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#### ANNUAL REPORT 40TH ANNUAL MEETING REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

#### <u>Minutes</u>

A transcript of this meeting was prepared by a court reporter. It has been reviewed by each of the states and approved by the Compact Administration as the official minutes of the annual meeting of the Compact Administration. Copies of the transcript can be obtained from the offices of each of the commissioners. Below is a brief summary of the meeting.

#### **Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pope at 9:00 a.m., June 3, 1999, at Cloud County Community College's Cook Theater, Concordia, Kansas.

Chairman Pope welcomed Commissioner Patterson to the Compact Administration as a new member from Nebraska. Chairman Pope of Kansas, Commissioner Simpson of Colorado, and Commissioner Patterson of Nebraska each introduced their staff and others in attendance. Those in attendance were:

Name

Representing

David L. Pope	Kansas Commissioner
Hal D. Simpson	Colorado Commissioner
Roger K. Patterson	Nebraska Commissioner
David W. Barfield	Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
Amy Aufdemberge	Kansas Department of Agriculture
Scott E. Ross	Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
Donald L. Pitts	Kansas Attorney General Office
Earl Lewis Jr.	Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
Denise Rolfs	Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
Rob Unruh	Kansas Wildlife and Parks
Dick Stenzel	Colorado Division of Water Resources
Alex Davis	Colorado Attorney General Office
Ken Knox	Colorado Division of Water Resources
Ann Bleed	Nebraska Department of Water Resources
LeRoy W. Sievers	Nebraska Department of Water Resources
Russell Oaklund	Nebraska Department of Water Resources
Virgil Norton	Upper Republican Natural Resources District
Dave Eigenberg	Lower Republican Natural Resources District
David Cookson	Nebraska Attorney General Office
Fred Ore	Bureau of Reclamation, McCook

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Mary Swanda	Bureau of Reclamation, McCook
Jari Beek	Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Island
Michael Bart	Corps of Engineers, Kansas City
Mike Slifer	USGS, Nebraska District
Glenn Engel	USGS, Nebraska District
Sen. Janice Hardenburger	Kansas Senate
Bill Hardenburger	Self
Rep. Laura McClure	Kansas House of Representatives
Ward Aurand	Self
Rep. Sharon Swartz	Kansas House of Representatives
Kenny Nelson	Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District
Elvin Hobson	Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District
Susan Stover	Kansas Water Office
Norman Nelson	Upper Republican Basin, Norton, KS
Mel Juenemann	Upper Republican Basin Advisory Committee, Kansas
Norma Sitzman	Frenchman Valley & H & RW Irrigation Districts
Kenneth Albert	Frenchman Valley Irrigation District
Roy Patterson	Frenchman - Cambridge Irrigation District
Ralph Best	Frenchman - Cambridge Irrigation District
Mike Delka	Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska
Eulin Esen	Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska
Ginger Jensen	Kearney (Nebraska) Daily Hub Newspaper
T.J. Skrdlant	Hastings (Nebraska) Tribune Newspaper
Dennis Allacker	McCook, Nebraska
Clayton Lukow	Southern Power District - Grand Island Nebraska
Cheslie & Enola Boylon	Self, farming interests
John Draper	Montgomery and Andrews, counsel for Kansas
Dale Book	Spronk Water Engineers, engineering consultant for Kansas
Don Blankenau	Kutak Rock, outside counsel for Nebraska

#### Approval of agenda

The Agenda was approved as proposed:

- 1. Introductions
- 2. Adoption of Agenda
- 3. Approval of Previous Annual Meeting Minutes (during the meeting, discussion and action on this item was deferred to the end of the meeting).
- 4. Report of Chairman
- 5. Commissioners' Reports
  - Colorado
  - Nebraska
- 6. Federal Reports:

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Bureau of Reclamation Corps of Engineers U.S. Geological Survey

