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Water Current

State Collaboration Key to Sustaining Aquifer

Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming perspectives on management policies and research necessary to achieve sustainability of the Ogallala Aquifer to the year 2035 and beyond was a focus of last month's 26th Annual Nebraska Water Conference in Lincoln.

The aquifer underlies each of these states, to a greater or lesser degree. It contains roughly the same water volume as Lake Erie. Most of the aquifer lies beneath Nebraska, though Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas also are large beneficiaries of the resource.

It has been both tradition and policy for each state to control its own water use and use of the Ogallala Aquifer is no exception. But regional states are beginning to conclude that they must work together to sustain it as a viable irrigation, municipal and recreational use resource into the next century.

"A collaboration of ideas between states to benefit all parties is key," said Dayle Williamson, director of Nebraska's Natural Resources Commission.

Wayland J. Anderson, assistant chief engineer at the Kansas Department of Agriculture's division of water resources echoed many participating states' concerns by saying the aquifer probably can't be sustained into the future without severely restricting its use. Options to do that might include water banking, scheduling usage and prioritizing areas of wisest use of the aquifer's water.

Purushottam Dass, supervising engineer for the Colorado Division of Water Resources also echoed statements from Kansas, New Mexico and Texas representatives when he said useable water levels in the aquifer were declining.

"Our depletion rates indicate that 50,000 acres of irrigated land will be forced to return to dryland production methods in the next 20 years due to irrigation wells going out of service," Dass said. The aquifer extends beneath some 12,000 square miles of eastern Colorado.

Texas representative John Ashworth suggested that future management might include retiring some production agriculture land, coupled with increasing conservation practices stemming from better education. More efficient farming methods also will be called upon to help keep the aquifer viable.

Texas remains in the grip of one of the worst droughts in that state's history, which has contributed greatly to declining groundwater levels due largely to increased irrigation pumping.

"It's a careful balancing act. Anything we do to reduce the aquifer's decline can't be done by ignoring the needs of agriculture," Ashworth said.

In addition to more interstate cooperation in managing and using the aquifer, representatives agreed that increased research and educational efforts are needed to better understand and better use the aquifer.

See State Collaboration, Page 6



Ray Bentall (left) receives the Nebraska Water Conference Council's Pioneer Award. See article on page 3.
(photo - Jerry Vandersnick)

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Participants pleased with conference; certifying Nebraska water operators

from the **DIRECTOR**



Bob G. Volk

I am pleased to report that the 26th Annual Nebraska Water Conference attracted approximately 250 people from as far as Texas. The first session was also attended by over 60 students from UNL. Conference evaluations indicate participants were very pleased with the presentations and came away with a much better understanding of the Ogallala aquifer's importance to Nebraska and other regional states that depend on it. Jim Goecke from UNL's Conservation and Survey Division gave an excellent overview of the aquifer followed by excellent

presentations from Don Wilhite and Bill Easterling from UNL's Ag. Meteorology on draught and the aquifer. Please watch for conference proceedings this year. They will be available at no charge to all conference registrants.

As reported previously, we are working closely with the Nebraska Mandates Management Initiative (NMMI) and are making funds available (\$200,000) through a competitive process to stimulate research/education/demonstrations on new technologies for addressing environmental mandates in small, rural communities. Examples of this applied research include community infrastructure related issues such as drinking water systems, wastewater treatment systems, and solid waste management. The NMMI has been extremely successful in its short existence. If you would like additional details please contact our office. We have also applied for a planning grant from the Fund for Rural America sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to build on the successes of the NMMI.

As a side note to small community water systems, Jack Daniel, Administrator for the Section of Environmental Health Protection with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, tells me

that many Nebraska communities do not have a licensed water operator. I was curious as to what was needed to be licensed and decided to take the home study course designed for grade 4 Water Operators. The department quickly responded to questions and were very easy to work with. The course is basically comprised of 10 lessons followed by a home, mail-in exam. I found the materials to be very well prepared and easy to understand (all but one - another story). The manuals were concise and will be an excellent future reference source. The tests were completed, mailed and I received notification quickly that I passed. The department is to be commended on the process. I would urge every community to have someone interested in a water operators licensee to proceed with the process. The manuals took some time to read but were very well documented with sample test questions. The information gained was invaluable and would be of use to every community.

