It is not in doubt that the public strongly supports the wilderness con-
cept. We must protect the areas we have. But that should not include
considering 'new' areas onto the fringes of legitimate wilderness. And
must not include locking water supplies away forever in wilderness
areas." (Editorial, in Denver Post, Perspective, October 7, 1973)

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CHAIRMAN KROEGER POINTS TO 1974 ANNUAL MEETING

"DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN WATER RESOURCES is now facing more serious
obstacles than at any time in history," said Fred Kroeger, Durango,
chairman of the Colorado Water Congress, speaking at a recent meeting of
the Congress Executive Committee.

Kroeger emphasized that road-blocks thrown up by vocal environmentalists,
problems created by the new Criteria on Federal water project evaluation,
adverse recommendations included in the report submitted by the National
Water Commission, and opposition to continued development of power pro-
duction, all indicate the importance of the 1974 annual meeting of the
Colorado Water Congress.

Wilderness designation legislation being introduced and acted upon
by the U.S. Congress should also be given serious consideration. "To
shut the door on potential water development projects in the public lands
of Colorado is to stop, not only the people of today, but future gener-
ations from doing what becomes necessary to provide them with basic life
needs -- food, fiber, minerals, and energy," he said.

Kroeger urged all members particularly district chairmen and mem-
ers of the Executive and Rules Committees, to give early attention to
these problems and offer suggestions for resolutions to be considered by
the 1974 meeting, as well as any others that may be considered important.

Kroeger pointed out that these ideas for resolutions should come in early in order that they may be drafted for consideration by the Rules Committee at least a month in advance of the annual meeting.

Initial consideration on resolutions will be given by the Colorado Caucus, meeting at the annual convention of the National Water Resources Association in Phoenix, Arizona on November 13 to 16, 1973. Members should send their desires on resolutions to Val Killin, Executive Director, Colorado Water Congress, 328 Livestock Exchange Building, Denver, Colorado 80216, for transmittal to the appropriate committees.

The following resolutions, adopted at the 1972 annual meeting, will expire at the end of 1973 unless re-adopted:

- Directing the Executive Committee to appoint an ad hoc Committee to review National Water Commission study reports and recommend a Colorado Water Congress policy position. (Assignment completed).

- Opposing any scheme which would preclude the beneficial use of the waters of the State of Colorado by requiring their use solely for the purpose of preserving or enhancing water quality.

- Urging the continuation of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as the Federal agency primarily responsible for the Colorado River salinity control program; and that the program be based upon standards which permit the fullest development, within the State of Colorado, of that portion of the Colorado River which has been apportioned under compacts.

- Supporting the continuation of existing weather modification research projects to produce additional water for beneficial use without material injury.

- Reaffirming support of sound public policies that will assume the wise use and preservation of all natural values through the encouragement of the widest multiple use of public lands and water.

- Resolving that the Colorado Water Congress, while welcoming the consideration of new analysis techniques originally proposed by the Water Resources Council, believes that the use of a 7 percent discount rate in an opportunity cost analysis in water project planning will produce an unrealistic result when judged by the standards, or lack thereof, used to evaluate the feasibility of other Federal project expenditures.

The following resolutions were adopted at the 1973 annual meeting of the Colorado Water Congress, which will remain in effect until the end of 1974:
- Urging President Nixon to direct the Office of Management and Budget to release funds appropriated by Congress for development of water resource projects.


- Urging the continuation of the Colorado Water Congress Environmental Task Force.

- Directing the Colorado Water Congress Executive Committee, its officers and members, to participate fully at all levels in any agency determinations concerning the designation of wilderness areas within the State of Colorado.

- Urging and requesting the executive branch of the United States to return to a policy of following the procedures set down in Colorado water law in filing for rights to use water on Federal lands.

- Opposing any legislation which would seek to use control of water rights as a planning or zoning tool.