- 7. Engineering Committee Report
- 8. Legal Committee Report
- 9. Old Business

Proposed Clause to Amend BOR/Irrigation District Water Service Contracts

- 10. New Business
- 11. Assignments to the Compact's Committees:
  - Engineering Committee
    - Legal Committee
- 12. Remarks from the Public
- 13. Future Meeting Arrangements
- 14. Adjournment

#### **Report of Chairman**

Chairman Pope's report included an update on the status of interstate water litigation in the U.S. Supreme Court to which Kansas is party, including the case of Kansas v. Colorado, No. 105 original, regarding the Arkansas River Compact; and the case of Kansas v. Nebraska and Colorado, No.126 original, regarding the Republican River Compact. Chairman Pope also summarized key legislative activity of the past session, including a major bill which relates to the duties of the Division of Water Resources, that included provisions related to the conversion of existing policies and standards into formal regulations, deadlines for certification of water rights, and an appeals process for certain decisions of the chief engineer. It also directs the Kansas Water Office to study various water issues. A second bill requires notification of water right holders regarding potential abandonment of their water right following certain periods of nonuse.

#### Report of the Commissioner from Colorado

Commissioner Simpson added his remarks on the Kansas v. Colorado lawsuit on the Arkansas River Compact. Regarding legislation, he noted a voter initiative regarding the regulation of hog operations and legislation on drought planning. Commissioner Simpson noted that poor spring precipitation and snow pack had turned around in recent months.

#### Report of the Commissioner from Nebraska

Commissioner Patterson noted the State had a new Governor and reviewed staff changes at the Department. He provided a brief report regarding actions by each of the Republican River basin Natural Resources Districts. He noted several bills were being considered by their Legislature to aid implementation of an endangered species program on the Platte River and the Legislature's consideration of the merger of certain natural resources agencies. Russ Oaklund

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provided an overview of water administration in the Republican River basin in Nebraska in 1998.

#### Report by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Interior

Fred Ore provided an update on the Bureau's work with the irrigation districts of the Republican River basin on long-term contract renewal for irrigation water supplies. Marv Swanda provided a report on operations of the Bureau's projects in the Republican River basin this past year and updated the Administration on dam safety issues the Bureau is addressing at its dams. Mr. Swanda's report is attached as Exhibit 1.

#### Report by the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Michael Bart reported on the Corps' work with the Bureau on irrigation water supply contract renewal, particularly as it relates to Harlan County dam; the Corps' evaluation of its tainter gates at Harlan County dam; and provided an update on the status on the development of a wetlands complex in the flood pool of Milford Reservoir.

#### Report by the U.S. Geological Survey

Glen Engel reported on the U.S. Geological Survey's cooperative stream gaging program in the basin and characterized streamflow in the basin in the past year. Mr. Engel's report is attached as Exhibit 2.

#### **Engineering Committee Report**

As there were no assignments to the Engineering Committee for the year, there was no report.

#### Legal Committee Report

As there were no assignments to the Legal Committee for the year, there was no report.

#### Old Business

#### Proposed Clause to Amend BOR/Irrigation District Water Service Contracts

Chairman Pope introduced this issue, carried over from last year, regarding whether the Compact Administration should recommend specific language be included in contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and the irrigation districts of the basin related to the relationship between the contracts and the Republican River Compact. After discussion, no action was taken by the Administration.

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#### New Business

#### Format of future annual meeting minutes and reports

This meeting was the first where a court reporter was hired to produce an official transcript of the meeting. In light of this and the work involved in producing detailed minutes for the annual report, the Commissioners discussed what should be included, and the level of detail required, in future annual meeting minutes and annual reports. After discussion, it was decided that the transcript would serve as the official minutes and record of the meeting, but that an annual report should continue to be prepared. The annual report should include the meeting location and date, agenda, attendees, written reports received by the Compact Administration, and a summary of items discussed and actions taken by the Administration. It was agreed that Kansas, as the year's host, should draft such a report and that it would be reviewed and discussed at the next annual meeting, particularly as to whether it contained the appropriate level of detail for future reports.

