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Water Current

Fall NWCC Meeting Well Attended

A variety of topics were presented including reports on the NWCC's financial status from Treasurer Karen Stork, and a summary of the 1999 Nebraska Water Resources Tour and plans for the 2000 summer tour.

Nearly 50 attended the fall meeting of the Nebraska Water Conference Council on Saturday, Sept. 18 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Union.

About one-third of the nearly 80 attending the 1999 summer tour to northeast and north central Nebraska were first-year participants, Steve Ress said. Survey responses indicate a strong desire to look at water and resource issues in the Denver, CO area this coming summer, with stops and discussions along the South Platte River while enroute. Initial tour planning indicates that the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, UNL and others will plan and sponsor the July tour.

Bob Kuzelka and J. Michael Jess of NUS School of Natural Resource Sciences presented a draft of the proposed 2000 Nebraska Water Conference, that will be held in Lincoln March 6-8, 2000. The conference will be the final installment of a three-year series examining the future of Nebraska water use, planning and management.

Conference sessions will focus on management challenges and issues with a planned presentation of a future water management agenda to the Nebraska Legislature's Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

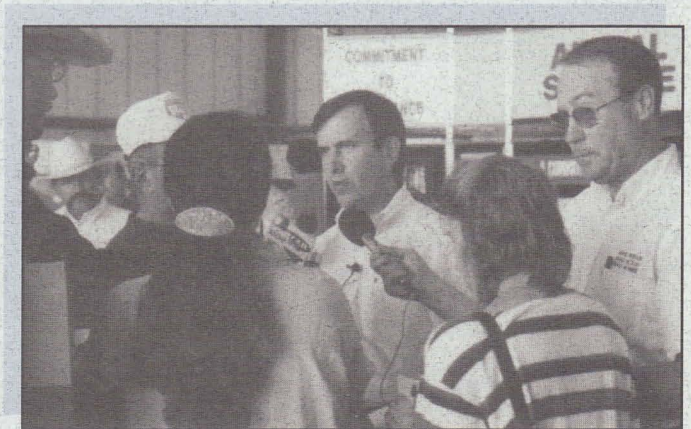
Conference speakers and panelists will address legislation, leadership, education and research, water management and marketing, intergovernmental cooperation, public involvement in water issues and preparation of a water management agenda.

Attorneys LeRoy Sievers of the Nebraska Department of Water Resources and David Cookson of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office respectively addressed the sta-

tus of pending litigation between Nebraska and Wyoming and Kansas and Nebraska.

Research Hydrologist Jim Goeke of UNL's Conservation and Survey Division reported on recent groundwater and geologic research in the Republican River valley and Roger Patterson, Director of the Nebraska Department of Water Resources, reported on Missouri River operations.

NWCC Chair Dick Mercer called the meeting to order and Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Associate Vice Chancellor Edna McBreen and Water Center/Environmental Programs Interim Director Ed Vitzthum made opening remarks.



Governor Mike Johanns fields questions from reporters after a press conference at the University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources building at Grand Island's Husker Harvest Days in September. Drawing winners from the annual event are listed on page four (photo: Steve Ress).

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From the DIRECTOR

Edward F. Vitzthum

I hate making errors. Worse still, I hate getting caught in an error. But I made one, and I got caught (see the Letter to the Editor on this page). As I responded to Mr. Miller, "Mea culpa, mea culpa..."

One point about which we can make no mistake, however, is the growing importance of our water resources. Sometime in mid-October, experts say, the world's population will reach the six billion mark. Six billion. If world-wide population growth trends continue, the seven billion mark will be reached late in the year 2010.

Ensuring that there is enough water to meet the needs of such large numbers of people (most of the growth is expected in "developing" countries) will be one of the major challenges of the 21st Century.

According to a recent U.S. Geological Survey report, the public and private sectors combined have invested an estimated \$500 billion on water pollution control since the early 1970s. Significant gains have been made in controlling municipal and industrial point sources of pollution. Nonpoint source pollution, however, is another story.

That news, for states like Nebraska where agriculture is the economic base, is not good. An estimated 70 percent of the nation's NPS pollution

for both ground as well as surface water is attributed to agriculture.

