

MINUTES OF
ARKANSAS RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Tuesday, March 27, 1951

Attendance---

Brig. Gen. Hans Kramer, San Francisco, Calif.; Representative of the
United States and Chairman of the Administration

For Colorado:

Harry B. Mendenhall, Rocky Ford; Chairman of Colorado Representatives
Harry C. Nevius, Lamar; Administration Secretary
Clifford H. Stone, Denver

For Kansas:

R. V. Smrha, Topeka
William E. Leavitt, Garden City; Administration Vice Chairman

Administration Members Absent:

Roland H. Tate, Garden City, Kansas

Others Attending:

Ray E. Peterson, Denver, Colorado; recorder
John S. Sharer, Caddoa; Manager John Martin Reservoir
Francis M. Bell, Denver; District Engineer USGS
Roger I. Smith, Lamar; USGS
Ross W. Moor, Lamar; USGS
Guy M. Vincent, Garden City; Kansas State Division of Water Resources
Fred Betz, Lamar; Editor Lamar Daily News
Jake Broyles, Lamar; Manager Keezee Ditch Lands
R. J. McGrath, Lamar; Water Commissioner, District 67

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The March 27, 1951 meeting of the Arkansas River Compact Administration was called to order in the County Commissioners' Room at the Prowers County Court House, Lamar, Colorado, at 10 o'clock by Chairman Kramer.

The Chairman introduced Mr. R. V. Smrha of Topeka, Kansas, sitting in an Administration meeting for the first time as successor to George S. Knapp, Topeka, who retired as Chief Engineer of the Kansas State Division of Water Resources on December 31, 1950.

Mr. Smrha presented for the Administration files a copy of the official certification of his appointment by Edward F. Arn, Governor of Kansas, dated March 21, 1951, to serve as a Kansas representative on the Arkansas River Compact Administration for the unexpired term ending June 7, 1953.

The Kansas members reported that Rep. Tate was absent from the meeting because of duties as a State legislator requiring his presence at the State Capitol at Topeka. Mr. Leavitt and Mr. Smrha constituted the quorum to represent Kansas in the business of the meeting.

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Administration held on Tuesday, December 12, 1950, at Lamar were reviewed and edited. With minor corrections, the minutes were officially approved, as edited.

Chairman Kramer proposed that the resolution adopted by the Administration and recorded in the minutes of December 12, 1950, in tribute to Mr. George S. Knapp, be reproduced in the form of a scroll and signed by members of the Administration to be presented to Mr. Knapp.

It was moved by Rep. Stone and seconded by Rep. Mendenhall that the Administration authorize the preparation of a scroll containing the Knapp resolution of December 12, 1951, as suggested by the Chairman.

On vote the motion was carried unanimously.

Rep. Stone accepted the assignment to have the scroll prepared in Denver, and to bring the scroll to the next meeting of the Administration for the personal signatures of the Administration members and the affixing of the official Administration seal.

In his report as Chairman, General Kramer stated that he had submitted copies of the Second Annual Report of the Administration to the President of the United States; the Secretary of the Interior; the Secretary of Agriculture; the Federal Power Commission; the Commissioner of Reclamation; the Director of the Geological Survey; the Chief of the Corps of Engineers; the District Engineer's office at Albuquerque, New Mexico; the District Engineer's office at Tulsa, Oklahoma; the Division Engineer's office at Dallas, Texas; and to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget.

The Chairman directed six copies of the Second Annual Report go to the Denver office of the U. S. Geological Survey for distribution to Mr. S. W. Lohman, Carl G. Paulsen and others; a copy to the Director of Region 7, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver; a copy to the Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation at Pueblo, and that copies be sent by the Secretary to Governor Dan Thornton of Colorado, Governor Edward F. Arn of Kansas and to Mr. James A. Noonan, Controller of the State of Colorado.

In his report as Secretary, Rep. Nevius announced that C. W. Beach of Pueblo, Division Engineer employed by the Colorado State Engineer, had recently died and that Mr. F. C. Snyder of Pueblo had been appointed as the new Division Engineer at Pueblo. The Chairman directed that Rep. Harry W. Mendenhall, Chairman of the Operations Committee of the Administration, arrange a conference with the new Division Engineer to orient him with regard to the duties and responsibilities of the Division Engineer which would devolve upon him in the event that the Administration invokes the provisions of Article V-F of the Compact.