#### **Resolution recognizing contributions of Michael Jess**

Commissioner Patterson offered to prepare a resolution recognizing the contributions of Michael Jess, former commissioner from Nebraska to the Compact Administration for adoption by the Administration at its next meeting. His motion was moved, seconded and passed. A copy of the resolution is attached as Exhibit 3.

#### Assignments to the Compact's Committees:

#### **Engineering Committee**

After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and adopted that the Engineering Committee should review potential hydrologic data to include in future annual reports. The committee was asked to bring its recommendations for such data to the next annual meeting of the Administration along with examples for the compact year 1999 for review by the commissioners. The commissioners specifically expressed interest in publishing summaries of reservoir operations data, streamflow data, canal diversion data, and precipitation for the preceding compact year.

Legal Committee - No assignments were made to the Legal Committee

#### **Remarks from the Public**

Kenny Nelson, on behalf of the irrigation districts of the basin, provided a brief report on their negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation on long-term contracts for irrigation water supply.

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#### **Future Meeting Arrangements**

Chairman Pope noted that according to the tradition of the Compact Administration, Kansas would host the meeting again next year. While it was confirmed that the meeting would be held in Kansas, no decision on specific location was made. The date of June 8, 2000 was selected for the next annual meeting of the Administration.

#### Approval of previous annual meeting minutes

After discussion and concurrence regarding the contents of the annual report, it was moved, seconded, and passed, that the report, including minutes of the 39th Annual Meeting and appendices, be approved.

#### <u>Adjournment</u>

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m., June 3, 1999.

David L. Pope

Kansas Commissioner (Chairman)

Roger K. Patterson Nebraska Commissioner

Hal D. Simpson Colorado Commissioner

#### Exhibits

Exhibit 1 - Bureau of Reclamation report Exhibit 2 - U.S. Geological Survey report Exhibit 3 - Resolution honoring the contributions of J. Michael Jess to the Compact Administration

Note: there were no reports by the Engineering Committee or Legal Committee this year.

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# **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

**OPERATION** 

## AND

## MAINTENANCE

### REPORT

# REPUBLICAN RIVER

## COMPACT MEETING

CONCORDIA, KANSAS

JUNE 3, 1999

Exhibit 1

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#### REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT MEETING June 3, 1999 Concordia, Kansas

#### **1998 Operations**

As shown on the attached Table 1, the precipitation in the Republican River Basin varied from 65 percent of normal at Hugh Butler Lake to 108 percent of normal at Bonny Reservoir. Bonny Reservoir and Harlan County Lake were the only reservoirs receiving above normal precipitation. Total precipitation was below normal at the other reservoirs ranging from 12.88 inches at Hugh Butler Lake to 24.36 inches at Keith Sebelius Lake.

Inflows varied from 50 percent of the most probable forecast at Enders Reservoir to 239 percent of the most probable forecast at Keith Sebelius Lake. Inflows into Harlan County Lake were 155,772 AF and Lovewell Reservoir 77,149 AF. Inflows into Keith Sebelius were 10,979 AF which is almost 2½ times the expected most probable amounts.

Average farm delivery values for each irrigated acre are as follows:

District	Farm Delivery
Frenchman Valley	6.0 inches
H&RW	6.2 inches
Frenchman-Cambridge	12.0 inches
Almena	4.1 inches
Bostwick in NE	10.3 inches
Kansas-Bostwick	12.8 inches

#### **1998 Operation Notes**

Bonny Reservoir-Started the year 3.6 feet below the top of conservation. The end of October elevation was the lowest since 1969.

Enders Reservoir-normal operations.

Swanson, Hugh Butler, and Harry Strunk Lakes–Swanson and Hugh Butler started the irrigation season 2.5 feet and 1.2 feet below the top of conservation and Harry Strunk 2.2 feet into the flood pool.

Keith Sebelius Lake--The total inflow of 10,979 AF was between the normal and wetyear forecasts. The reservoir filled on April 23.

