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Water Current

William L. Powers, Director
Volume 13, Number 4

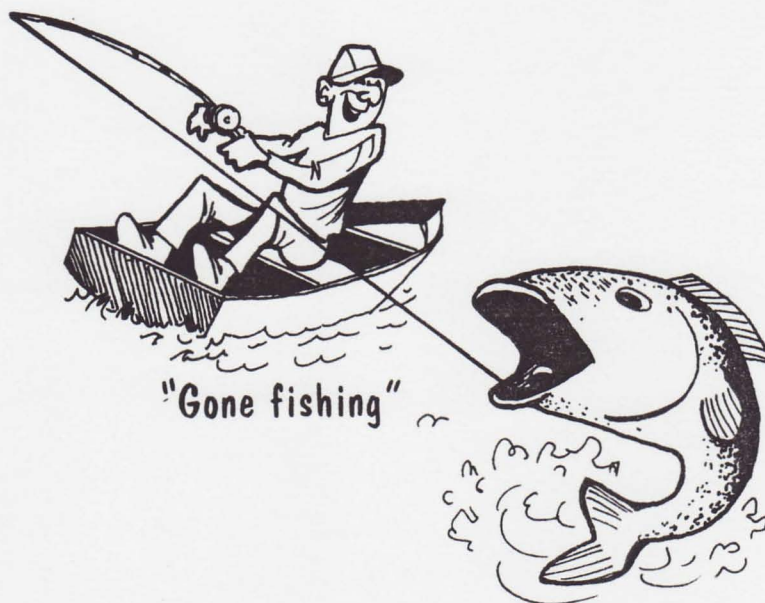
Karen E. Stork, Editor
July/August 1981

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Conservation & Survey
Division

AUG 21 1981

University of Nebraska



NEBRASKA WATER RESOURCES CENTER

ON THE HOMEFRONT

COMMUNIVERSITY COURSE ON WATER IN NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Water Resources Center, in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service, is sponsoring a course on "Water in Nebraska: Making the Right Decisions" as part of the University of Nebraska Division of Continuing Studies Fall '81 Communiversitv Series.

Water is one of Nebraska's most important resources, and Nebraskans face difficult decisions on many water issues. This course will help participants understand some of the more pressing water issues, including water availability and use; physical water issues regarding water quality and quantity; legal, political and social aspects; economics; and structure of water agencies in Nebraska (involving a panel of representatives from water agencies).

The course will be held at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. on four consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning October 6, 1981. The fee for this course (#CU-164) is \$20. For additional information or to register, contact the Division of Continuing Studies, Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583. Telephone: (402) 472-1392.

ASS'T INSTRUCTOR IN WATER RESOURCES COMMUNICATIONS

The Water Resources Center is pleased to announce that Mr. Dan Himsworth has accepted the position of Assistant Instructor of Water Resources Communications in the Department of Agricultural Communications and will begin work on August 24, 1981.

This position is funded through the Water Resources Center, and Mr. Himsworth will work closely with staff in the Water Center and other University staff in gathering and preparing information for dissemination through print and electronic media, publications, newsletters, meetings and various water resources programs.

Dan received an M.S. in agricultural journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1979, a B.S. in broadcast communication from the University of Oregon in 1976, and another B.S. in soil science from Oregon State University in 1981. He previously worked as a science writer/editor for the Oregon State University Sea Grant College Program.

We are pleased to welcome Dan to the University and are sure that he will be able to provide many valuable services to further the dissemination of water resources information. We urge you to get acquainted with Dan and let us know how he might help you.

SANDHILLS RESEARCH PACKAGE BEING DEVELOPED

The Water Resources Center is attempting to develop an integrated research and educational package on water-related research in the Sandhills. In order to accomplish this, a meeting of interested persons is planned for 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12 in the East Campus Union Building.

A document on possible study topics for the Sandhills developed by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) containing information needs for decision making will be used as a starting point for developing a research plan. At the workshop research teams will be assembled with expertise in four categories listed in the NRC document: (1) land resources and erosion, (2) water supply, (3) water quality, and (4) ecology.

If you are interested in participating in this effort or would like a copy of the Sandhills document, contact: William Powers, Director, Nebraska Water Resources Center, 310 Agricultural Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0710. Telephone: (402) 472-3305.