- Opposing any forest management practice which would cause land erosion, sedimentation, or adverse effect on stream run-off in the areas selected for timber harvest.

Chairman Kroeger called on the membership to recommend which 1972 resolutions should be re-adopted and which 1973 resolutions should be re-emphasized or strengthened. In supporting his plea he warned that the strongest political opposition to western water development comes from the eastern and mid-western states, but "whoever ate an orange raised in Illinois," he said.

GOSLIN CALLS FOR ACTION

"MY CONCLUSION is that on behalf of the four Upper Division States it is time for the Upper Colorado River Commission to take off the boxing gloves, put on the brass knuckles, and get into the fight." This challenge was hurled by Ival V. Goslin, executive director, Upper Colorado River Commission, speaking before the Commission at its annual meeting in Denver on September 17, 1973.

Goslin said water resource development in the western part of the United States, and particularly in the Upper Colorado River Basin, has encountered maladjustments that if not remedied will result in changes
in resource management which may not be desirable.

"Only a few informed people seem to realize that a water crisis is also looming on the horizon for the Upper Colorado River Basin States unless steps are taken to change some of the policies that have crept into the Federal establishment, and that today are preventing water resource development for people; in fact, for the majority of the people who are not heard but who want water resources developed and wisely used.

"The solid citizens like those who made this country will be hurt in this generation and the next, and those following, economically and socially, when they are rudely awakened to the discoveries that not enough water has been made available for the production of food, clothing, and shelter; there is not a broad enough tax base to generate revenues to pay for enhancing and maintaining a clean, desirable environment for man; there are not sufficient jobs to keep an optimum work force on the payrolls; and they, the consumers, have to pay the expenses and forego other necessities of life.

"It is not a pretty picture that the Upper Colorado River Basin States are facing in the field of water resources. Irrigation has become a foul word, and water resource development a contaminated phrase," he said.

Goslin cited these examples, among others, where programs of the Upper Colorado River Basin States have been, or are being, wrecked: Savery-Pot Hook in Colorado and Wyoming, and Fruitland Mesa in Colorado, authorized in 1964; Animas-La Plata in Colorado and New Mexico, and Dallas Creek, Dolores, West Divide, and San Miguel Projects in Colorado, authorized in 1968. In previous years, some as late as fiscal year 1973, all of these projects have had advance planning or pre-construction funds appropriated for them and then impounded by the Office of Management and Budget. "Except for some emergency work on the Fruitland Mesa Project,
no actual construction has been accomplished on any of them."

"All of these projects are still part of the water resource programs of the States of Wyoming, New Mexico, and Colorado. Each of these projects is a special case to its sponsors in the respective project areas, and I know that these sponsors are looking to the Upper Colorado River Commission, as well as to their State and their Congressional delegations, for leadership in getting these projects constructed and operating before they are lost.

"These projects need help. It is time they received it through aggressive action." he said.

Goslin pointed out some of the policies that appear to delay and impede progress so far as the Upper Basin is concerned:

Water policy within the Department of the Interior during the past four years can best be described as a series of paradoxies. For example, at a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the western United States water plan on May 14, the Assistant Commissioner of Reclamation described the general policy of the Department of Interior on water development as placing water for irrigation in the production of food and fiber "on the bottom of the priority totem pole." Municipal and industrial water was placed at the head of the list, with environmental quality listed as number 3. Any presently authorized or future Upper Basin Project will be re-analyzed to determine the effects of the projects on salinity increases in Colorado River water, and the cost of facilities to abate salinity -- and other pollution -- caused by the project will be charged as part of the price of the project and appear in the benefit-cost ratio on the cost side. "Obviously, this would make a number of formerly feasible projects economically infeasible."

The new principles and standards for water planning as developed by the Water Resources Council and the final report of the National Water
Commission submitted to the President and the Congress include many facets which are adverse to western water development. "The Commission reports has 290 conclusions and recommendations, that for the most part, are ill conceived and not conclusive to the promotion of water development," Goslin said.