Future issues of the Water Current will include updates on the School of Natural Resources, the USGS competitive grants, and new activities at the Water Center. We also value your input to the annual reader survey you will find on page eight of this edition.

Water Current

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Water Stewards Honored at 26th Annual Water Conference

Two individuals and a task force were recognized for their accomplishments and stewardship of water resources at the 26th annual Nebraska Water Conference in Lincoln last month.

The Nebraska Water Conference Council presented its annual Pioneer Award to former U.S. Geological Survey hydrologist Ray Bentall of Lincoln. The annual Progress Award went to the Central Nebraska Regional Water Conservation Task Force of Holdrege.

The Groundwater Foundation's Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award went to Valmont Industries founder Robert B. Daugherty.

Though retired since 1992, Bentall remains active in writing and editing publications on Nebraska water. "Although I'm nearly 80, I hope to see my presently three-fourths finished 'Rivers of Nebraska' in print," Bentall said.

His professional career spanned 30 years as a USGS hydrologist and geologist. He retired from the agency in

1982. He then worked 10 years for UNL's Conservation and Survey Division, retiring as an associate professor in 1992. Though officially retired, Bentall still maintains an office there. Bentall has published what many call pioneering works on the Elkhorn and Platte river basins, resource atlases and publications on the availability and use of water in Nebraska.

The Central Nebraska Regional Water Conservation Task Force, winner of the Progress Award, is a 13-member advisory committee formed by the CNPPID.

Task force chair Keith Ostermeier, CNPPID's conservation director, said the task force's diverse composition has fostered better understanding and management of water resources, particularly irrigation water, in central Nebraska.

The task force was organized in late 1992.

The Pioneer and Progress awards have been presented annually since 1973.

Daugherty received the Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement

Award for "enhancing development of center pivot irrigation technology that is in such widespread use and so vital to Nebraska's economy today," said Groundwater Foundation President Susan Seacrest.

Valmont Industries is the largest and oldest of all center pivot manufacturers and was the first to sell manufacturing rights to the former Soviet Union, as well as the first to export to foreign countries, including China. Though more than 75 companies have manufactured and marketed center pivots, fewer than 10 survive.

Prior to purchasing the manufacturing rights to Frank Zybach and A.E. Trowbridge's revolutionary center pivot in 1954, Daugherty's company, then Valley Manufacturing Co. of Valley, had made mainly farm machinery such as bale loaders and grain and ear corn elevators. By 1991, Valmont's irrigation-related net sales were more than \$128.2 million.

The award has been presented annually since 1986, being named for the late State Senator Kremer in 1990.

Environmental Programs Web Site Named "Best of the Internet"

Two years and more than 50 updates after its debut on the World Wide Web, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Pesticide Education Resources web site has been named an "Academic Institutions Best of the Internet" by *Progressive Farmer* magazine.

The UNL site was also recently chosen as one of the best education-related sites by "The Education Index." That organization said it "searches out only those Internet sites offering interesting, well organized and reliable information."

The web page being honored grew from a simple idea in the fall of 1994 to an electronic reality by April 1995. Since then it "has exceeded our expectations in turning out to be a significant route to reach people using technology that is fast becoming a world standard

for communications and the exchange of information and ideas," said NU Extension Pesticide Coordinator Larry Schulze.

E-mail inquiries and notes regularly arrive from across the country and around the globe. They've come from more than 25 states and from Canada, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand and even the Kingdom of Apracia, the last time Schulze counted.

Drawing users into the site is a colorful home page that easily navigates users to an ever expanding contents of pesticide education and

resource materials for homeowners, consumers, gardeners, private and commercial pesticide applicators and agricultural producers. It includes "Applying Pesticides Correctly," the national pesticide applicator core training manual, complete with self tests. NU Cooperative Extension "NebGuides" and the Environmental Programs monthly newsletter, "The Label" can also be found there.

He developed the site with extension assistant and Environmental Programs colleague Clyde Ogg, giving him most of the credit for its ongoing evolution and accumulating successes.

The Pesticide Education Resources home page can be found at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/pat/ephome.html>.



Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts Celebrating Silver Anniversary

The country's one-of-a-kind system of natural resources districts (NRDs) is celebrating 25 years of working to conserve and improve Nebraska's often strained natural resource base.