WATER RESOURCES IN NEBRASKA

GOVERNORS MAY SEEK CONTINUED REGIONAL WATER PLANNING EFFORTS

Nebraska Governor Charles Thone has asked support from nine other governors to "rescue" some of the efforts of the Omaha-based Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC). "It may be in the best interest of the Missouri Basin States to rescue some of the commission's activities. . . recognized by the basin governors and our appointed commission representatives as crucial to future water resources management in the Missouri River Basin," Governor Thone said. The statement came in a letter to the governors of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The U.S. Water Resources Council has taken action to terminate five river basin commissions, including MRBC, effective September 30. The Council is requesting the President to issue a confirming executive order. That action is pending. The Water Resources Council has recommended that remaining unobligated fiscal year 1981 commission funds be transmitted to the states for regional water resources coordination and planning. "Some type of state organized and operated regional entity must be formed to receive the remaining commission funds and complete the activities currently under way," if this transmittal is to take place, Governor Thone said.

A committee of commission members from three states has been investigating the formation of such an entity since the commission met in Omaha in May. Nebraska alternate member Dayle Williamson is chairman of the committee.

Governor Thone has endorsed the committee's plan to establish an interim state association to exist for fiscal year 1982. The entity would accept the remaining assets of the Missouri River Basin Commission and complete a list of high priority activities, including the Missouri River Basin Hydrology Study. (The study will establish a basinwide water accounting system for determining impacts to streamflow due to future water use from the region's rivers.)

Governor Thone proposed that the governors monitor activities during the interim period and then evaluate the need for a Missouri River Basin Governors' Council or other type of ongoing organization. One option being explored would broaden the scope of the basin commission to include economic development and possibly other activities, Thone said. This would serve to continue some of the functions that have been carried out by regional development commissions which have been terminated by the national administration.

MISSOURI RIVER BASIN COMMISSION WATER USE INFORMATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Three years ago, the U.S. Geological Survey began work on a cooperative Federal-State effort designed to collect, store, and disseminate water use information. The National Water Use Program is intended to gather and provide information for water resources managers in a National Water Use Data System.

To find out what kind of information decisionmakers need, the Geological Survey has contracted with the Missouri River Basin Commission to research potential user needs in this 10-State region. The Commission is calling the local project "Assessment of Water Use Information Needs and Applications."

Initially, the assignment meant developing a mailing list of a cross-section of persons and organizations in the Missouri River Basin who utilize information about water use. The list, completed in mid-June, includes about 350 names, addresses, and phone numbers. Since then, a questionnaire has been developed and mailed to persons on the list. The questionnaires and information generated from other telephone and personal interviews are now being analyzed to identify the needs of those who will use the data.

Next, the National Water Use Data System will be evaluated to determine how well it meets the information needs identified during the interview process. Finally, a report summarizing the assessment and recommending improvements in the system will be submitted to the Geological Survey.

The Missouri River Basin Commission expects to complete the project by October 1, 1981.

FEDERAL HIGHLIGHTS

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Action on the Interior Appropriations bill has been delayed on the House floor. The Interior bill includes \$1.9 million for research and development in the field of reuse and \$600,000 for "special projects." Six million dollars has been included in the bill for saline water research and development and \$1 million is included for technology transfer and information dissemination. A total of \$9,755,000 is included for the Office of Water Research and Technology (OWRT), an agency which the Administration has proposed abolishing. However, no funding is included in the bill for state water research institutes. The bill does include an appropriation of \$110,633,000 for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Concerning OWRT, a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee recommendation would appropriate funds to a new Office of Water Policy. The Senate Subcommittee's report indicates that the Committee concurs with the basic termination of OWRT. However, it believes certain research formerly conducted by OWRT is of critical importance and thus should be continued under the new Office of Water Policy. The Senate Appropriations Committee recommendation includes programs of the new Office of Water Policy as well as those formerly under OWRT.

WATER PLANNING BILL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee recently approved H.R. 3432, a water planning reform package. Amendments added to the bill would establish a one-year 21-member Commission on Federal Water Policy composed of members of the Administration and the Congress, as well as a National Board of Water Resources Policy, a two-year interagency Board.

The National Board of Water Resources would be charged with identifying the nation's water needs through a continuing study and assessment of the adequacy of water supplies and maintaining a study of the relationship of regional or river basin plans to larger regional needs. The Board would also establish guidelines or perhaps principles, standards and procedures for the evaluation and formulation of water and related land resource projects. Under the Board's direction, river basin commissions could be established and the Board would also administer a program for financial and program assistance to states.