Goslin offered these conclusions and recommendations in his report to the Commission:

- That the Commission establish and maintain a more permanent and continuing liaison in Washington in order to work with representatives of other organizations; to counsel with members of Congress to keep in constant touch with Bureaus and other agencies in the Executive Branch; to keep member States informed about what is happening or likely to happen in Washington; and, with their advice, to aid in obtaining passage of desirable legislation and rejection of undesirable legislation.

- That the Commission establish and maintain a well-rounded information program.

The Commission adopted these actions and resolutions at its Denver meeting:

- Appointing a special 3-man Committee composed of Chairman Pat Dugan, and Commissioners representing Colorado and New Mexico to study and report on recommendations to establish a Washington liaison and information program.

- Urging that the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to transmit draft legislation and reports on bills to incorporate the town of Page and support the passage of such legislation as expeditiously as possible.

- Urging the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Interior to permit the execution of construction contracts and proceed as rapidly as possible with the construction of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project in order to avoid water rationing, economic strangulation, and other hardships by the people of Utah.

- Urging the Office of Management and Budget, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and State to expeditiously report on, and to support, legislation pending in Congress to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to execute a program of salinity control on the Colorado River which is necessary to implement the objectives adopted by the Federal-State conferees in the matter of pollution of the interstate waters of the Colorado River and its tributaries.

Commissioner John Bliss of New Mexico was elected vice-chairman, and William F. Holmer of Utah was elected treasurer, both to serve during
the ensuing year.

NATION'S WATER FUTURE IN JEOPARDY

"THE FUTURE of the Nation's navigation and flood control systems and other water resources programs is clouded by the uncertainty of changing American values and an unresolved struggle between the Executive Branch and Congress over determination of the Nation's water resources priority."

This consensus emerged at the recent annual meeting of the National Waterways Conference, Inc., at which members of Congress, government officials, and waterways industry leaders examined the implications of newly adopted criteria for Federal investment in water resources projects and the recently issued report by the National Water Commission.

Conference President William J. Hull, Washington, D.C., called upon Congress to "set its own guidelines" for Federal participation in water projects and move to "an affirmative national policy on water" recognizing America's future needs.

Senator J. Bennett Johnston (Louisiana) and Congressman Robert L.F. Sikes (Florida), keynote speakers at the convention, both attacked the Water Commission's report as "unrealistic" and pledged to oppose its recommendations in Congress. Senator Johnson criticized the Water Resources Council's new project evaluation standards as "crippling guidelines."


VETERAN WATER LEADER DIES

J. SID NICHOLS, 66, Colorado Springs, died suddenly at his home on the evening of September 27, 1973. Sid was a charter member of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District. He served as President of the District from 1965 until 1971. He was a long time member of the Colorado Water Congress and served for a number of years on its Executive Committee and served as President in 1969. He was a member of the Arkansas River Basin Interstate Committee and a member of the El Paso County Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America, serving as its President in 1958. Sid retired in 1972 as Chief of Operations for the Utilities Department of the City of Colorado Springs. He was a graduate in electrical engineering from the University of Colorado.
ITEMS IN BRIEF

A law suit filed by the suburban counties adjacent to the city and county of Denver has been assigned to District Judge William Ela of Grand Junction, Colorado. The law suit was filed against the Denver Water Board on September 5 as part of the countys' attack on Denver annexations, claiming that the Denver Water Board arbitrarily and discriminatorily adopted a policy of denying water to outlying districts unless they annexed to Denver. Chief District Judge Marvin Foote of Littleton, where the case was originally filed, requested the Colorado Supreme Court to assign the case to an outside court.

* * * * *

Legislation to create the Eagle Nest Wilderness Area has been passed by the U.S. Senate and now goes to the House where opposition is expected to develop against setting boundaries which would lock the door on water and other resource development.