Nutrients, mainly nitrogen, in both ground and surface water, atrazine and other herbicides in streams, lakes and ponds and other contaminants remain a serious concern. The scope and significance of problems identified in the USGS studies are far too complex to explore in this small space, but one conclusion is very evi-

dent: if we are to have enough clean water in the future to satisfy our own needs, let alone those of a burgeoning world population, we need to take measurable steps to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Launching a major effort to curb NPS would be an excellent way to start the third millennium.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Dr. Vitzthum,

I read with interest your column, "From the Director" in the August 1999 "Water Current" newsletter which replayed highlights from the recent Nebraska Summer Water Tour. I agree with your point that water is indeed Nebraska's number one resource, and I found the article enjoyable. However, there are a couple of points regarding Loup Power District's Columbus Powerhouse where you missed the mark:

1.) The Columbus hydro-electric plant is the second largest in Nebraska; therefore, your statement that "many of (the hydro plants in Nebraska are) far larger than the LPPD unit" is not accurate. The largest hydro of the 10 plants in Nebraska can be found at Kingsley dam in western Nebraska. It has one 50 megawatt generating unit.

The Columbus Powerhouse has three 13.3 megawatt units, putting it solidly in second place. A generating facility operated by NPPD at North Platte has two generators rated at 12 megawatts each, the third biggest plant in Nebraska. I could give you a rundown of all 10 plants if you desire.

2.) The hydro facilities run by LPPD do not produce power only for the people of Columbus and Platte County. All of the power that Loup generates, about 133.5 million kilowatt hours per year, is purchased by NPPD and integrated into the statewide electric transmission system.

Finally, let me state that LPPD was delighted to host a small part of the Nebraska Summer Water Tour. It is regrettable that you obviously left our facility with a misunderstanding of Loup's position and role in the Nebraska electric power industry.

Sincerely,
Mark S. Miller,
Communications Coordinator, LPPD
Columbus, NE

Water Current

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Wyoming Development Fund Highlighted on Four States Irrigation Summer Tour

by **Bob Kuzelka**

Visits to dams, both completed and under construction, were significant stops on the 1999 Four States Irrigation Council summer water tour in August.



Work is underway on a huge earthen dam in Roach Gulch, a tributary to the Greybull River in north central Wyoming. The completed structure will hold up to 80,000 acre-feet of water in an offstream reservoir to be supplied through the four-mile canal that is fed by the diversion on the Greybull River (photo: Don Schepler).

About 65 participated in the Aug. 4-6 tour based in Thermopolis, WY. About one third of those were Nebraska registrants, including very strong representation from panhandle irrigation districts and related interests.

The tour of sites in north central Wyoming began with an optional tour of a dinosaur center and archeological dig in Thermopolis and irrigation council board meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 4.

Touring began the following morning with a look at the Highland Hanover Irrigation District's innovative design for a moss catcher on a diversion canal from the Big Horn River.

Later that morning, the tour traveled to the Tie Hack Dam and Reservoir. The 2,425 acre-feet dam and reservoir is on tributaries to Clear Creek and stores municipal water for both hydropower and the Buffalo, WY drinking supply.

That evening the tour was treated to a barbecue at the Holiday Inn in Thermopolis.

On Friday, Aug. 6, tour participants went to the Meeteetse and the Greybull Irrigation District's

Lower Sunshine Reservoir on the Greybull River. This reservoir was recently modified with the installation of an oxygen enhancing valve. Also visited was an under construction diversion structure, supply canal and offstream reservoir on the Greybull River, west of Burlington, WY (see photo on this page).

Financing for all four of these projects comes through the Wyoming Water Development Commission. These funds are a portion of state revenues received for the development of Wyoming's coal, oil and natural gas resources.

Wyoming's legislature has also authorized the use of these state development funds in the Nebraska v. Wyoming lawsuit.

Other tour stops included the Pepsi Bottling Plant in Worland, where local spring water is filtered and bottled under a private label. While in Thermopolis, tour participants were also able to visit the famous spring-fed hot baths.

The next Four States Irrigation Council summer water tour will be in Kansas in 2001. The Four States Irrigation Council represents members in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming. The summer tours are held every-other-year.