The Commission on Federal Water Policy would be charged specifically with investigating and studying water policy and would have only one year to make its recommendations. These recommendations could be used as a basis for reforming the water policy process at the federal level. The Commission would be authorized to enter into contracts or agreements for studies and surveys with public and private organizations, and if necessary, to transfer funds to federal agencies to carry out aspects of such review.

The Interior and Insular Affairs Committee also adopted several other amendments before reporting the bill out of committee, including one amendment to provide for a \$2.5 million Office of Water Policy in the Department of Interior for the next four years. The Interior and Insular Affairs Committee is the third committee in the House to approve this bill with amendments. Members of the three committees are meeting to iron out differences in the various versions of the bill.

DR. DALLAS PECK NOMINATED TO HEAD USGS

President Reagan has nominated Dr. Dallas L. Peck to be the new Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Peck, 52, is a native of Cheney, Wash. He received formal training in geology at California Institute of Technology (bachelor of science with honors, 1951, and master of science, 1953) and Harvard (doctorate, 1960). He joined the USGS in 1951 and much of his career has been involved in geological and geothermal energy studies in the West, including field research at the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

In 1977 Peck was named Chief Geologist and head of the USGS Geologic Division. Special assignments have included serving as U.S. member of special scientific delegations to the Soviet Union, Great Britain, Italy, Iceland, New Zealand and Japan. Peck is the author of more than 50 scientific reports and publications, and in recognition of his research efforts, was awarded the Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award in 1970. His leadership as Chief Geologist earned him the Department's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, in 1979, and the Presidential Meritorious Executive Award in 1980. Among his many professional affiliations, Peck is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and served as president of the American Geophysical Union's Section on Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology, and past president of the Geological Society of Washington.

Peck was highly recommended for the nomination by the National Academy of Sciences, which at the request of Interior Secretary Watt, conducted a nationwide search for candidates qualified to head the U.S. Geological Survey. Following favorable Senate action, Peck would become the 11th Director of the 101-year-old USGS, succeeding Dr. H. William Menard, who resigned in January 1981. Doyle G. Frederick, Associate Director, has been serving as Acting Director.

CONFERENCES

PAPERS INVITED FOR WATER AND ENERGY CONFERENCE

A two-part conference on "Water and Energy: Technical and Policy Issues" will be held in the late spring of 1982. The Eastern Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 23-26, 1982, and the Western Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado, June 27-30, 1982. The conference will be sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers in cooperation with the League of Women Voters and the Council of State Governments, with participation by government agencies and other technical organizations interested in the program subject.

The primary objective of the conference is to exchange information and stimulate discussion between technical specialists, public interest groups, and those who have legislative or public policy responsibilities in the field of energy development and associated water resource issues. Separate conferences in the East and the West will allow recognition of regional differences in political, legal, institutional, hydrologic, and environmental characteristics.

Papers are invited which address technical and policy issues such as: water requirements and availability for energy development; ground and surface water quality; hydrologic impacts; water transportation of coal; coal slurry pipelines; water conservation and reuse; regulatory policies; waste management; synfuels; hydropower; cumulative impacts; research and development: progress and needs; public involvement in resource planning; and water resource allocation: legal, economic and political considerations.

Abstracts (200 to 400 words) should be sent by September 1, 1981 to:

For Eastern Conference

Fritz Kilpatrick
U.S. Geological Survey
National Center, Mail Stop 414
Reston, Virginia 22092
(703) 860-6848

For Western Conference

Don Matchett
Stone & Webster Engineering Corp.
P.O. Box 5406
Denver, Colorado 80217
(303) 770-7700 Ext. 2244

Papers selected for inclusion in the program may be presented as part of a technical session or may be used as resource material in workshops or discussion groups. Final papers will be due January 31, 1982.

SYMPOSIUM ON GROUND WATER GEOPHYSICS

San Francisco will be the site for a "Symposium on Geophysics and Ground-Water--Methods, Applications, Problems" during the week December 7-11, 1981. Arranged as part of the Fall Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical Union, the symposium is sponsored by the Committee on Ground Water of the AGU Section of Hydrology.

Consisting of invited and offered papers, the symposium will have two half-day papers sessions with one session emphasizing surface geophysical methods and the other session emphasizing subsurface geophysical methods. The program will focus on new methods or applications and limitations or problems related to geophysics as applied to solution of ground-water problems. Speakers will be allowed approximately 20 minutes for their oral presentation.