Harlan County Lake-Last year's high elevation was El. 1947.82 which is 1.8 feet into the flood pool. The lake finished the season at elevation 1941.03 (5.0 feet below full). Inflow for the year was 155,772 AF.

#### Exhibit #1

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#### **Current Operations**

Table 2 shows a summary of data for the first five months.

Bonny Reservoir--An Early Warning System (EWS) is operational. Bonny is presently 3.5 feet from full.

Swanson Lake--Presently 7.9 feet from full.

Enders Reservoir--A Safety of Dams Risk Assessment is being worked on at this time to determine what actions will be required concerning seepage concerns. The reservoir is 13.6 feet from full.

Hugh Butler Lake--Presently 3.1 feet from full. A Safety of Dams corrective action study has been initiated to deal with seepage concerns.

Harry Strunk Lake--Target elevation of 2 feet into the flood pool. Presently 1.2 feet into the flood pool.

Keith Sebelius Lake-Presently 1.2 feet below full. Target elevation is 2.2 feet into the flood pool.

Harlan County Lake--Presently 1.4 feet into the flood pool. Because the water supply is expected to be sufficient, no specific operation criteria were negotiated for 1998. Reclamation has had discussions with the Corps of Engineers concerning operating levels in the Lake.

Lovewell Reservoir-Presently 3.2 feet into the flood pool.

#### Other Items

Inspections--

All of the dams were inspected in 1997. Annual Inspections will be done on all of the dams.

Emergency Management Operations-

Meetings are being held with the local Emergency Management personnel below Reclamation facilities to set up notification procedures. Radios to contact downstream 24-hr. warning points from the dams have been installed.

An orientation meeting will be held this fall with local officials concerning Bonny Dam. Tabletop exercises were conducted in 1998 and 1999 for Enders, Lovewell, Norton, Medicine Creek, Trenton, and Red Willow Dams. All of Reclamation dams will have a tabletop exercise conducted by September, 1999.

Water Availability--

Full supplies are available for Frenchman-Cambridge, Almena, and the Bostwick Irrigation Districts. The Almena District will deliver at least 5 inches. H&RW and Frenchman Valley Districts are expected to deliver 4.0 inches.

Exhibit #1

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#### Sedimentation Survey--

In 1997 Sedimentation surveys were done at Enders Reservoir and Hugh Butler Lake to determine the present levels of sedimentation in the reservoirs. Hugh Butler has accumulated a sediment volume of 1,616 AF below the top of conservation. This is an annual loss of 45 AF compared to the projected loss of 40 AF.

Enders Reservoir has accumulated 1,572 AF of sediment below elevation 3105 feet (top of conservation is 3112 feet). This is an annual loss of 33.7 AF. The projected annual loss in the Definite Plan Report was 200 AF.

The new area-capacity values will be used beginning in 1999.

Water Conservation--

Increased emphasis is being placed on water conservation by Reclamation. A full time employee is available in the Area Office to work with the irrigation districts on their water conservation efforts.

#### Security ---

The Department has placed a high priority on security of the numerous government facilities. We are presently conducting assessments and surveys of our facilities to determine what additional security measures are required. As a result of this there will likely be both structural and non-structural changes made at our facilities to ensure a proper level of security and safety.

Reclamation has joined with Bonneville Power Administration in a new Crime Witness Program. The program utilizes a telephone hotline (1-800-437-2744) and monetary rewards to encourage people to report any illegal activities (vandalism, theft, illegal dumping, etc.) on project property.

Hydromet-

Hydromet instrumentation will be installed on all the canal diversion points and at other key locations on the distribution system. Several have already been installed which includes the state line measurement on the Courtland Canal, Culbertson, Cambridge, Bartley, and Almena Canals. The data that is collected is transmitted via satellite and will be available on Reclamation's Internet site. This allows the gathering of data from remote locations in a more timely manner.

