Let us unite and work together
to save Colorado Water for Coloradans
---- It's later than you think!

COLORADO WATER CONGRESS NEWSLETTER

July 23, 1958

This is the first newsletter of the Colorado Water Congress. Its objective: to inform the water users of Colorado about state-wide water problems through periodic publication of facts and progress.

This newsletter will bring you up to date on Water Congress activities since the June 4th convention in Denver...the largest water conference ever held in Colorado.

Three hundred and fifty persons registered at the June 4th convention. Many could not be registered in the time available. Probably 500 attended. They adopted a platform and approved the creation of a state-wide water association to speak for the average farmer, rancher and man in the street. The official name for this association is Colorado Water Congress.

Nineteen area representatives were elected at the June 4th convention. They, along with nine additional persons appointed by the Governor and Attorney General, constitute the organization committee of the Congress. Its officers: John B. Barnard, Jr., chairman; Ralph Sargent Jr., vice chairman; Charles C. Fisk, secretary-treasurer.

An executive committee of seven was created from the membership of the organization committee. Members: J. R. Barkley, Glenn G. Saunders, William Eakes, Charles Boustead, John B. Barnard, Sr., Mark Shivers, and C. H. Quinlan. Ex-officio members: John B. Barnard, Jr., Ralph Sargent, Jr., and Charles C. Fisk. Its job is to function as the primary administrative group in implementing and expediting the program of the Colorado Water Congress.
Key sub-committees are moving ahead on three fronts: 1—a committee on cooperation with other water associations (Charles Boustead, chairman), 2—a committee on finance (J. R. Barkley, chairman), and 3—a constitution and by-laws committee (Glenn Saunders, chairman).

The committee on cooperation was the first to get into action. Boustead and Selby Young talked with Craig Goodwin, president of the Colorado State Watershed Conservation Association. Goodwin pledged his association's full support and cooperation.

The finance committee is studying ways and means of obtaining necessary funds. Anticipated needs: $7,500 to carry on the work of the Congress until January 1, 1959. Thereafter, $40,000 to $50,000 a year to hire a full-time director, publish information and water news and carry out the contemplated program of the Congress.

Best money-raising prospects at this time: substantial initial contributions from a relatively small number of large water user organizations, in order to get the program under way quickly. Later, an extensive drive for individual membership dues. Possible eventual solution to financial problems: creation of a state water conservancy district, which would require passage of enabling legislation. Present Congress funds: $1,211.75 deposited in the U. S. National Bank, Denver.

The constitution and by-laws committee has drafted a constitution. John Barnard Jr. is credited with taking the laboring oar on this job. This draft was reviewed by the organization committee at a meeting in Durango on July 17th. Following discussion and revision, the constitution was adopted and it is now presented to you for your information.

The Durango meeting was attended, either in person or by proxy, by twenty-six of the twenty-eight members of the organization committee. Recommendations were made to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for a complete and
acceptable water study of the State of Colorado, to enable the state to match efforts of other states in meeting water controversies.

A special committee would be appointed by the State Water Conservation Board to undertake this study. The organization committee recommended that it be financed out of a $50,000 appropriation secured from the state legislature last January.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board approved this water study recommendation of the Congress, in principle, at its meeting in Durango on July 18th. A further meeting of the Board was set for July 30th to expedite the detailing and implementing of this recommendation.

Colorado Water Investigation Commission is the name recommended by the Congress for this study commission. First priority: the Colorado River, where problems of immediate urgency threaten Colorado's future water supply. More on this in the next newsletter.

This recommendation to the State Water Board is the first major step taken by your Congress to put into operation the platform adopted on June 4, 1958. With your support, the Congress can continue to take action necessary to protect and utilize Colorado's water resources.

Did you know that California has prepared criteria for the filling of Glen Canyon Reservoir...and that under these criteria, Glen Canyon probably would not fill until 1975 or 1980? When California's criteria are reviewed in January 1959, Colorado should be fully prepared to counter with operating criteria which will protect its interests.

And did you know that the Colorado River Board of California has published a pamphlet entitled "California's Stake in the Colorado River," in which it states that "Southern California agencies anticipated and still expect to obtain the full amount of Colorado River water to which its agencies have established rights by appropriation and use or by contract under the terms of the
Project Act; namely 5,400,000 acre feet annually." This is far more than the 4,400,000 acre feet specified in the California Self-limitation Act and the amount California is entitled to under the Colorado River Compact.

California also maintains in this pamphlet that under the Boulder Canyon Project Act, "California would not only have its established rights to the use of Colorado River water fully protected and served, but also would be allowed reasonable expansion, including sufficient water to meet the potential requirements of the metropolitan areas of the coastal plains of Southern California..."

Where would this leave any water for Colorado's future needs?

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter but is not yet on the Congress' mailing list, please forward their name to the Secretary-Treasurer, Colorado Water Congress, P. O. Box 492, Denver, Colorado.