Abstracts of papers are due by September 7, 1981 for selection screening by the Ground-Water Committee. Authors must be members of AGU, sponsored by a member, or have their abstract accompanied by a membership application. Abstracts must be submitted in special AGU abstract format, instructions for which will be sent upon request.

Anyone interested in offering a paper should submit the abstract by September 7, 1981 to A. I. Johnson, Ground-Water Symposium Chairman, Woodward-Clyde Consultants, 2909 W. 7th Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80204. Telephone: (303) 573-7882.

CONFERENCE ON MT. ST. HELENS: EFFECTS ON WATER RESOURCES

The State of Washington Water Research Center, with the Water Resources Research Institutes in Idaho, Montana and Oregon, is sponsoring a conference on Mt. St. Helens: Effects on Water Resources to be held October 7-8, 1981 in Jantzen Beach, Oregon.

The goal of the conference is to assemble a complete description of the effects of Mt. St. Helens 1980 eruptions on water resources, both near the mountain and in the plume area. A proceedings volume will be prepared and distributed to all registrants. One day of the conference will be devoted entirely to sediment considerations.

Tentative topics include erosion and sediment transport, effects on anadromous fisheries, municipal and industrial problems, properties and effects of ash, watershed hydrology including flood forecasting, groundwater concerns, geomorphic changes, social impacts, effects on lakes and resident fisheries, and mudflow generation and characteristics.

If you are interested in attending the conference and would like detailed program and registration information materials, contact the Water Research Center, Albrook Lab 202, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99164.

SYMPOSIUM ON AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OF COLORADO RIVER ECOSYSTEM

The Office of Water Research and Technology and the Utah Water Research Laboratory at Utah State University are sponsoring the 1981 Symposium on the Aquatic Resources Management of the Colorado River Ecosystem. The symposium will be held November 16-19, 1981 at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The purpose of the symposium is to examine current and projected effects of water and land management practices within the Colorado River Basin on the river ecosystem. The symposium will provide a basis for determining what can be done to do a better job of managing aquatic resources within the total context of activities affecting Colorado River flows and water quality. The fee for the symposium is \$120.

For additional information, contact: Dr. V. Dean Adams or Dr. Vincent A. Lamarra, Utah Water Research Laboratory, UMC 82, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322. Telephone: (801) 750-3198 or 750-3185.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

The Louisiana State University Symposium on Hazardous Waste Management: Protection of Water Resources will be held November 16-18, 1981 on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Symposium will present a comprehensive discussion of the modern technological approaches available for the assessment, design, construction, and operation of hazardous waste management systems for the protection of surface and groundwater.

Nationally known experts from industry, consulting firms, and academic institutions will conduct sessions on waste characterization, surface and groundwater considerations, modelling and monitoring, land disposal design, corrective measures for abandoned sites, and future directions in hazardous waste management. The Symposium is designed for professionals actively involved in environmental management with industry, governmental agencies, consulting firms, and academic/research institutions.

For further information please contact: Dorren Maxcy, Continuing Education Division, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (504) 388-6621.

PUBLICATIONS

IRRIGATED-CROPLAND MAPS OF HIGH PLAINS AREAS RELEASED

Maps showing irrigated cropland in 15 counties in eight states of the High Plains Aquifer region, stretching from South Dakota to New Mexico, have been prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey. The nine irrigated-cropland maps, showing 15 counties, depict Cherry County, Neb.; Chase, Dundy and Perkins Counties, Neb.; Todd County, S.D.; Cheyenne and Sherman Counties, Kan.; Laramie County, Wyo.; Kit Carson, Phillips and Yuma Counties, Colo.; Texas County, Okla.; Hockley and Lamb Counties, Texas; and Curry County, N.M.

The maps are part of a five-year project started in 1978 by the USGS to develop a groundwater flow computer model of the Ogallala aquifer and associated water-bearing sediments that underlie about 177,000 square-miles of the High Plains region. Once developed, the model can be used to evaluate alternative groundwater management methods and proposals in the region. In order to complete the computer model simulating groundwater flows in the aquifer, the USGS first has to determine pumpage of groundwater in the region. This is being documented through preparation of irrigated-cropland maps.

Groundwater levels have been falling in most parts of the region since pumping for irrigation of farm lands began increasing shortly after World War II. Most of the irrigation water is being pumped from the Ogallala aquifer.

"The computer model will help state and local water managers to better evaluate how best to use and conserve the supplies of groundwater in the High Plains region," said John B. Weeks, a USGS hydrologist in Denver, Colo., who is coordinating the High Plains regional aquifer study.