Representatives from each of the districts accepted anniversary recognition plaques from the Nebraska Water Conference Council and the University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at last month's 26th annual Nebraska Water Conference in Lincoln.

NRDs were formed in 1972 as a result of legislation introduced by the late State Senator Maurice Kremer of Aurora in 1969. Decades of natural resources-related district formation and conservation activity had preceded and made possible NRD formation.

In 1937, legislation created soil conservation districts as a powerful new unit of local government to plan and implement long range programs for soil conservation and resource development. Early district formation was rough and controversial. Efforts to organize districts as large, multi-county entities cor-

responding to watershed boundaries and soil types were abandoned.

By 1949 rural Nebraska was organized into 87 soil conservation districts, becoming the first state west of the Missouri River to do so. But the districts were poorly funded.

Soil conservation districts conducted mainly conservation education and outreach.

Other natural resources-related districts were created in the 1950's and 1960's. These included watershed districts, watershed conservancy districts and watershed improvement boards. By the mid-1960's a total of 13 types of natural resources-related districts existed.

Those attending the 1966 Annual Nebraska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NASWCD) Conference concluded that a proliferation of districts had occurred. None, however, had the authority to take on a broad-based land and water program. The association thus called for legislation to reorganize districts along hydrologic units and to be of sufficient size to operate economically and effectively.

Reorganization of districts was supported by a study published as

part of the 1960's State Water Plan. That study recommended, in part, that five types of special purpose districts be consolidated.

By 1968 opposition to district reorganization had grown. In 1969, when LB1357 was introduced to reorganize the districts, the "Non-Paid Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts" hired a lobbyist and published brochures outlining arguments against reorganization. An effort was made to pass a resolution to oppose LB1357 at the NASWCD Conference. The effort failed. Two days later LB1357 passed the legislature - 29 for, nine opposed and 11 not voting.

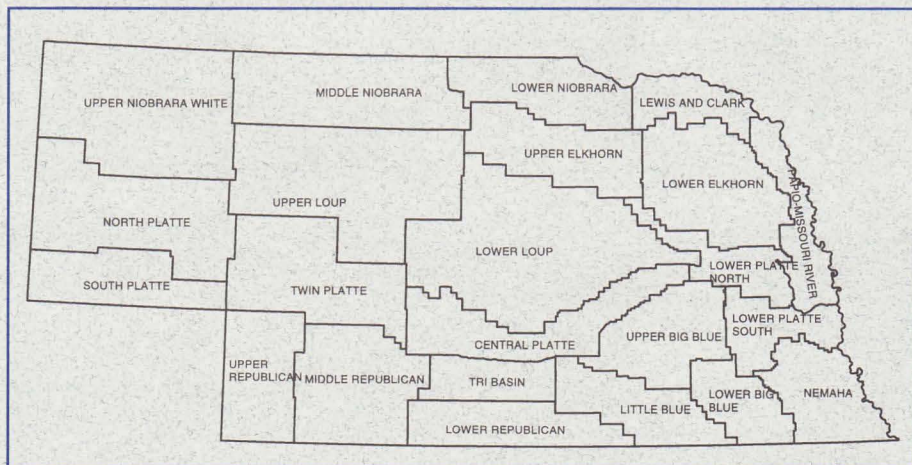
Although legislation had passed, much work remained to get the new districts consolidated and operating.

In 1971 specific boundary guidelines were established. Boundaries were to be based on hydrologic patterns and common resource problems; not divide a section, city, or village and follow existing boundaries.

In 1972 legislation was enacted consolidating 154 districts to form 24 NRDs (this number was later trimmed to 23, following a merger of two of the districts).

Evolution of the NRDs continues. Today, due in part to LB1085 (passed by the legislature last year), a study is underway that could restructure all or some of the districts. A report due this fall will examine NRD revenue base, board of director size, board changes and consolidations and list at least five ways NRDs can be made operationally more efficient.

(Information in this article was taken from a 1995 masters thesis by Rachael Herpel, UNL Platte Watershed Program Coordinator. Copies of her thesis are available for \$10 each from Water Center/Environmental Programs, University of Nebraska, 103 Natural Resources Hall, P.O. Box 830844, Lincoln, NE 68583-0844).

