in the Missouri River flood plain from Ponca, Nebraska, to the mouth should be published and bound in June. The atlas is a product of the flood plain study being conducted by the Association and will be published in a very limited number of copies. It was also noted that the work plan for the planning phase of the flood plain study was approved by the study management group in early May.

JIM MCPHERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSOURI RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION, PRESENTED A RESOLUTION adopted by the Association. The resolution called upon the Governors of the basin states and the MBSA to recognize the economic importance of commercial navigation to the entire region and urged them to consider the need for sufficient water in the Missouri River below Sioux City to provide full-service navigation for eight months per year.

FEDERAL AGENCY REPORTS WERE PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION NOTING:

- The Upper Missouri office of the Bureau of Reclamation has forwarded its recommendation on the ETSI project to Washington. Copies of the recommendation will be sent to all basin states.
- The U.S. Coast Guard Second District office in St. Louis will remain open but will experience some reduction in programs. The office had previously been proposed for closing, but congressional action was taken that will keep the office open.

- The Soil Conservation Service announced that a conference on conservation practices will be held in Maryville, Missouri, in January 1983. The conference will be held for representatives from the states of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.
- The Western Area Power Administration will raise rates for Missouri Basin power from 5 1/2 to 6 mils per KWH.
- The Corps of Engineers will release the Missouri River operations plan shortly. The Corps and EPA have entered into a working agreement for administration of the "superfund" which divides responsibility for mitigation of toxic and hazardous waste disposal sites between EPA and the Corps.

HANS FORESTEL, ASSOCIATION OBSERVER FROM THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, reported that a water management plan for the McKenzie River Basin had just been published and a complete set of the report and appendices have been transmitted to the MBSA office. He noted that water from the McKenzie basin had been proposed for diversion south by some individuals. Copies of the report are available from Hans by writing Water Planning and Management Branch, Western and Northern Region, Inland Water Directorate, Motherwell Building, 1901 Victoria Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4P 3R4.

MBSA DIRECTORS REPORTED THAT:

- The Kansas legislature passed SB 498 establishing new oil and gas well pollution standards.
- The Kansas Water Office will soon begin to design area water management plans in the state.
- The South Dakota Department of Water and Natural Resources has assumed administration of the HUD Community Development Block Grant Program.
- A legislative committee has begun to redraft the South Dakota water code.
- The Wyoming legislature has passed Governor Herschler's Water Development Bill containing 27 proposed projects.



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