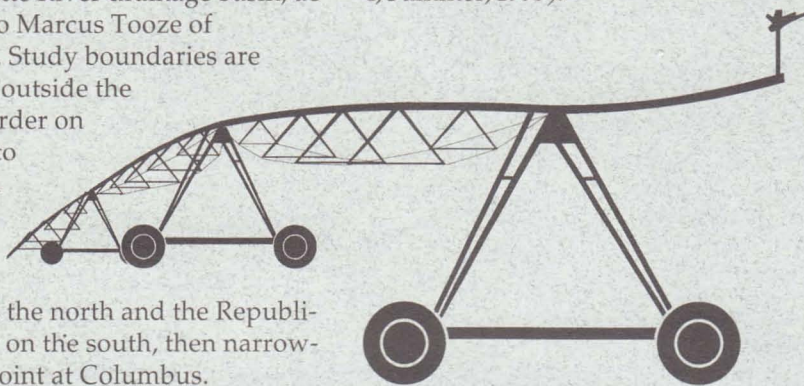
Explaining a diversion structure on the Greybull River near Burlington, WY is John Bereman, Project Engineer for the Greybull Valley Irrigation District (left foreground in the black cap). The audience are participants in the 1999 Four States Irrigation Council's summer water tour to north central Wyoming in August (photo: Don Schepler).

Center Pivot Inventory Map

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Conservation and Survey Division is reviving an annual inventory and map of Nebraska's center-pivot irrigation systems, but for one year only, pending additional funding.

The inventory was last published more than 10 years ago through CSD's Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (or CALMIT).

The current project, which is funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, is called the "Platte River and Basin Cooperative Hydrology Study" and involves modeling the water budget for the entire Platte River drainage basin, according to Marcus Tooze of CALMIT. Study boundaries are from just outside the state's border on the west to the South Loup and Loup Rivers on the north and the Republican River on the south, then narrowing to a point at Columbus.



The map, resulting from the study, focuses on cropping patterns, types of crops and differentiates between irrigated and non-irrigated cropland. It also inventories irrigation systems in the area. The actual maps will be available through CSD by next spring, Tooze estimates.

Agencies cooperating in the study include two public power districts, five natural resources districts the state Department of Water Resources, Natural Resources Commission and the Game and Parks Commission. Some funding is still needed to complete the project.

(Editor's Note: Taken in part from CSD "Resource Notes," Vol. XII, No. 4, Summer, 1999).

Husker Harvest Days Winners

A dozen showgoers went home with "Nebraska" sweatshirts or Cross-brand "Husker" pens from this year's Husker Harvest Days agribusiness show in Grand Island.

Registrations for the free drawings were taken at informational displays by the UNL Water Center and Environmental Programs inside the newly repainted NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources building during the Sept. 14-16 show.

Names picked at random to receive sweatshirts from the Water Center display were Tom Watts, Fairfield; Mary Wagner, Cairo; and Mary Tvrdy, Ceresco. Red, Cross-brand Husker pens went to Betty Cushing, Inland; Billy Jo Tomasek, Hampton; and Jim Knowles, Summerfield, KS.

Names picked to receive sweatshirts from the Environmental Programs display were Vonja Hansen, Superior; Allen Hansen, Grand Island; and Karen Hoffgauer, Seward. Red, Cross-brand Husker pens went to Patricia Poehler, Shelton; Douglas Rech, Bee; and Daniel Hall, Fairmont.

We thank all of the many thousands that came through the NU exhibits in the IANR building and who registered for the special Husker Harvest Days drawings.

Status of Cooperative Agreement After Two Years

The Cooperative Agreement for Platte River Research relating to endangered species habitats along the Central Platte River in Nebraska is now two years old.

The landmark agreement between Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado and the U.S. Department of the Interior achieved many of the milestones set forth in the founding document, yet has a huge task at hand to develop a program over the next couple of years.

The proposed program calls for the protection of 10,000 acres of habitat between Lexington and Chapman, plus an additional 130,000 acre-feet of water on an

average annual basis to meet target flows at Grand Island.