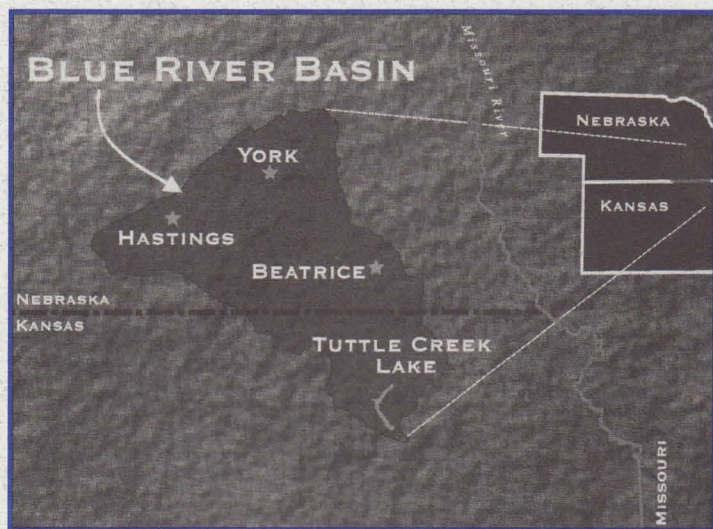


Nebraska's 23 NRDs were created in 1972 under legislation introduced three years earlier by the late State Senator Maurice Kremer of Aurora. They originally consolidated more than 150 water-use and irrigation districts (map courtesy Lower Platte South NRD).

NU-KSU Join Forces to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution in Blue River Basins

Extension educators and researchers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Kansas State University are joining forces to reduce nonpoint source pollution affecting some Kansas drinking water sources.

"This probably isn't a first as an interdisciplinary program but it's something that isn't common either," said UNL surface water management engineer Tom Franti. Franti is co-principal investigator with assistant professor Philip Barnes of KSU's Department of Agricultural Engineering for a project to improve water quality in the Big and Little Blue River Basins.



The Blue River Basin research and extension program area stretches from north of York, in Nebraska, to south of the Tuttle Creek Lake (reservoir) near Topeka, in neighboring Kansas (graphic courtesy Tom Franti).

It is one of three interdisciplinary startup research projects initiated by NU's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) and is "unique in its collaborative arrangements with Kansas," according to Franti.

The basin area targeted for research and an extension education project covers 7,200 square miles. In Nebraska, the area stretches east to

west from Gage to Kearney Counties and north to south from Seward and Butler Counties to the Kansas state line.

Surface runoff water in the basins contains levels of atrazine and sediment that ultimately are affecting the Tuttle Creek Reservoir in Kansas.

"Tuttle Creek Reservoir receives the combined flow of the Big and Little Blue Rivers. It then flows into the Kansas River which is a major source of drinking water in Kansas," explained Franti. Topeka and Kansas City are just two of the cities supplied by its waters.

"Atrazine is one of the primary concerns because concentrations

above the maximum level allowed for drinking water (three parts per billion) have been measured in the (Tuttle Creek) reservoir," he stated. Removing it requires expensive carbon filtration.

"Atrazine runoff is evident throughout the area and particularly during early spring and summer rains," Franti continued.

Reducing runoff pollutants through joint research and education from the two universities is therefore the main focus of the collaborative project, said Franti.

"We will work on ground and surface water monitoring and promotion of best management practices to reduce atrazine runoff in

ways that are compatible with profitable farming," he continued.

Since last spring the project has been focused on getting atrazine and sediment runoff data using existing sources so that subwatersheds with high potential for runoff pollution can be identified.

Later, modeling will be used to evaluate potential surface water quality and economic impacts of possible management alternatives. Franti and Barnes co-chair a joint coordinating committee that is directing the project and leading the research.

Improving and expanding use of known best management practices (or BMPs) in targeted subwatersheds will then be undertaken.

"The research will evaluate the impact of BMPs on surface water quality and how much it will cost to implement those practices on the farm," Franti said. "We can't ignore the economics of the practices we will be recommending."

Educational efforts will be two-tiered. The first targets a 75 percent adoption of BMPs by farmers in two subwatersheds. The second extends education and informational programs outside those subwatersheds to provide greater impact across the basins, said Franti.

