

SPECIAL REPORT DECEMBER 4, 2001:

The January 8, 2002 Water Forum special presentation topic will be the Bridging The Headgate program / partnership. If you would like to research this program I would suggest using the Internet and looking on the Bureau of Reclamation or the National Association of Conservation Districts' homepages. This should be a very informative presentation, please plan on attending.

SPECIAL REPORT

Bobbie Frank, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), battled through technical difficulties and a cold to bring the Water Forum up to date with some of the WACD's current affairs. In front of one of our better-attended meetings Ms. Frank discussed water quality monitoring, watershed planning, the Animal Feeding Operations / Controlled Animal Feeding Operations (AFO / CAFO) programs and budget proposals.

Ms. Frank handed out a news paper insert dated August 2000, titled "Progress in Protection of Wyoming's Water." This insert described the goal and objective of Wyoming's Conservation Districts Water Quality Monitoring Program along with the training programs (five phase training program), equipment, public education and funding of the Program. This topic segued the watershed planning efforts of the WACD and the many local conservation districts. A map depicting the Conservation Districts that are actively working on plans along with the counties expected to begin planning was presented. Watershed planning has allowed Wyoming the opportunity to clean up any imperfections within our own watersheds. The conservation districts do much of the work such as the collection of, and interpretation of, data within specific water sheds. Apparently there are many successes including the expected de-listing of Muddy Creek due to the efforts of the Little Snake Conservation District. AFO / CAFO regulations have helped spawn the watershed planning undertakings of the conservation districts. The WACD has toured the state targeting people affected by AFO / CAFO regulations to help educate and provide information about AFO / CAFO. The WACD held 30 workshops, some including demonstration tours, drawing many attendees (1000+). The WACD intends to continue the workshops as regulations evolve to keep the public educated and involved. The WACD website is: www.conservewy.com

SEO REPORT

Chace Tavelli reported the following Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meetings:

Monday, December 10th, 6 p.m. – Snake / Salt BAG Meeting

Location: Town Hall, Alpine, WY.

Topics:

USGS Data Collection (Brooks)

WY G&F Fisheries Mgmt in the Snake-Salt (Gipson)

WY Current Drought Status (Curtis)

Tuesday, December 11th, 3 p.m. – Wind / Bighorn BAG Meeting
Location: Holiday Inn, Thermopolis, WY.

Topics:

Groundwater Hydrology (BRS)
Socio-Economic Issues (BRS)
Hot Springs/Worland Regional Water Supply System (WWDC/BRS)
USGS Data Collection (Brooks)
WY Current Drought Status (Curtis)

Wednesday, December 12th, 6 p.m. – Powder / Tongue BAG Meeting
Location: CTEL Presentation Hall, Sheridan College, Sheridan, WY.

Topics:

PT Planning Process - (HKM)
 Water Quality Issues
 Legal & Institutional Constraints
 Future Water Use Opportunities
WY Current Drought Status (Curtis)

Thursday, December 13th, 1 p.m. - Northeast BAG Meeting
Location: Moorcroft Community Center, Moorcroft, WY.

Topics:

NE Planning Process - (HKM)
 Water Quality Issues
 Legal & Institutional Constraints
 Future Water Use Opportunities
WY Current Drought Status (Curtis)

He noted that the Powder / Tongue and Northeast River Basin Plans will be finished in December of this year and the final presentations will be given in January.

Tavelli also reported the Association of State Dam Safety Officials' call for abstracts. The abstracts will be considered for presentation at the ASDO 18th Annual Conference. The abstracts must be received by February 15, 2002. The Conference will be held September 8-11 at the Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa Florida. All those interested can obtain information at the www.damsafety.org

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.