Other Reservoirs--

Kirwin Reservoir is 1.0 feet into the flood pool and Webster Reservoir is 1.4 feet into the flood pool. Cedar Bluff Reservoir is .1 feet into the flood pool. Glen Elder is 2.8 feet into the flood pool.

#### Exhibit #1

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TABLE 1
NEBRASKA-KANSAS PROJECTS
Summary of Precipitation, Reservoir Storage and Inflows

CALENDAR YEAR 1998

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												Percent
		Total Precip.	Percent Of Average	Storage 12-31-97	Storage 12-31-98	Gain or		n Storage		Storage	Total	Of Most
	Reservoir	Inches	Average %	AF	AF	Loss AF	Content AF	Date	Content AF	Date	Inflow AF	Probable %
	Box Butte	18.10	108	14,174	15,094	920	21,142	MAY 22	9,324	SEP 4	17,119	94
	Merritt	23.00	116	68,831	69,668	837	75,075	MAY 11	46,014	SEP 13	<b>197,4</b> 13	111
	Sherman	27.42	121	52,478	52,478	0	69,653	JUN 9	47,143	SEP 8	83,928	76
	Calamus	24.67	104	118,003	118,295	292	129,771	JUN 9	85,908	OCT 1	303,677	123
	Davis Creek	27.25	118	6,278	6,817	539	31,512	JUN 25	6,014	MAR 26	<b>39,83</b> 0	87
d L	Bonny	18.55	108	34,409	32,095	(2,314)	36,947	MAY 12	31,621	OCT 31	<b>13</b> ,712	81
	Enders	18.51	98	24,348	20,076	(4,272)	29,675	JUN 12	15,650	AUG 18	15,357	50
#1	Swanson	16.94	85	77,897	56,018	(21,879)	100,032	MAY 30	50,476	OCT 26	<b>40,67</b> 2	63
	Hugh Butler	12.88	65	32,274	29,038	(3,236)	35,915	MAY 28	26,961	OCT 1	15,170	82
	Harry Strunk	15.43	75	28,595	22,842	(5,753)	40,020	MAY 26	15,589	SEP 5	35,612	86
	Keith Sebelius	24.36	99	33,191	30,782	(2,409)	36,353	MAY 25	30,031	OCT 31	<b>10,9</b> 79	239
	Harlan County	23.12	102	285,664	269,947	(15,717)	339,887	APR 9	254,482	OCT 1	155,772	113
	Lovewell	26.22	94	32,840	30,861	(1,979)	48,038	APR 10	24,036	SEP 9	77,149	115
	Kirwin	22.51	96	94,592	90,727	(3,865)	108,420	MAY 20	87,099	OCT 23	<b>42</b> ,165	251
Page	Webster	21.56	91	75,024	67,653	(7,371)	85,480	MAY 18	64,003	OCT 23	44,339	352
ge -1	Waconda	26.30	101	218,385	230,886	12,501	265,734	AUG 4	218,151	JAN 14	277,558	283
Ţ	Cedar Bluff	26.28	127	163,751	185,022	21,271	194,220	AUG 5	163,814	JAN 1	63,603	766

Exhibit #1

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#### TABLE 2 NEBRASKA-KANSAS AREA OFFICE Summary of Precipitation, Reservoir Storage and Inflows

							Percent
		Percent Of	Storage	Storage	Gain or	I-flam.	Of Most
Reservoir	Precip. Inches	Average %	05-31-98 AF	05-31-99 AF	Loss AF	Inflow AF	Probable %
				·····			
Bonny	4.93	75	36,517	34,504	(2,013)	6,741	69
Enders	5.95	85	29,444	23,454	(5,990)	6,289	51
Swanson	6.88	93	100,032	76,693	(23,339)	24,757	60
Hugh Butler	6.20	89	35,883	31,257	(4,626)	6,618	77
Harry Strunk	9.06	122	39,599	37,776	(1,823)	17,047	90
Keith Sebelius	11.64	128	36,331	33,049	(3,282)	4,695	204
Harlan County*	10.00	125	336,289	330,954	(5,335)	72,986	93
Lovewell	9.90	103	38,354	45,722	7,368	17,560	150
Kirwin	9.43	106	107,610	104,198	(3,412)	18,014	190
Webster	11.82	134	84,755	81,775	(2,980)	18,240	222
Waconda	12.91	142	239,701	273,648	33,947	135,793	302
Cedar Bluff	8.02	110	176,434	185,918	9,484	15,829	377