The Secretary reported no information had been received on the intended contacts with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, relative to exemptions from Federal tax available to Administration members in their travel and other duties in behalf of the Administration. Rep. Stone, to whom this matter had been referred at a previous meeting, stated that he was obtaining the file of correspondence on the same subject assembled by the Upper Colorado River Commission, in its contacts with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and that he intended to use this file as a pattern for the Administration's approach to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Rep. Nevius submitted the Treasurer's report as follows:

"ARKANSAS RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

Report of Harry C. Nevius, Treasurer, March 27, 1951

Balance on hand, October 31, 1950 (Auditor's Report)	\$1386.27
Voucher Number	
31. Mt States T & T Co., Nov. Service, Tolls	6.50
32. Lamar Daily News, Supplies	9.50
33. R. W. Rollins, Audit	65.00
34. Secretary Salary, November	100.00
35. Mt States T & T Co., Dec. and Jan. Service & Tolls	16.55
36. Secretary Salary, Dec. & Jan.	200.00
37. Mt States T & T Co., Feb. Services	5.50
38. Secretary Salary, Feb.	100.00
39. Peerless Printing Co., Annual Report	440.00
Total Expenditures	943.05
Balance on hand, First National Bank, Lamar, Colo.	<u>443.22</u>

The Treasurer called attention to the fact that Administration funds on deposit in the First National Bank in Lamar had dwindled to a balance of \$443.22.

It appeared from the Administration bookkeeping records that both Kansas and Colorado had paid amounts called for by the Administration for the fiscal year 1949-1950, but that no call had been made to or payment made by either State for the fiscal year 1950-1951.

It was moved by Rep. Stone, seconded by Rep. Surha, that the Arkansas River Compact Administration make call upon the States of Colorado and Kansas for budget payments to the Arkansas River Compact Administration treasury for the fiscal year 1950-1951 in the following amounts:

Colorado (60%) - - - - - \$2,000.00
Kansas (40%) - - - - - 1,333.33
from state funds appropriated for the current biennium.

On vote the motion was carried unanimously.

Rep. Stone reported regarding the Colorado request for an Arkansas River Compact appropriation for the fiscal year 1951-1952. On the basis of the Administration budget of \$10,000 for the biennium 1951-1953, request was made to the Colorado legislature for an appropriation of \$3,000, or 60% of the \$5,000 set up for the fiscal year 1951-1952. The appropriation bill as passed by the legislature reduced the amount from \$3,000 to \$2,000. Rep. Stone explained that this action had taken place in the legislature without a full understanding of the Colorado obligations under the compact, and that he had been assured that the January 1952 session of the legislature could be called upon to provide the deleted \$1,000, if needed, so as to make it available before the expiration of the 1951-1952 fiscal year on June 30, 1952.

Rep. Stone announced that the Administrative and Legal Committee had no report to make, except to acknowledge its new assignment of preparing the scroll for presentation to Mr. Knapp.

Chairman Kramer announced, for the record, that Mr. R. V. Smrha of Kansas would replace Mr. George S. Knapp in the role of Chairman of the Engineering Committee of the Administration.

F. M. Bell of Denver, District Engineer of the U. S. Geological Survey, informed the Administration he had no formal report to make, but commented briefly to summarize development during the winter months. The Frontier Ditch gaging installation, he announced, has been completed. Radio equipment, to be installed for the reporting of gaging records, was not available as soon as planned, due to shortages, but was expected by about April 1, but no later than May 1, 1951. An operating license for the radio system has been secured from the Federal Communications Commission. The previously contemplated telephone setup for reporting gaging records is to be abandoned. Radio signals on gaging information will emanate from the Frontier Ditch and Coolidge stations and from the station downstream from John Martin Reservoir, and receivers will be located in the Administration headquarters at Lamar, at John Martin Reservoir, and at the residence of R. J. McGrath, Water Commissioner, in Lamar.

The Administration recommended that a receiver also be placed at Garden City, Kansas, if it is found that radio signals will cover that distance.

Rep. Nevius proposed that, with the new Division Engineer taking over the duties at Pueblo, changes should be made in the form of the daily reports to provide more explicit definition of the gaging locations. He said the revisions deemed necessary had already been made.

Rep. Mendenhall, Chairman of the Operations Committee, submitted no formal report, but commented that 81,000 acre feet of water was in John Martin Reservoir as of March 27, 1951, approximately half as much as the 158,000 acre feet of

water measured in the reservoir a year ago. Rep. Mendenhall stated that a critical water situation for early season irrigation appeared to be developing as there was no low snow on the watersheds. Most snow, he explained, was at high elevations and would not be melted in time to provide an early spring runoff. He predicted that John Martin reservoir might be dry by the latter part of May, if customary use of water developed in the eligible ditches and if no floods or precipitation occurred in the meantime.

Chairman Kramer expressed the viewpoint that the probable situation of a low water supply was being aggravated in the valley by unnecessary use of water to sluice ditches and clean out weeds, instead of using hand labor and machinery for such maintenance practices will have to be revised to eliminate wasteful use of water for purposes other than irrigation.

It was, therefore, agreed that in view of the probable water shortage in the early stages of the 1951 irrigation season, and that presently stored water might be sufficient only for approximately 40 days, the Administration should issue a word of caution to water users and urge conservative use of water from all of the ditches.

