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### Work Plan for the Missouri Basin States Association

David L. Pope

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WORK PLAN FOR THE MISSOURI BASIN STATES ASSOCIATION

David L. Pope  
Division of Water Resources  
Kansas State Board of Agriculture

BOUNDARIES AND WATER:  
ALLOCATION AND USE OF A SHARED RESOURCE

Natural Resources Law Center  
University of Colorado  
School of Law  
Boulder, Colorado

June 5-7, 1989

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Process

The Directors of the Missouri Basin States Association (MBSA) have developed and approved a work plan to guide the Association's efforts during 1989. The work plan was developed as the result of two planning retreats facilitated by the Northern Lights Institute of Missoula, Montana. The first planning retreat was held on August 25-26 and the second was held on November 28-29, 1988. Directors from eight of the states participated in the first retreat, and seven Directors participated in the second retreat.

The work plan was developed through the completion of an eight step process. First, the Directors discussed what they have learned from the history of MBSA and what lessons might be relevant for the future. Second, each of the Directors discussed his state's essential interest in the Missouri River Basin and in the basin-wide Association. Third, the Directors developed a draft mission statement for MBSA. Fourth, the Directors suggested activities that would further MBSA's mission and evaluated and prioritized those activities. Fifth, the Directors decided what activities would be undertaken during 1989 and the resources and commitments necessary to implement those activities.

The planning process emphasized consensus-building through each of these eight steps, and the final work plan was unanimously approved by all the Directors who participated in the exercise. Individual states or committees of states have been assigned responsibilities for implementation of the work plan. Those Directors who were unable to participate in the planning exercise will be contacted by the MBSA President to determine their interest in assisting in the implementation of the work plan.

MBSA's Mission for 1989

The Missouri Basin States Association's mission for 1989 provides for Association activities in the following areas: communications, water data management, education and awareness, political and policy awareness and activity, conflict management (including the anticipation and resolution of conflict), and integration--that is, finding substantive solutions that will provide benefits for all member states.

## Work Plan Components

The MBSA Directors have agreed to the following activities during 1989:

### 1. Directors' Meetings

During 1989, the MBSA Directors will hold three meetings. They will also begin an ongoing practice of rotating Directors' meetings, whenever possible, so that meetings can be held in each of the member states of the Association.

a. Spring 1989 meeting. MBSA will endeavor to sponsor a seminar or workshop on an issue of major importance in the basin. The Directors will hold their business meeting in conjunction with this seminar or workshop. Also, an effort will be made to schedule this seminar or workshop in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers' spring meeting on the annual reservoir operating plan.

In 1989, MBSA's spring meeting and workshop will be held on or around April 6, which is the tentative date set for the Corps' spring annual operating plan meeting. The State of Missouri will take the lead in sponsoring the seminar or workshop, with assistance and input from the other member states.

b. Summer 1989 meeting. The MBSA Directors will hold a second meeting during the summer of 1989. This meeting will be an informal planning and evaluation retreat, similar to the planning exercise undertaken in August and November of 1988. The summer meeting may be held in the Washington, D.C., area to allow the Directors to meet with federal executive and congressional officials either before or after the retreat.

c. Fall 1989 meeting. The third MBSA meeting during 1989 will be a regular fall business meeting, probably held in November or December at a location to be determined.

### 2. Policy and Political Discussions

The Directors have decided to devote a significant portion of each of their business meetings to a discussion of political and policy developments which concern the water-related resources of the Missouri River Basin. When appropriate, the Directors will also utilize this dedicated time to develop appropriate strategies and responses to these important political and policy developments.

### 3. Participation by Selected Federal Agencies

The Directors have agreed to invite key senior officials from selected federal agencies to participate in the Missouri Basin States Association in a non-voting, *ex-officio* capacity. The MBSA President will recommend to the Directors those officials and agencies who should be invited and the necessary bylaw changes required to allow such federal participation. Hopefully, the President will develop these recommendations by the spring 1989 meeting of the Directors.

### 4. Studies to be Undertaken

The Directors agreed to create committees to undertake detailed studies during 1989 in the following areas:

a. Communications and Outreach. A committee is to be formed to develop recommendations to the Directors on the means by which the Association can better communicate with its members, by which the Directors can better communicate among themselves, and by which the Association and its members can better communicate with important and interested constituencies in the Missouri River Basin and in Washington, D.C. The State of Nebraska will chair this committee, and Iowa and North Dakota will be the other committee members.

b. Water Data Needs and Resources. A committee is formed to make a preliminary investigation of the water data needs and resources of the Missouri River Basin. This study will include a preliminary examination of how incomplete or confusing data may result in conflict among governments of the basin, a preliminary survey of the data needs of the basin, a preliminary assessment of the data resources of the basin, and recommendations to the Directors and to other entities concerning the basin's water data needs, the basin's water data resources, and the need for subsequent studies. The committee will also examine the possibility of federal cost-sharing in implementing the water data recommendations of the committee. The State of South Dakota will chair this committee and the other members will be Kansas, Montana, and Missouri.

c. Conflict Management Proposal. A committee is formed to develop recommendations on how water-related conflicts among the governments of the Missouri River Basin can better be managed. The committee will examine the conflict management proposals considered by negotiators during the 1986 basin-wide negotiations, conflict management procedures used to manage water-related conflicts in other parts of the United States and the world, and conflict management proposals used in other areas of conflict (*e.g.*, labor relations). The State of North Dakota will chair this committee and the states of Iowa and Montana will serve as committee members.

d. Development of Local Political Support. North Dakota will undertake a study and will develop recommendations concerning the means by which the Association might encourage local awareness, understanding, and political support for MBSA and for informed decisionmaking concerning the water resources of the basin (the development of "local political infrastructure").

#### 5. Staffing

The sum of \$12,500 is appropriated to the MBSA President to arrange for temporary staffing for the Association. Temporary staffing alternatives might include the purchase of state employees' time to provide assistance to MBSA or contracting for independent services. The President will investigate more permanent staffing possibilities and will make recommendations to the Directors during 1989.

#### 6. Continued Planning and Goals Setting

The Directors desire to undertake a planning activity and to promulgate a work plan for each subsequent year. This process insures that the activities of the Association are fully supported by each of the member states, that the resources of the Association are carefully spent in support of the priorities developed by the Association, and the activities of the Association are designed to meet the long-term objectives of its members.

For additional information, please contact:

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