#### JANUARY - MAY 1999

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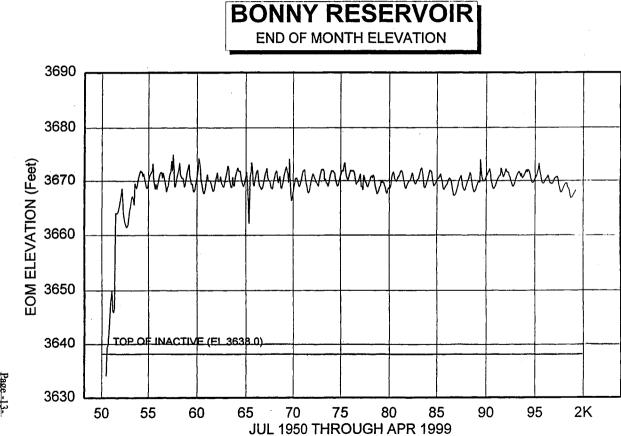


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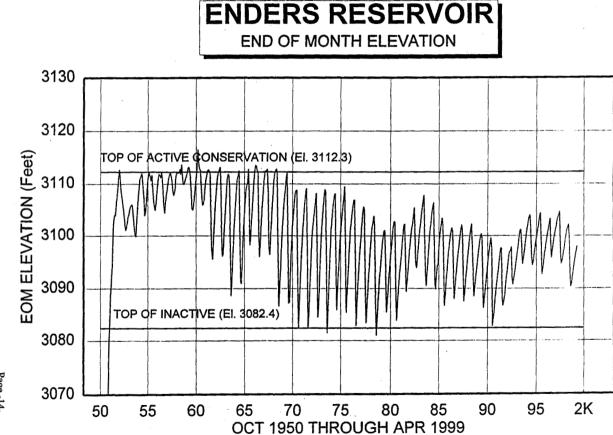


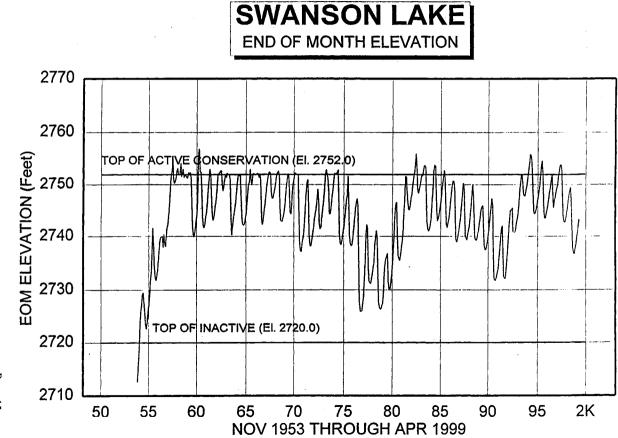
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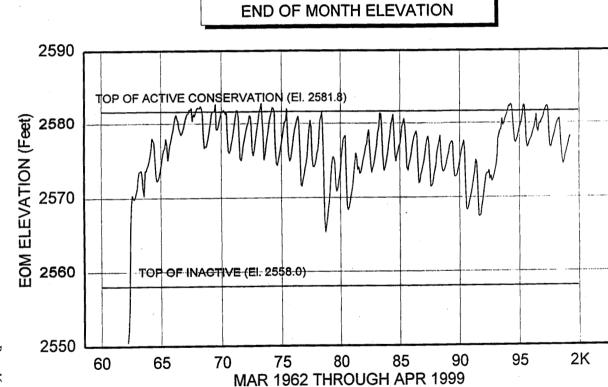