Irrigators are concerned about future water supplies available for irrigation. Where this water may come from is not clear at present, however, a study has been initiated to address this issue. Boyle Engineering has produced a draft report that identifies 77 potential actions that could help achieve target flows.

In April, 1998, Dr. Dale Strickland of Cheyenne, WY was hired as Executive Director of the Governance Committee. He may be reached at (307)634-1756 or e-mail dstrickland@west-inc.com

A description of the Cooperative Agreement and list of key contacts for

committees may be found in the recent NU NebFacts entitled "What is the Cooperative Agreement for Endangered Species Habitat Along the Central Platte River?" For a free copy, contact your local Cooperative Extension office, call (402) 472-9872 or e-mail tfranti@unl.edu and request publication NF98-375. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation also maintains a website (www.platteriver.org/) that contains general information, a calendar of events and a copy of Boyle Engineering's water supply study.

(Editor's note: Taken in part from the Summer, 1999 edition of UNL's "Platte Watershed Update.")

aged. Topics include:

Sustainable Watershed Protection, Multi-Use Watershed Management Approaches and Steps, Voluntary versus Mandatory Approaches, Local, Regional, National, and International Jurisdictional Issues, Total Maximum Daily Loads and Watershed Pollutant Load Trading, Watershed Restoration Activities and Habitat Improvements, Effectiveness of Best Management Practices (BMPs), Regulatory, Legislative, and Institutional Issues,

Forestry, Agricultural, and Mining BMPs and Issues, Managing Watersheds to Support Fisheries, Coastal and Wetland Issues, Water Resource Planning and Source Water Protection, Urban Watershed Issues, Land Management—Public and Private, Geographic Information Systems, Modeling, and Monitoring, Use of Environmental Indicators and Standards, Public Education and Stakeholder Involvement, Financing BMPs and Watershed Programs, Risk-Based

Watershed Management Strategies, Creative Watershed Programs—Case Studies and Balancing Environmental and Economic Issues.

Abstracts must be received no later than November 15, 1999. Speakers will be responsible for paying their own travel expenses and registration fees approximately \$450).

For more information, call (800)666-0206 or (703)684-2452 or e-mail msc@wef.org

The Definitions of Sciences

1. Biochemistry — the study of the chemical aspects of biological structures and processes. "Biological chemistry" emerged as a new discipline in the late 19th Century and during the 20th Century has revealed "Both the structural basis of living organisms and how chemicals are transformed within them..."

2. Biology — the study of living things. Today, biology refers to a number of related biological sciences including biochemistry, cell physiology, embryology, genetics and others. There also are specific categories of biology such as Aquatic Biology, Marine Biology, Fisheries Biology and Forest Biology.

3. Botany — the study of plants. Along with zoology, a traditional and fundamental area of natural history from which various biological sciences have developed.

4. Chemistry — the study of the structure of substances, their properties and the reactions between substances. Environmental Chemistry is the study of the properties and reactions of substances in water, soil or the air. Water Chemistry refers less to an area of study than to the actual properties of water.

5. Ecology — the study of the relationships among living things and between living things and their non-living environment. The science seeks to describe, measure and analyze such relationships.

6. Entomology — the study of insects. Aquatic entomology is the study of insects that inhabit aquatic systems.

7. Genetics — the study of how organisms inherit and express biological characteristics.

8. Geography — the study of the earth and its people in their interrelationships and spatial variations. Geographers study why things are where they are, when and how they got there and the processes and forces that shape these patterns.

9. Geology — the science of the earth. Geological sciences can range from the relatively broad (such as geochemistry) to the very specific (such as palynology — the study of microscopic plant fossils).

10. Hydrology — the study of the interactions of water with its environment as it moves through the water cycle.

11. Ichthyology — the study of fish, specifically their structure, physiology, classification and distribution.

12. Limnology — the study of lakes, streams and other inland waters.

13. Meteorology — the study of the atmosphere, weather and climate. Climatology is the study specifically of climate.

14. Microbiology — the study of bacteria, viruses and other microscopic organisms (or "microbes"). Microbiology encompasses the field of bacteriology.

15. Mycology — the study of fungi, a diverse group of organisms that get their food from non-living organic materials (though some fungi are parasitic on living organisms).

