Adjudication – Simply stated this means “a court decision”. Applied to water law it is the judicial procedure that settles claims and qauntifies rights and priorities.

Annual flood – The highest peak discharge of a stream in a water year.

Approach Velocity – Required velocity of water just upstream of measuring device to ensure proper conditions for accurate measurement.

Appropriated water – Water from a stream, reservoir, or other source reserved for a specific use under state water-right laws.

Aquifer – Rock or sediment which is saturated and sufficiently permeable to transmit economic quantities to wells and springs.

Average annual runoff (yield) – The average of water-year runoff for a total period of record; measured in volume.

Bank storage – The water that infiltrates the banks of a stream channel during high flows or floods, is stored there, and is released to the stream after the high water recedes.

Basin – A physiographic region bounded by a drainage divide; consists of a drainage system comprised of streams and often natural or manmade lakes. (Also called drainage basin or watershed.)

Beneficial use – The use of water for the benefit of the appropriator, other persons, or the public, including but not limited to agricultural (including stock water), domestic, fish and wildlife, industrial, irrigation, mining, municipal, power, and recreational uses. A beneficial use also includes the use of water for leasing under special provisions of Montana Codes Annotated 85-2-141.

Bond – A sum of money filed by a water commissioner with the clerk of