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- Garage Star



HUGH BUTLER LAKE

Exhibit #1

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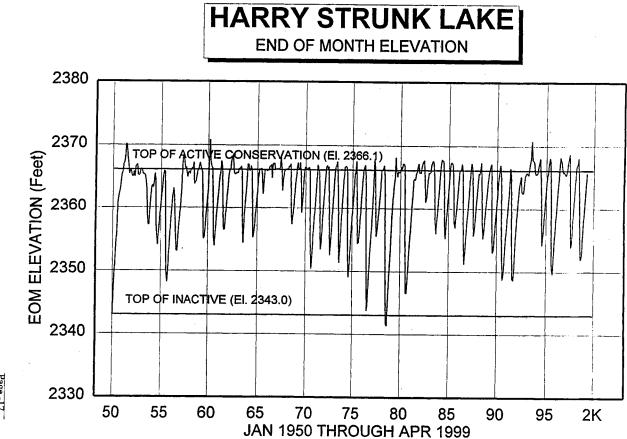
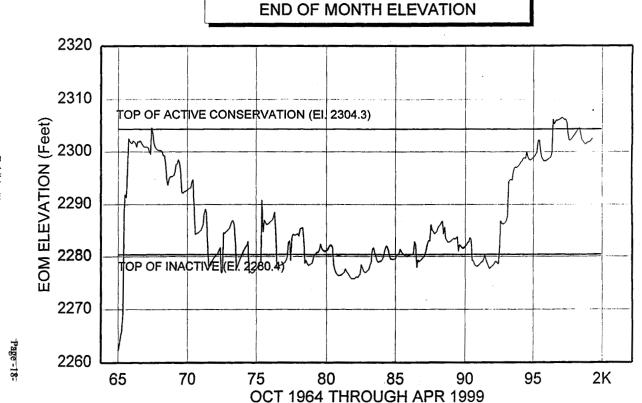


Exhibit #1

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**KEITH SEBELIUS LAKE** 

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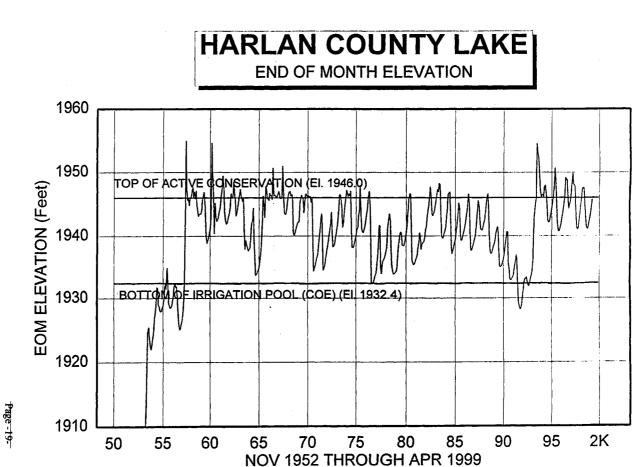
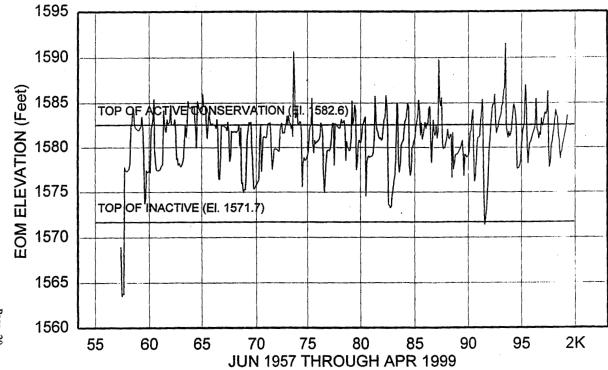