16. Phycology — the study of algae. Algae, like fungi, are a large group of varied organisms that at one

time were classified as plants, but are now considered fundamentally different from plants.

17. Soil science and sediment science — the study of a complex mixture containing not only broken-down rocks and minerals, but also air, water with dissolved substances, living organisms and decaying organic matter. Sediments are materials that have been picked up from one place by water, wind or other means and deposited somewhere else.

18. Toxicology — the study of substances that are, or could be, poisonous to humans or other organisms. Aquatic toxicology deals specifically with the sources, movements and effects of toxic substances in aquatic environments.

19. Zoology — the study of animals. Zoology historically has had four main concentrations: classification, anatomy, physiology and development. The three following broad groups encompass all animals, including aquatic animals: protozoa (single-celled animals), invertebrates (animals without a backbone) and vertebrates (animals with a backbone).

Further reading:

Borell, Merriley. 1989. *Album of Science — The Biological Sciences in the Twentieth Century*. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

Magner, Lois N. 1994. *A History of the Life Sciences*. 2nd ed. Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York.

Manahan, Stanley E. 1994. *Environmental Chemistry*. 6th ed. Lewis Publishers, Boca Raton, Florida.

Riehl, Herbert. 1978. *Introduction to the Atmosphere*. 3rd ed. McGraw-Hill, New York.



Water News Briefs

New EPA Bioremediation Site

A new web site (www.epa.gov/ada/bioremed.html) has been created to provide a summary of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Sub-surface Protection and Remediation Division's (SPRD) research program on the use of nitrate as an alternate electron acceptor for bioremediation of fuel-contaminated aquifers.

This site links to files detailing both laboratory and field work conducted on nitrate-based bioremediation over a 10-year period. It provides summaries of the individual research projects, graphics, photos, abstracts of published articles and reports, additional unpublished data and a research bibliography. This page, as well as other research summaries, can be accessed through SPRD's home page at www.epa.gov/ada/kerrcenter.html by selecting the key word "Research."

GovSpot Offers Best In Government and Civic Web Info

"GovSpot" is the sweetspot for the best in government-related information resources on the World Wide Web. Located at www.govspot.com, GovSpot offers a high-utility collection of top government and civic resources, along with insightful, non-partisan editorials in one location.

GovSpot can simplify the search for the best government web sites and documents, facts and figures, news, political information and more.

Source Water Assessment and Protection Workshop Guide Available Free from The Groundwater Foundation

A workshop guide presenting "An introduction to Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection" is available free from The Groundwater Foundation (TGF).

The guide is designed to help communities learn more about drinking water source assessment and protection. It can be used to educate about a variety of requirements, including the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments; how states develop plans for drinking water source assessment and what to look for in those plans; and how communities can get involved in the process.

Anyone with an interest in groundwater, surface water and/or drinking water quality and quantity is a potential workshop presenter and can receive the workshop presenter materials. These include a detailed workshop guide, overheads and handouts highlighting and describing the drinking water source assessment and protection process.

TGF's source water assessment and protection booklet may be used as a primer to introduce workshop participants to the process prior to the workshop or as a workshop summary. For a free copy of the workshop guide or booklet, call (800)858-4844 or e-mail guardian@groundwater.org

Hazard Web Sites

The following is a list of hazard-related web sites suggested for surfing and bookmarking. These sites represent a collective wealth of information and related links:

<http://www.fema.gov/EMI/edu/higher.htm> (Federal Emergency Management Agency site, used to encourage the spread of emergency management-related education).

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/>

http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/programs/emergenc/prevent/prev_em.htm (prevention guides to promote personal health and safety before, during and after emergencies and disasters by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)).

<http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/flood/home.htm> ("Coping with floods" from North Dakota State University Extension Service. Offers information on how to prepare for flooding, etc.).

<http://whyfiles.news.wisc.edu/013tornado/index.html> (explores the science, math and technology lurking behind the headlines of the day. Includes background information on tornadoes).

<http://www.eeri.org> (the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute web site offering a wealth of information about seismic hazards).

