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# BASIN BULLETIN

MISSOURI BASIN STATES ASSOCIATION  
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NOTE: The "Basin Bulletin" is published quarterly, following MBSA meetings. It is primarily devoted to summarizations of items acted upon or discussed at the meetings. Requests for additional copies of the "Basin Bulletin" or address corrections should be directed to Carroll Hamon or Dave Peterson (402) 330-5714.

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THE MISSOURI BASIN STATES ASSOCIATION'S SIXTH QUARTERLY MEETING was held on February 10, 1983 in Kansas City, Missouri. Formal actions taken by the MBSA Board of Directors at the meeting included:

- Election of new Board of Directors members from the States of Kansas and Nebraska. The new MBSA Directors are Joe Harkins, Director of the Kansas Water Office; John Cavanaugh, attorney and former U.S. Representative from Omaha, Nebraska; and J. Michael Jess, Director of the Nebraska Department of Water Resources.
- Election of William W. Crews, Governor's Missouri River Coordinator in the Iowa Department of Water, Air and Waste Management, as MBSA President. Crews replaces Jack Hart, Natural Resources Coordinator under former Nebraska Governor Charles Thone, as MBSA President.
- Election of J. Michael Jess as MBSA Treasurer, replacing William Crews.
- Adoption of a statement of responsibilities and duties for the MBSA Executive Committee, composed of the four MBSA officers. In general, the Committee will assist the Executive Director in administrative matters beyond his defined authority and serve as a planning committee for recommending future MBSA work programs, activities and budgets.
- Authorization for the MBSA Executive Committee to negotiate an agreement with the Missouri River Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers providing an additional \$25,000 to permit the Corps to complete work on the MBSA Water Accounting System. The Executive Committee will also reexamine proposed FY84 expenditures for the MBSA Water Accounting System.
- Establishing August 10-11, 1983 as the dates for the MBSA Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program Seminar to be held in Des Moines, Iowa. The seminar will be held in conjunction with the eighth quarterly MBSA meeting.



- Approval of a draft MBSA Fiscal Year 1982 Annual Report for publication and distribution.
- Adoption of Resolutions of Appreciation for former MBSA Directors Allyn Lockner, Kansas; and Tom Eason and Jack Hart, Nebraska. The resolution for Tom Eason noted his nearly eleven years of service with the MBSA and its predecessor, the Missouri River Basin Commission.
- Confirmation of May 12, 1983 as the date for the seventh quarterly MBSA meeting in Omaha, Nebraska.

THE MBSA DIRECTORS DETERMINED NOT TO DEVELOP A POSITION WITH RESPECT TO COST SHARING for federal water projects. Instead, they directed that the MBSA should serve as a clearinghouse for state comments on cost sharing and attempt to synthesize a common position from the comments of the states and national and regional water-related organizations.

MISSOURI CONGRESSMAN YOUNG'S BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE NEGOTIATION OF AN INTERSTATE COMPACT to allocate water of the Missouri River basin was discussed by Walter Meyer, the Congressman's District Administrator. Meyer stated the intent of the proposed legislation was to prevent the Federal Government from usurping state authority with respect to water management in the basin. He also stated that the Congressman hoped such legislation would encourage the basin states to address common water issues and problems before they became critical. He invited the Missouri Basin States Association to comment on the proposed legislation and to suggest improvements prior to its reintroduction later this year.

VARIOUS MBSA DIRECTORS EXPRESSED CONCERNS REGARDING CONGRESSMAN YOUNG'S PROPOSED COMPACT LEGISLATION. Wyoming State Engineer George Christopoulos encouraged a reexamination of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program as the beginning point for future water allocation discussions. Bob Neufeld, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Water and Natural Resources, suggested conferring with Missouri River basin congressional delegations prior to introducing compact legislation. He pointed out that basin states have yet to agree on future water needs, a prerequisite to compact negotiations.