Copies of the maps of the counties in Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas may be purchased from the Rocky Mountain National Cartographic Information Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25046, Federal Center, Mail Stop 504, Denver, Colo. 80225, telephone (303) 234-2326. The Open-File Report identification numbers are 80-638 for Laramie County, Wyo.; 80-639 for Kit Carson, Phillips and Yuma Counties, Colo.; 80-169 for Curry County, N.M.; and 80-168 for Hockley and Lamb Counties, Texas.

Copies of the maps of the counties in South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma may be purchased from the Mid-Continent National Cartographic Information Center, U.S. Geological Survey, 1400 Independence Road, Rolla, Mo. 65401, telephone (314) 341-0851. The Open-File Report identification numbers are 79-1627 for Todd County, S.D.; 70-1626 for Cherry County, Neb.; 80-641 for Chase, Dundy and Perkins Counties, Neb.; 80-640 for Cheyenne and Sherman Counties, Kan.; and 80-170 for Texas County, Okla.

Prices of the maps are \$2.25 for each paper copy, \$12.50 for each film diazo copy and \$26 for each stable-base film positive copy. Orders must specify map identification number and include checks or money orders payable to the U.S. Geological Survey.

DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and the Western Governors' Policy Office announce the publication of "Higher Education Resources in Economic Development: A Western Inventory." This new directory will help find programs at western colleges and universities providing technical assistance and applied research in fields such as energy policy and economics, environmental impact analysis, manpower planning and labor market data, technology, community development and agricultural, forest and water resources.

Over 160 programs are described including areas of expertise, examples of past projects, types of clients and services, and budget and staff. The directory includes programs in the following states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

A limited number of copies of this directory (No. 2B153) are available from WICHE for \$8.00. To order, write to WICHE Publications Secretary, P.O. Drawer P, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

GROUNDWATER HYDROLOGIST POSITION

The Wyoming Water Resources Research Institute at the University of Wyoming has an opening for a Research Engineer III (Groundwater Hydrologist). This position will be responsible for development of research information and techniques for projects now underway and to initiate new programs of water resources research with emphasis on groundwater hydrology. The hydrologist will develop research proposals and carry out the research so proposed and will eventually become involved in teaching in the academic graduate water resource curriculum.

Applicants for the position must have a Ph.D. degree or an M.S. degree and several years of experience in groundwater hydrology or a related field, such as civil engineering or geology, with specialty in hydrology, or equivalent professional experience. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Interested applicants should send a resume to Paul A. Rechard, Director, Wyoming Water Resources Research Institute, P.O. Box 3067 University Station, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

The University of Wyoming is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH POSITION

Applications are invited for a joint position in Resource Management Research as Assistant Director of Westwater Research Centre, and Assistant Professor in the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) at the University of British Columbia.

Westwater conducts integrated studies of freshwater and coastal resource management issues in both the natural and social sciences and maintains strong ties with several departments and schools at U.B.C. including SCARP.

Applicants should have a background in one of the social sciences (e.g., planning, geography, economics, political science) and experience in the management of interdisciplinary research projects. Duties will include originating and preparing research proposals and undertaking research; sharing the administrative responsibilities for Westwater; teaching a graduate workshop course in SCARP; and supervising graduate students in thesis research. Salary is competitive and negotiable, depending on qualifications.

Interested applicants should send a notice of application, full curriculum vitae and names of three references to: Dr. T.G. Northcote, Chairman, Search Committee, Institute of Animal Resource Ecology, University of British Columbia, 2204 Main Mall, Hut B8, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1W5.

ASS'T PROFESSOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Vanderbilt University anticipates an opening, beginning September 1981, for an Assistant Professor in the Environmental Engineering area.

Candidates should have a Ph.D. degree and are expected to teach graduate and undergraduate courses and pursue a program of independent research. Preferred specialties are environmental biology or physical-chemical water and wastewater treatment.

Interested applicants should send a detailed resume, including the names of three references, to Dr. Edward L. Thackston, Chairman, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Vanderbilt University, Box 133, Station B, Nashville, Tennessee 37235.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS SOLICITED

The WATER CURRENT Newsletter will publish, without charge, announcements, programs for upcoming conferences, employment opportunities or other newsworthy items on hydrology, water resources or related topics.

QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES

Newsletter items and inquiries should be sent to: Editor, Nebraska Water Resources Center, 210 Ag. Hall - East Campus, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583; or phone (402) 472-3305.