

RESERVED WATER RIGHTS COMPACT COMMISSION
HENRY LOBLE, CHAIRMAN
P. O. BOX 176
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

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MONT. DEPT. of NATURAL
RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

February 5, 1980

Dear Members of the Commission:

I was hoping to have a meeting in February but as of the present time it does not appear that we have enough business to transact to justify such a meeting. The Department of Administration has approved the hiring of a program manager but the DNRC has not as yet advertised for applicants. As soon as they do, and have applications on hand, I would think a meeting would be justified to consider these applications.

In the meantime, the situation appears to be as follows, as far as the respective Montana Indian tribes are concerned:

1. Flathead Tribe: It is my understanding that the information which Rich Moy planned to exchange with Tony Rogers, the Flathead Tribe attorney, has either been exchanged already or will be shortly. As you know, the Flathead Tribe has designated, by resolution, their authorized representatives for negotiation with our Commission. We will try to arrange for that negotiation to commence as soon as convenient for all parties.
2. Crow Tribe: As you know, I visited with Dan Old Elk, the Chairman of the Water Committee of the Crow Tribe. I also understood from Tony Rogers who is also attorney for the Crow Tribe, that the Crows would designate an authorized representative but we have heard nothing on that, and I have, as you know, written Mr. Rogers concerning such designation.
3. Fort Belknap: I have been orally informed by Jack Plumage, the Chairman, that this tribe will negotiate, but we have not received the names of their authorized representative or representatives, and, as you know, I wrote requesting that designation and they replied that they would write me further at a later time.
4. Blackfeet Tribe: I have heard nothing further from them, and, after re-reading Chairman Boggs' letter to us which was delivered by him at our last meeting, I am not too optimistic.
5. Rocky Boy Tribe: Vonda Brewster of Merle Lucas' office has been in contact with the Rocky Boy Tribe but we have never heard anything from them. Her last conversation with the Chairman was to the

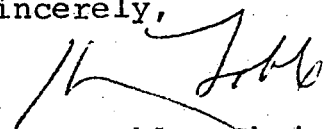
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effect that he would get in touch with me but this has never happened. I talked to Merle Lucas and he is going to re-contact these people.

6. Northern Cheyenne: The situation with this tribe is similar to that of the Rocky Boy. They have been contacted, they have said they will write me, but they haven't done so. Merle Lucas said he would re-contact them.

If you have any questions or inquiries of any kind, please do not hesitate to write or call.

Sincerely,



Henry Loble, Chairman
Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission

HL:bb

cc: Commission Members
Allen Chronister
Gary Fritz
Rich Moy
Joe Roberts