Similar extension education approaches have proven successful in a number of recent projects in both Nebraska and Kansas, he added.

Education will be conducted through one-on-one contact with growers, on-farm demonstrations and use of a "BMP Adoption Team." The team will include growers, local crop consultants and ag chemical dealers, in addition to extension educators.

Research collaborators with Franti at UNL are Drs. Brian Benham and Dean Eisenhauer, biological systems engineering; and

See NU-KSU Join Forces Page 6



Water News Briefs

Accessing Water on the World Wide Web

If you are electronically searching for information on water and the environment, the following Internet home pages (or URLs) should help you get started.

Though far from all-inclusive, the following sites may help reduce your time on the Internet if you are beginning a search. The listed web sites are from "How To Access Water Resources Information," a publication of UNL's Water Center/Environmental Programs. Copies may be obtained by e-mail at sress@unlinfo.unl.edu or by phoning (402) 472-3305.

Clean Water/Wetlands (National Wildlife Federation) — <http://www.igc.apc.org/nwf/pol/actionpg/issues.html#cwa>

Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln — <http://nesen.unl.edu/csd/index.html>

Groundwater Protection Council — <http://gwpc.site.net/>

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln — <http://ianrwww.unl.edu>

National Water Conditions by USGS *Groundwater tables, aquifer tables, stream water extreme table, surface water charts and streamflow maps.* — <http://nwcwww.er.usgs.gov:8080/NWC/html/TOC.html>

Natural Resources Conservation Service — <http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — <http://ftp.eap.gov/>

U.S. Geological Survey — <http://www.usgs.gov>

U.S. Water News — <http://www.mother.com/uswaternews/>

Water Resources Research at the NU West Central Research and Extension Center, North Platte — <http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/wcrec/ground.htm>

Water Center/Environmental Programs, University of Nebraska-Lincoln — <http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/waterctr/wchome.html>

A reprint of Nebraska Folk Humorist Roger Welsch's first book is now available from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

"The Summer It Rained: Water and Plains Pioneer Humor"

was first published in 1978, when Welsch was an adjunct professor at UNL

Reprint copies of the rare original, produced for the **26th Annual Nebraska Water Conference**, are now available

To obtain a copy, send \$2, plus \$1.25 for shipping, handling and all applicable state and local sales taxes to:

Judy Otteman
Map Sales
Conservation and Survey Division
113 Nebraska Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68588-0517

(Prepayment required, make checks payable to *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*. Contact Judy at (402) 472-7523 for questions about multi-copy purchases, over-the-counter sales, etc. \$1 from each book sold will benefit the Nebraska Water Conference Council)

State Collaboration

From Page 1

The conference was sponsored by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Conservation and Survey Division and Water Center/Environmental Programs, all within the University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and by the Nebraska Water Conference Council, The Great Plains Foundation and The Groundwater Foundation.

Conference proceedings will be published in the coming months by Lori Triplett of the Great Plains Foundation, Olathe, KS. Registered attendants of the conference will receive a copy.

NU-KSU Join Forces

From Page 5

Drs. Bill Miller and Roger Selley, agricultural economics. The KSU collaborator is Dr. Dan Devlin of agronomy.

The Nebraska team working on the project includes Franti, Benham, Miller, Fred Roeth of agronomy, Kyle Hoagland (co-leader), Mike Dosskey of forestry, fisheries and wildlife and Randy Pryor of NU cooperative extension.

The interstate coordinating team includes Franti, Benham, Hoagland and Roeth at UNL and Barnes, Devlin, Dave Regher and Chuck Rice at KSU. UNL administrative advisors for the project are Drs. Martin Massengale and Bob Volk.

In addition to start-up funding provided by IANR, the program has also received two grant awards: one for research from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and one for extension education through the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ).

"We will have a research project starting at the South Central Research and Extension Center at Clay Center and one in Topeka, KS," said Franti. A half-time extension educator will be helping with the project by this spring.

- by Steven W. Ress

2: Water Resources Seminar Series. "Drought Management in the Missouri River Basin: Resolving Conflicts Between Upstream and Downstream Users. Panel: John Ferrell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and John Guhin, South Dakota Attorney General's Office.