A DRAFT ISSUE ANALYSIS REPORT ON OUT-OF-BASIN WATER TRANSFER was reviewed by the MBSA Board of Directors. Several directors commented on the report, suggesting the inclusion of more recent case law on the subject and other clarifications. The committee assigned to produce a final draft of the issue analysis report will review the suggested changes and produce a revised draft prior to the May MBSA meeting.

MBSA DIRECTOR GENE KRENZ (ND) reported that the MBSA-sponsored Missouri River Basin State Water Planning Seminar held in Denver on January 20-21 was an apparent success. All basin states with the exception of Colorado and Missouri attended the seminar to report on their water planning programs. Seminar participants suggested similar seminars be held on a periodic basis. Seminar proceedings will be published in March.



STAFF REPORTS TO THE ASSOCIATION NOTED:

- The MBSA returned \$68,992 in unspent grant funds for the hydrology study to the U.S. Water Resources Council at the close of federal fiscal year 1982. State in-kind contributions were sufficient to match the federal funds that were spent.
- The MBSA received \$11,985.12 from the sale of excess furniture and office equipment on October 9, 1982. The funds will be earmarked to cover the cost of relocating the MBSA office last October and for any future purchases of office furniture and equipment.
- The graphics programs for displaying information from the MBSA Water Accounting System database are becoming operational. Examples of several graphic outputs in the form of bar graphs and line graphs were displayed at the meeting.

FEDERAL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE MBSA MEETING REPORTED:

- Mr. Sherman L. Lewis will replace Gene Sullivan as Nebraska State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service later this month. Mr. Lewis will also assume Sullivan's role as USDA representative to the MBSA.
- Mr. Donald G. Ferren will replace Harry Majors as Minnesota State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service.
- The Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has determined that federal funding for stream bank erosion control measures on the Kansas and Osage Rivers is not economically justified. The other two aspects of the District's current Kansas-Osage Water Management Study, dealing with mineral intrusion and water supply concerns, will be completed in 1984.
- The Omaha District COE reported that studies are underway dealing with potential increases in hydroelectric generation at main stem reservoirs. Also under consideration are possible reallocations for recovery of basin project costs.
- The Administration's proposed FY84 budget for the Department of Commerce will negatively impact programs of NOAA and EDA. The latter agency is again proposed for elimination.
- The Bureau of Reclamation is moving ahead with planning and construction for portions of the Garrison Project in North Dakota. Those portions of the project that are in planning or construction include the Oakes Test Area, the Rockford Canal and Lone Tree Reservoir. None of the current projects will result in return flows to Canada.
- The State of Wyoming will market 74,000 acre-feet of water annually from the modified Buffalo Bill Reservoir. Wyoming will share the cost of the reservoir modification with the Bureau of Reclamation.

- A draft user charge bill for the U.S. Coast Guard is being reviewed by OMB. Revenues under the bill are estimated at between \$50-57 million. In its present form, the bill would establish charges for direct services only. Search and Rescue would not be included. Monies collected would be returned to the U.S. Treasury and not used for direct Coast Guard support.
- Congress has directed the U.S. Coast Guard to conduct a feasibility study of private contract aids to navigation services. Many CG personnel believe that more would be lost than gained by such a move. For example, many other functions now performed by the CG could be impaired or lost since they could not be entirely supported on their own. Such functions include boating safety, bridge inspection and search and rescue.

MBSA DIRECTORS REPORTED:

- The State of Kansas is in the process of redirecting its state water planning program. The Kansas Water Office is mandated to produce a state water plan in the next year.
- The Minnesota State Water Planning Board is undergoing its "sunset" review for continuation. Extreme budgetary pressures in Minnesota may cause the abandonment of the state's water information management system.
- The Montana Legislature is considering new legislation dealing with water export in view of the Sporhase decision.
- The Wyoming Legislature has already killed five bills dealing with instream flow. Other water related legislation under consideration includes measures dealing with ground water, Yellowstone River diversion and interdivision water diversion.



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