Exhibit #1

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LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

END OF MONTH ELEVATION

#### Republican River Compact Report U.S. Geological Survey June 3, 1999

The U.S. Geological Survey, Nebraska District, receives funding through the Federal Collection of Basic Records program in support of compacts for 10 streamflow stations in the Republican River Basin, listing attached. The Nebraska Department of Water Resources(DWR) provides coop funds to USGS to operate one station, shared with the Corps of Engineers, and for review and publishing of records at three other sites. The Corps of Engineers provides funds for the one site shared with DWR, complete funding for three other stations, and funding for seven data collection platforms (DCP's). Data collection platforms were installed at eight additional sites in 1998. In summary, the Nebraska District operates 14 stations in the basin, review and publishing of 3 others, and maintenance of 15 DCP's. The Bureau of Reclamation installed a DCP at Courtland Canal which will also be used in record collection. The real-time information can be accessed at: http://www-ne.cr.usgs.gov The Kansas District, USGS operates gages on Sappa Creek, Beaver Creek, and Prairie Dog Creek in Kansas, and at Republican River nr Hardy, NE.

Mean streamflow for the 1998 water year was less than the mean flow for the period of record at all sites in the basin. Lowest annual means for period of record occurred at North Fork Republican River at CO-NE State Line, Rock Creek at Parks, Buffalo Creek near Haigler, and Republican River at Stratton. Streamgaging sites upstream from Republican River near Orleans had annual mean flows less than the 25-percent quartile point of annual flows which indicates they were less than the normal range of flow. The annual mean flows at sites in the Sappa Creek/Beaver Creek Basin and in the remainder of the Republican Basin downstream were in the lower portion of the normal range (25-50% quartile).

The 1998 water-year records were provided to the Engineering Committee of the Compact and are published in the annual Water Resources Data Report for 1998.

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Federally funded Republican River Compact stations

06821500 06823000 06823500 06824000 06827500 06835500	Arikaree R at HaiglerDCP N Fk Republican R at CO-NE State LineDCP Buffalo Creek nr Haigler(elec. data logger) Rock Creek at ParksDCP S Fk Republican R nr BenklemanDCP Frenchman Creek at CulbertsonDCP
06836500	Driftwood Creek nr McCookDCP
06838000	Red Willow Creek nr Red WillowDCP
06847500	Sappa Creek nr StamfordDCP
06852500	Courtland Canal at NE-KS State LineBOR DCP

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Coop USGS and DWR, Corps of Engineers \_\_\_\_\_

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06828500 Republican R at Stratton-----DCP

Coop USGS(review and publish) and DWR(operation) Corps of Engineers funds DCP \_\_\_\_\_

06834000	Frenchman Creek at PalisadeDCP	
06843500	Republican R at CambridgeDCP	
06853020	Republican R nr Guide RockDCP	

Corps of Engineers funded

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06837000	Republican R at McCookDCP
06844500	Republican R nr OrleansDCP
06849500	Republican R below Harlan Co. DamDCP

Exhibit #2

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### Resolution

WHEREAS, J. Michael Jess, past Director of the Nebraska Department of Water Resources, has been the Official Member for Nebraska on the Republican River Compact Administration since 1981; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jess left his position as Director of the Nebraska Department of Water Resources and as Official Member of the Republican River Compact Administration in February 1999; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jess, through the years, has contributed his knowledge, professional skill and services to the fulfillment of the purposes of the Republican River Compact and to the organization and performance of the Republican River Compact Administration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Republican River Compact Administration does hereby acknowledge the outstanding contributions of J. Michael Jess to the States of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska and does express on behalf of the people of these States their sincere appreciation and commendation for his services and extend to him best wishes for the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the records of this Administration and that the Chairman be instructed to send a copy to Mr. Jess.

Adopted at the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Republican River Compact Administration at Concordia, Kansas, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 1999.

David L. Pope, Chairman Republican River Compact Administration

Exhibit # 3

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