2-4: National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Spring Conference. Denver Marriott. Phone (202) 466-P2P2. E-mail 75664.3520 @compuserve.com

6-9: Sixth Multidisciplinary Conference on Sink-holes: Engineering and Environmental. Holiday Inn University Plaza, Springfield, MO. World Wide Web at <http://www.uakr5on.edu/geology/6th.html>

8-12: Second National Aquaculture Extension Conference, Holiday Inn, Annapolis, MD. Contact Don Webster, University of Maryland, (410) 827-8056.

9: Water Resources Seminar Series. "Can We Mitigate the Effects of Drought?" Don Wilhite, director, National Drought Mitigation Center.

14-15: Interactions: Investigating Ecosystem Dynamics at the Watershed Level, Athens, GA. Call the SWCS at (800) THE-SOIL.

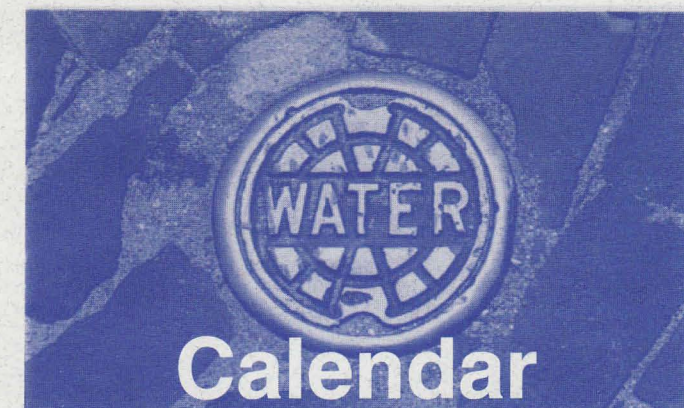
16: Water Resources Seminar Series. "Science of Climate Change: Certainties and Uncertainties." Bill Easterling, director, Great Plains Center for Global Environmental Change.

19: Earth Day: Springfield, MO.: (Earth Works) morning work projects, contact Dave Catlin, (417) 888-4237; (Earth Fest) afternoon celebration, contact Barbara Lucks, (417) 864-1904.

20-23: Control of Odors and Volatile Organic Compound Emissions, Houston, TX. Contact Nancy Blatt at the Water Environment Federation (703) 684-2400.

23: Water Resources Seminar Series. "The Effects of Weather Cycles and Climate Change on Prairie Wetlandscapes. Carter Johnson, Department of Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks, South Dakota State University.

30: Water Resources Seminar Series. "Planning for an Uncertain Climate: Policy



Implications." Rosina Bierbaum, Directorate for Environment, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Washington D.C.

MAY

6-9: EPA/WEF 20th Annual Conference on Analysis of Pollutants in the Environment, Norfolk, VA. Contact Nancy Blatt or Dave Trouba at the Water Environment Federation (703) 684-2400.

7-9: "Communities Working for Wetlands:" American Wetlands Month celebration. Radisson Plaza Hotel, Alexandria, VA. Sponsored by U.S. EPA, Terrene Institute and others. Phone 1-800-726-4853. E-mail: terrene@gnn.com

18-21: "Fifth National Watershed Conference: Living in Your Watershed." Nugget Hotel, Reno, NV. Phone John Peterson (703) 455-4387.

20-22: 12th Annual Conference on Hazardous Waste Research. Sponsored by the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Hazardous Substance Research Center. "Building Partnerships for Innovative Technologies." Write: Conference on Hazardous Waste Research, HSRC, 101 Ward Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-2502.

28-31: IAIA '97 - Reflections on Water: Learning From History and Assessing the Future, New Orleans, LA. International Association for Impact Assessment. FAX (701) 231-1007.

JUNE

10-13: Aquaculture Canada '97, Radisson Hotel, Quebec City, Quebec. Write: Aquaculture Association of Canada, Box

1987, St. Andrews, NB EOG 2XO or phone (506) 529-4766.

15-19: American Water Works Association annual conference, Atlanta, GA. Early registration dates of March 21 and May 16. Contact the AWWA, 6666 W. Quincy Ave., Denver, CO 80235. Phone (303) 794-7711. E-mail mparme@awwa.org

23-25: The U.S. Environmental Laws and Regulations Compliance Course, Albuquerque, NM. Contact Government Institutes, 4 Research Place, Rockville, MD 20850 or call (301) 921-2345 (Course also offered July 23-25, Chicago, IL and Aug. 11-13, Hilton Head SC).