"Watershed 2000" Call for Papers

"Watershed 2000," will be held at the Hotel Vancouver in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 9-12 July 2000. The Water Environment Federation (WEF), the British Columbia Water and Waste Association, and the Western Canada Water and Waste-water Association are sponsoring this international specialty conference with the support of the International Joint Commission; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Environment Canada; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks; and the British Columbia Ministry of Forests.

Watershed 2000 will explore national and international challenges of managing watersheds. It will bring together environmental professionals for a showcase on integrated resource management and environmental protection principles using watershed-based approaches.

Potential speakers are asked to submit an abstract for consideration. Abstracts related to Native American/First Nations issues are encour-

(Continued on page 5)

OCTOBER

25-26: A Planet at Risk - A Partnership at Work; the Volvo Environment Prize Foundation and Columbia University. Conference will be held at Columbia University. For information, e-mail vhk.huge@memo.volvo.se or on-line at www.environment-prize.com

27-28: "The South Platte: Old River - New Course?" The 10th Annual South Platte Forum, Raintree Plaza Conference Center, Longmont, CO. Changes in Land and Water Use in the South Platte Basin. For information, or to submit posters, phone (970)491-1141 or FAX (970)491-2293.

29-30: Trout Stream Restoration - Ecological Principles into Practice. Develop and implement scientifically sound, cost effective strategies for free-stone streams. Contact Lysle Sherwin, Center for Watershed Stewardship, Penn State University (814)865-3334 or e-mail lss9@psu.edu

NOVEMBER

1-2: Urban Storm Water Management Conference: Preparing for the 21st Century, Jane S. McKimmon Center, N.C. State University, Raleigh, NC. Direct questions to Julie Mason at (919)515-2815 or Julie_Mason@ncsu.edu

3-5: Wetlands for Wastewater Recycling. Topics include nutrient/contaminant removal; treated water uses; regulatory problems/solutions; case studies and more. Contact Environmental Concern Inc. (410)745-9620 or e-mail order@wetland.org

4-6: International Riverbank Filtration Conference, The Camberley Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY. Sponsored by The National Water Research Institute. Registrations must be received by Sept. 15. To register or for information, contact the NWRI at (714)378-3278.

7-9: 20th Annual International Irrigation Show, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL. Contact Denise Stone at (703)573-3551 or on the web at www.irrigation.org

7-10: Fourth USA/CIS Joint Conference on Environmental Hydrology and Hydrogeology, San Francisco, CA. Contact the American Institute of Hydrology at (651)484-8169, e-mail AIHydro@aol.com or at aihydro@org.

8-9: The Missouri River Voyage of Recovery Conference, Saint Charles, MO. For information phone (877)4Rivers or on-line at www.americanrivers.org

8-9: Restoring Native Ecosystems, Nebraska City. Contact June Parsons, National Arbor Day Foundation at (402)474-5655, FAX (402)474-0820 or e-mail

jparsons@arborday.org

13-16: Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Conference in conjunction with the Green Industry Expo, Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. Contact ALCA at (800)395-2522.

14-16: Virginia Water Research Symposium, Holiday Inn, South Kroger Center, Richmond, VA. Sponsored by the Virginia Water Resources Research Center. For information, (540)231-8030 or e-mail jupoff@vt.edu

15-17: The 15th Annual Groundwater Foundation Fall Symposium "Understanding and Addressing Groundwater Risks," Omni Hotel, CNN Center, Atlanta, GA. Understanding and addressing risks to groundwater. For information on the symposium, or presenting, contact Cindy Kreifels or Zoe McManaman at (800)858-4844.

16-17: Wetlands and Remediation, Salt Lake City, UT. Sponsored by Batelle. Contact the conference group at (800)783-6338 or (614)424-5461 or e-mail conferencegroup@compuserve.com

