surest way to ruin a wild, natural area is to hang the wilderness on it, then everyone will come there and ruin it. Putting it simply, Forest Service lacks the resources to effect a long-term solution and, further, does not have the personnel to police the wandering hordes. The result is what one wilderness visitor calls a high-rise garbage dump." (Charlie Meyers, quoting Forest Service officials in Empire Magazine, Denver Post, September 9, 1973).

NEW WATER CONGRESS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

COLORADO WATER CONGRESS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE named Val Killin, 56, as Executive Director, replacing Richard Edmondson who recently resigned. Killin's appointment becomes effective October 8.

Killin, a resident of Denver, is a 30-year career engineer with the Federal Government, during which time and following attendance at the University of Colorado he worked for the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. World War II service took him to Burma and China with the Corps of Engineers.

He started his career with the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver in 1946. In 1959 he was transferred to Washington, D. C., when, after a few years, he was transferred to Wyoming as reclamation representative. His assignment there was liaison officer between the state government, local interests and the four reclamation regions concerned with development of Wyoming's water resources. In 1965 he was again transferred to Washington as Chief of the Bureau's Division of Foreign Activities.

In April 1972 Killin was appointed Assistant Regional Director of the Bureau's Lower Mississippi Region in Denver, a position he now holds. He is retiring from Federal service, effective on the date of his
employment with the Colorado Water Congress.

WILDERNESS RESOURCES COALITION FORMED

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES of cities, counties, water conservancy districts, quasi-municipal water districts and industries, whose area of interest is located between Fort Collins and Pueblo, Colorado, met in Denver on September 4, 1973 to discuss their concern regarding wilderness area designations in the State of Colorado now being considered by the U.S. Sub-committee on public lands. The group also gave extensive consideration on the possible adverse effect of the proposed wilderness legislation on the development of water projects originating therein.

The September 4 meeting was the first step in the formation of a Wilderness Resources Coalition Committee composed of the following: Lee Coulter, Aurora City attorney, chairman; Robert W. Fischer, Denver Water Board, secretary; Ralph Adkins, CF&I, Pueblo, representing industry; J. R. Barkley, Loveland, manager, Northeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, representing agriculture; Charles L. Thomson, Pueblo, manager, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, representing power; Virgil Hill, Lakewood, representing quasi-municipal water districts; Howard Abbott, Littleton, representing counties, and Dr. Karl Carson, Fort Collins, representing municipal corporations.

Following the Denver organization meeting, Chairman Coulter communicated with U.S. Sen. Floyd K. Haskell (Colo) expressing the Committee's concern over water project development in proposed wilderness designation legislation, and requesting that the Senate Sub-committee on public lands, chaired by Haskell, delay further action on wilderness legislation in Colorado until the Wilderness Coalition Committee has had an opportunity to give further consideration to the proposed legislation and offer suggestions and possible alternative solutions to the water
resource development problem.

Aurora City Council adopted a resolution endorsing the stated purposes of the Wilderness Resources Coalition Committee, and supporting, as a developer and consumer of water and other natural resources, any effort that can be made to see that these natural resources, and particularly water, can be utilized pursuant to Colorado constitutional and statutory water laws.

The Council resolution pledged to support efforts to make water use compatible with the environmental consideration in wilderness-designated areas on publicly-owned lands in Colorado.

PRESIDENT APPROVES NEW WATER PLANNING CRITERIA

PRESIDENT NIXON, on August 10, approved new principles and standards for planning on water and related land resources, according to an announcement by the National Waterways Conference, Inc., (NWC) Washington, D. C. The criteria proposes to systematically relate all aspects of water and related land resources planning to economic, environmental, regional, and social well-being planning criteria.

The criteria will be used by federal agencies in regional or river basin planning, and in planning federal and federally assisted water and related land resources programs and projects.

In announcing his approval of the new planning criteria, President Nixon said the Principles and Standards represent the culmination of several years review by the Water Resources Council to develop improved planning criteria to achieve our goal of wise use of the Nation's water and related land resources with full consideration to the protection of our environment. "I commend the Water Resources Council for accomplishing such a difficult task," Nixon said.

In accordance with the provisions of the criteria, the discount rate
on evaluating federal resource projects would be established at 6-7/8 percent at this time, with the provision that a change up or down by "not more than or less than" 1/2 of 1 percent annually, reflecting the "cost of government borrowing concept." This is understood to involve a mix of long-term and short-term borrowing costs. In the discussions leading to resolution of the discount rate issue, short-term borrowing costs were equated with the controversial "opportunity cost" concept, NWC said.

Commenting on the new Principles and Standards, Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton, chairman of the Water Resources Council, said "it is felt the discount rate provision will foster the planning of better programs and projects for a given level of federal investment."

Morton, in a letter to the President regarding the criteria, said after careful consideration of the public response to the proposed criteria the council makes the following major recommendations in addition to the proposed discount rate:

- Planning objectives. -- There would be two objectives, national economic development and environmental quality with separate accounts for each objective, and a third account for displaying beneficial and adverse effects on regional development, and a fourth account for displaying beneficial and adverse effects on social well-being.