29-July 3: Water Resources, Education, Training and Practice: Opportunities for the next Century. Keystone Resort, CO. Phone (703) 904-1225. E-mail awrahq@aol.com

JULY

13-16: Collection Systems Rehabilitation and Operations and Maintenance: Solving Today's Problems and Meeting Tomorrow's Needs. Contact

Nancy Blatt or Dave Trouba at the Water Environment Federation at (703) 684-2400.

21-22: The OSHA Laws and Regulations Course: A comprehensive legal/regulatory primer, The Hilton Resor, Hilton Head, SC. Government Institutes, 4 Research Place, Rockville, MD 20850 or call (301) 921-0373.

21-24: The Clean Water Compliance Institute, Hilton Head, SC. Contact Government Institutes, 4 Research Place, Rockville, MD 20850 or call (301) 921-2345.

22-25: Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Contact the Soil and Water Conservation Society, 7515 Northeast Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50021-9764, or call 1-800-THE-SOIL.

23-24: OSHA Standards Made Easy: A workshop for day-to-day compliance. Contact Government Institutes, 4 Research Place, Rockville, MD 20850 or call (301) 921-2345.

AUGUST

3-6: Water Residuals and Biosolids Management Approaching 2000 and Environmental Laboratories: Moving to the 21st Century. Contact Nancy Blatt or Dave Trouba at the Water Environment Federation at (703) 684-2400 for more information.

14-15: Chemistry for non-chemists. Chemistry basics for environmental health and safety specialists. Government Institutes, 4 Research Place, Rockville, MD 20850, or call (301) 921-2345.

"WHEN THE RAINS DON'T COME" 1997 WATER RESOURCES SEMINAR

Weekly lectures through April 30
(except March 26)
on Wednesday at 3 p.m., L.W. Chase Hall
UNL East Campus, Lincoln
Phone (402) 472-3305 for more information

For satellite downlink locations
Phone: 1-800-755-7765

Here's Your Chance to Tell Us What You'd Like to See in Coming Issues of the *Water Current*

We want to know what interests you (and what doesn't) in the *Water Current*. So we are again surveying our readers. Last year's survey was a huge success, both in terms of participation and the amount of useful information we gathered.

Return the survey and we will send you a copy of Nebraska folk humorist Roger Welsch's "*The Summer It Rained: Water and Plains Pioneer Humor*" specially reprinted by the Water Center/Environmental Programs and Conservation and Survey Division at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Surveys must be returned to the Water Center/Environmental Programs no later than May 20.

Mail them to the address below, or FAX to (402) 472-3574. UNL campus subscribers may return surveys to 103 NRH EC 0844 via campus mail.

Please return the whole page.

Thank you in advance for participating.

1. What is the single most useful feature of the *Water Current* to you? _____
2. What is the least useful feature of the *Water Current* to you? _____
3. Please rank in order of importance (usefulness to you), with 1 being the most important and 8 being the least important.

<input type="checkbox"/> Announcements of resources: (e.g., publications, videos, web sites, electronic information)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Calendar	<input type="checkbox"/> Director's Note
<input type="checkbox"/> Faculty features	<input type="checkbox"/> Features on water-related research
<input type="checkbox"/> Previews of coming events	<input type="checkbox"/> Water News Briefs
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	
4. What are some water-related topics you would like to see covered in future issues? _____

5. Do you read the *Water Current* each and every time you get it? Yes ☐ No ☐
6. How much time do you normally spend reading the *Water Current*?

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 minutes,	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-15 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 minutes or more
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-20 minutes	
7. Does anyone else read your copy of the *Water Current*? Yes ☐ (if yes, how many others read it ☐) No ☐
8. Should the *Water Current* be published
more often ☐ less often ☐ remain at six issues per year ☐
9. Should the *Water Current*
print more pages ☐ print fewer pages ☐ maintain the present 8-10 pages (with inserts) ☐
10. What is your occupation? _____
11. What is your primary interest in or reason for reading the *Water Current*? _____

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