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***Dick Seybolt Appointed to
Arkansas River Compact Commission***

Richard (Dick) Seybolt, of Grand Lake, Oklahoma, has been appointed by President George W. Bush as federal Commissioner to the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission. The appointment was officially conferred on March 13. Seybolt replaces Emon Mahony of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The Arkansas River Compact Commission is an official administrative body charged with overseeing water resources of the Arkansas River basin in both Arkansas and Oklahoma. Congress ratified the Compact between the two states in 1971. The Commission administers the agreement, which serves to protect the Arkansas River and its tributaries in eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas. Each state has three members who meet regularly to address interstate water problems. Arkansas and Oklahoma have a separate but similar agreement, also involving Texas and Louisiana, involving the waters of the Red River.

Seybolt, who owns a bus manufacturing company in southeastern Kansas, recently served as a member of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for more than 14 years under Governors Henry Bellmon, David Walters, and Frank Keating. "I am extremely honored by this appointment from President Bush, especially considering the numerous vital water issues currently facing the Commission," said Seybolt, who lives on Grand Lake's Monkey Island.

Foremost among his immediate duties, Seybolt will assist in the resolution of the ongoing controversy involving excess nutrients in the Illinois River, a state-protected Scenic River in Oklahoma. State officials in Oklahoma claim that excess levels of phosphorus and other nutrients, which promote excess algae growth and limit oxygen in the water, is primarily a consequence of waste from poultry operations in Arkansas. In response to this growing pollution problem, Oklahoma adopted the state's first-ever water quality standard for phosphorus in Scenic Rivers and their tributaries. The Compact Commission has served as a constructive bipartisan body through which officials from both states have convened to consider potential phosphorus reduction measures that do not unnecessarily impact the extremely valuable poultry industry in northwest Arkansas and northeast Oklahoma.

As a member of the OWRB, Seybolt worked to resolve numerous water-related problems in Oklahoma. He served on the Tar Creek Task Force, charged with identifying remedial measures to clean up one of the nation's largest and most deleterious Superfund sites. As a local civic leader, Seybolt helped organize and establish a centralized sanitary sewer system for many Grand Lake residents in response to recent widespread growth in the area.

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