- Retroactive application, "Grandfather Clause." -- The Principles and Standards would be applied to all authorized but unfunded projects, on a selective basis to be determined by the head of the agency, with opportunity for suggestions from the Water Resources Council, and other governmental entities. Authorized plans or projects that are substantially reformulated as a result of application of these Principles will be submitted to Congress for reauthorization. Separable and independent elements of a system would be subject to review prior to funding for construction.

Morton said, upon approval of the President, the Council will establish these Principles, which will replace the present criteria, by establishing Standards for water planning and land resources in accordance with the Water Resources Planning Act - Public Law 89-80. "The
Water Resources Council will **review** the approved Principles from time to time and, after consultation with others, will recommend improvements for consideration," he said.

National Water Ways Conference, in its August 10, 1973 News Release, asked what will be the impact of the new criteria? "No one knows for sure. Water project construction could continue at the present though snail-like pace, or almost everything could come to an overnight stop. It all depends on the application of the new standards to authorized but unstarted projects. The new guidelines, including the stiff 6-7/8 percent discount rate, will be applied retroactively to pending projects 'on a selective basis.' Thus, water resource projects could be openly subjected to political whim," NWC said.

"Most Washington observers believe that the review will be used to the extent necessary to justify a decision already made. Thus, the review could be a 'quickie' lasting only three months or so and merely updating and re-computing previously obtained data. Or, a review could mean starting all over from scratch and re-formulating the entire project -- a process which would take at least three or four years.

"Elimination of the 'grandfather clause' and application of the new principles of the standards to pending projects could have the effect of eliminating the massive backlog of authorized but unstarted water resources projects . . . The huge backlog, which contains some projects authorized twenty or more years ago, is a matter of great concern to environmentalists. The pending lawsuit brought by the Environmental Defense Fund and attacking the current discount rate formula is primarily aimed at eliminating the controversial backlog," NWC said.

Interior staff will **revise** the proposed Principles and Standards which were published in the Federal Register in December 1971 to conform
with the new policy guidelines. The new evaluation standards will go into effect following re-publication in the Federal Register and will replace Senate Document 97 and other current guidelines as the official planning criteria applying to all Federal agencies administering water programs. No subsequent action by the President or Congress is required.

Congress, in the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965, gave the Water Resources Council the authority to establish new water resources standards and criteria with the approval of the President.

Felix L. Sparks, director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, expressed dissatisfaction with the Criteria as approved. "It is unrealistic, and it is just another attempt to destroy the water development program," he said. (Emphasis supplied)

NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION SUBMITS REPORT

"WATER POLICIES FOR THE FUTURE" is the title of the final report of the National Water Commission released for submission to Congress. The report is the completion of a $5 million, 5-year effort by the Commission to formulate a National policy on the development of the Nation's water resources.

One of the most controversial parts of the report recommends that identifiable beneficiaries of federal water programs and projects be required to pay the full costs of developments which give them economical benefits. This provision would also apply to beneficiaries of flood control and land drainage programs, calling for greater reliance on flood plain management, flood forecasting, and other non-structural measures for reducing the annual flood damage toll.

Other major recommendations include:

- The demands for water in the future are not predetermined, but depend largely on policy decisions that can be controlled by society.
Future water programs should shift emphasis from water development to preservation and enhancement of water quality.

Planning for water development must be coordinated with land use planning.

More efficient use of water must be made in agriculture and industry.

Sound economic principles must be adopted to encourage better use of water resources. The Commission considers consumer willingness to pay to be the most reliable indicator of proper water use, if it is coordinated with government regulation of environmental protection.

Updated laws and legal institutions are needed if future water policies are to be successfully implemented.

Development, management, and protection of water resources should be controlled by the level of government (Federal, State, local, or regional) that is closest to specific problems and capable of fairly representing all interests involved. (Wyoming Water Development Association Newsletter, August 1973).

It is reported that Congressional subcommittees on water and power resources will hold hearings on the Commission's report.


ITEMS IN BRIEF

C. J. Kuiper, state engineer, speaking before a meeting of the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District in Longmont on August 10, predicted that the nation is about to enter a new era as far as water development is concerned. He said major Federal emphasis will be directed toward municipal and industrial water projects and there will be a lowered emphasis on agriculture. Kuiper said he does not agree with such a policy as America is too dependent on foreign markets, and in turn they are dependent on ours. "The world must have food," he said.

He placed the major blame in the lap of the militant environmentalists. "They are the ones that receive the major portion of the publicity," he said. He cited as an example the Sierra Club which was extremely militant in the defeat of the two proposed power dams on the Colorado River and who are now "regretting their actions" because of air pollution caused by steam plants which were designated as an alternate source of power.

"We are now starting to pay the bill, and the average citizen is just beginning to realize he was led down the primrose path by a small but vocal section of the environmental groups. There must be a common ground," he said.

* * * * *
District Water Judge Donald Carpenter, Greeley, on July 26, authorized irrigators belonging to the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District to form a ground water management subdistrict. The purpose of the subdistrict is to enable the irrigators to determine their own water needs and administer their own wells.

Dave Miller, attorney for the Water Conservancy District, said well owners had a choice — they could join the subdistrict and act as a body to administer the water available to them or go it alone. "If they chose not to organize, then it was inevitable that their wells could be curtailed or shut down," he said.