Chairman Kramer submitted a rough draft of a statement which he recommended for public release.

Rep. Stone, seconded by Rep. Leavitt, moved that the Kramer statement, as edited by the Administration, be made a part of the record of the meeting and that copies of the statement be issued as a press release for publication in the Arkansas Valley in the affected areas of Colorado and Kansas.

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The copy of the press release is as follows:

"Water in storage in the John Martin Reservoir at Caddoa, Colorado, at the start of the irrigation season,, April 1, 1951, is estimated at 80,000 acre-feet. On the basis of probable releases of water to Colorado and Kansas, this storage will be depleted at the rate of about 2,000 acre-feet a day.

"Thus under prevailing conditions the water in storage in John Martin Reservoir may be exhausted in about forty days, or about May 10, 1951.

"In view of this anticipated depletion of water, the Arkansas River Compact Administration urges water users in the Arkansas River Valley in Colorado and Kansas, above and below John Martin Dam, to exercise utmost economy, in the hope that later rain and inflow may be sufficient to prevent an empty reservoir."

The Administration recessed for the noon hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION

March 27, 1951

The afternoon session was called to order by the Chairman at 1:40 o'clock.

Rep. Stone announced that the preliminary report on the Fryingpan-Arkansas project had been released and was being considered in the office of the Secretary of the Interior in Washington. The Secretary's report, for release to the affected States for their comments within a 90-day period, is expected soon. Chairman Kramer was instructed to request from the Secretary of the Interior a copy of the preliminary report on the Fryingpan-Arkansas project for the Administration files and for review, and also to request from the Secretary of the Interior a copy of the final report, when issued, for Administration review and comments.

It was agreed that although the States of Colorado and Kansas would prepare and submit individual state comments on the proposed Fryingpan-Arkansas project, it would be advisable for the Administration to submit its own finding and comment in relation to the operation and maintenance of John Martin reservoir, under the terms of the Compact, involving transmountain diversion water.

It was recognized that the two States will submit separate, independent reviews, but that a joint summary should be prepared by the Administration to reconcile the comments submitted by the two States, such reconciliation to serve as the official comment by the Administration.

Rep. Stone moved, seconded by Rep. Smrha, that a special Committee be appointed by the Chairman of the Administration, made up of representatives of Colorado and Kansas and the Chairman of the Administration as chairman thereof, to review preliminary studies and proposed comments prepared by the State of Colorado and Kansas, on the final report of the Bureau of Reclamation on the proposed Fryingpan-Arkansas project, to reconcile any differences or conflicts that may exist, with respect to Article IV D of the Compact, and to submit recommendations thereon to the Administration.

On vote the motion was carried unanimously.

Rep. Stone announced that Colorado comments would be prepared under the supervision of R. M. Gildersleeve, Chief Engineer of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, following a consultation with Colorado local interests in the Arkansas Valley.

The joint committee, to be appointed by the Chairman, was partially designated as follows: Chairman of the Committee, Brig. Gen. Hans Kramer; for Colorado--R. M. Gildersleeve and Harry C. Nevius; and for Kansas--probably George S. Knapp and another appointee to be designated by Kansas.

Rep. Stone reported that the Arkansas-White-Red Inter-Agency Committee had made request to Mr. Gildersleeve, Chief Engineer of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, asking for a copy of a plan of operation discussed several years ago for John Martin reservoir, which had been prepared by the Engineering Committee of the negotiating commission. Mr. Gildersleeve's reply, the Commission was informed, was that a copy of the rough draft of the early plan of operation for the reservoir was not available, and that even if the copy were available, it would not provide much helpful information inasmuch as provisions of that plan were not followed up in the drafting of the Compact.

The Administration decided that all future inquiries, from any source, regarding details of the work and discussion of the negotiating commission, should properly be directed to Chairman Kramer, who served as Chairman on the negotiating commission. The A-W-R Committee will be so notified by Rep. Stone's office.

Chairman Kramer announced that the next regular meeting of the Administration is scheduled for Tuesday, July 24, 1951, at Lamar. However, he reminded the Administration of the possibility of a water shortage in John Martin Reservoir earlier than the next regular meeting, and he advised that action be taken to authorize the calling of an emergency special meeting in Lamar -- if need should arise -- on approximately May 1, 1951. In approving the call for a special meeting, if needed, the Administration authorized the Secretary to fix the exact date of the meeting, either earlier or later than May 1, in the light of water shortage conditions existing in John Martin Reservoir.

The Administration adjourned at 3 P.M.

Harry C. Nevius, Secretary

Ray E. Peterson, Recorder

(These minutes were approved, as edited, by action of the Arkansas River Compact Administration on Tuesday, July 24, 1951).