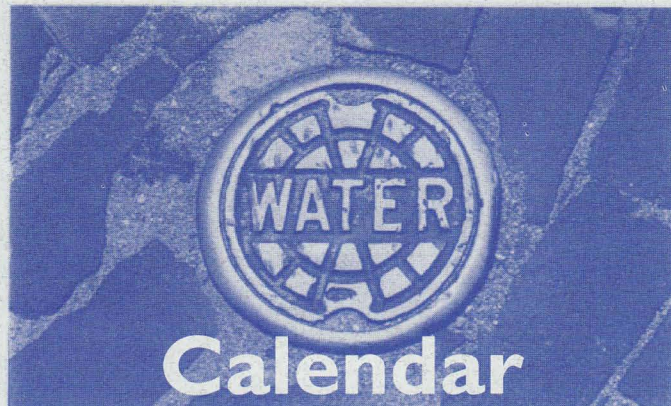
17: Advances in Irrigation Conference, University of California Kearney Agricultural Center, Parlier, CA. Contact Blaine Hanson, UC Davis, at (530)752-1130.

28-30: Nebraska Water Resources Association/Nebraska State Irrigation Association annual conference "New Roles for Water in the New Millennium," Holiday Inn, Kearney. For information, phone (402)474-3242 or e-mail demaris@navix.net

DECEMBER

1-4: North American Lake Management Society Symposium 99, Reno NV. Contact Terry E. Thiesen at (608)233-2836, theisen@nalms.org or <http://www.nalms.org>

4-9: AWRA Annual Water Resource



Conference, Seattle, WA. Contact (703)904-1228 or awrahq@aol.com or <http://www.awra.org>

15-17: Conservation 2000: Agricultural TMDL Workshop, New Orleans, LA. Contact (765)494-9555 or ctic@ctic.purdue.edu or <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu>

JANUARY

23-26: Tailings and Mine Waste '00, Fort Collins, CO. Contact Linda I. Hinshaw at (970)491-6081, FAX (970)491-3584 or e-mail lhinshaw@engr.collostate.edu

FEBRUARY

16: North Platte Basin Water Policy Conference, NU Panhandle Research and Extension Center, Scottsbluff. For more information, contact C. Dean Yonts at (308)632-1246 or e-mail cyonts1@unl.edu

MARCH

6-8: "Nebraska Water 2000: Management for the Future," Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln. Third in a series of annual water conferences exploring the future of Nebraska's water resources. For more information, phone (402)472-3305 or e-mail sress1@unl.edu.

12-17: 10th World Water Congress, Melbourne 2000. Sponsored by the International Water Resources Association. C/-ICMS Pty Ltd, 84 Queensbridge St., Southbank Victoria 3006 Australia. For information or a registration booklet, phone +61 3 9682 0244 or FAX +61 3 9682 0288.

Water Resources Lecture Series

Addresses Interstate Water Commitments

Interstate water commitments and compacts effecting Nebraska will be the focus of a 13-lecture public seminar series at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln beginning in January.

The 2000 Water Resources Seminars, held weekly on the UNL East Campus from January through April, will begin "With an overall discussion of compacts and Congressional apportionments, followed by several specific examples in succeeding weeks," according to seminar co-organizer J. Michael Jess of NU's School of Natural Resource Sciences and Conservation and Survey Division.

The first of the 13 weekly lectures will be Wednesday, Jan. 12.

Compact discussions will include analysis of the South Platte River Compact, Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact and Nebraska-Wyoming Upper Niobrara River Compact.

"We will also look at the potential for a future compact based upon ongoing discussions between Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and U.S. government representatives on a cooperative agreement," Jess said.

As the weekly lecture series progresses it is planned to examine equitable apportionment between states. Possible discussions could center on recent litigation between Kansas and Colorado pertaining to the Arkansas River and North Platte River water allocated under provisions of the decree in *Neb v. Wyo.* Other current compact litigation involving Nebraska will be examined.

"We also want to look at Native American and federal reserved water rights disputes in the final weeks of the seminar series," said Jess.

The 13 weekly lectures will be held Wednesday afternoons on the UNL East Campus, beginning Jan. 12 at 3 p.m. The series may be viewed as a free public lecture or taken for graduate or undergraduate student credit.

The Water Resources Seminars are sponsored by the NU Water Center/Environmental Programs, School of Natural Resource Sciences, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and UNL. More details will be presented in the December *Water Current*.

Watch For It In the December Water Current.....

- More details on the 2000 Water Resources Seminars
- Registration Information on the Nebraska Water 2000 Conference, March 6-8, 2000

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