

November 19, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the State Water Forum
FROM: Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman
SUBJECT: Minutes of the November 6, 2001 Meeting

Attached for your review and information is a copy of the November 6, 2001 Water Forum meeting minutes.

Please take a few moments and pencil into your calendar the Water Forum dates for this fall. **The next meeting will be December 4, 2001 in the State Engineer's Conference Room, Herschler Building, 4 East at 10:00 a.m.** The following table shows a tentative list of the scheduled Water Forum meetings for this year. If you know of a topic or presenter that would be of interest to the group, please let us know and we will get them scheduled if we have an opening.

WATER FORUM SCHEDULE
FOR 2001 - 2002
1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
December 4th	Bobbie Frank	WACD work and issues
January 8th	Ken Randolph et. al.	Bridging the Headgate
February 5th	Mickey Steward	CBM Coordinator issues
March 5th	WRDS Coordinator	WRDS present, future and introduction to new Coordinator
April 2nd	John Lawson	Water forecast
May 7th	Round Table	Water Planning Round Table

SPECIAL REPORT

Bobbie Frank, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), will be our invited speaker for the December 4, 2001, Water Forum Meeting. Ms. Frank will have the floor to discuss work and/or issues involving the WACD. Please plan on attending.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2001

Chace Tavelli called the two hundred and eighteenth meeting of the State Water Forum to order at 10:00 a.m. The following were in attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Jan Curtis	WRDS	jcurtis@uwyo.edu
Matt Bilodeau	Corps of Engineers	matthew.a.bilodeau@nwo02.usace.army.mil
John Lawson	USBR-Mills	jlawson@gp.usbr.gov
Steve Roseberry	DEQ	sroseb@state.wy.us
Grant Stumbough	WDA	gstumb@state.wy.us
Pepper Herman	Wyo. Assn. Of Rural Water Syst.	wyogw@yahoo.com
Lyle Myler	USBR	lmyler@gp.usbr.gov
Tom Quinn	USGS	tlquinn@usgs.gov
Steve Wolff	WGF	steve.wolff@wgf.state.wy.us
David Taylor	NRCS	david.taylor@wy.usda.gov
Bob Moody	WGF	bmoody@state.wy.us
Chace Tavelli	State Engineer's Office	ctavel@state.wy.us

AGENCY REPORTS

In order to assure accurate reporting in the minutes, forms are passed out to be completed by the representative of each agency at the meeting. These minutes consist of a compilation of the written reports received. Please complete a form either at the Forum meeting or return within a couple of days to Laura Watson, State Engineer's Office. This will increase the efficiency and accuracy of completing the minutes for the Water Forum. Reports can also be sent via E-mail to: lwatso@state.wy.us. For more information on the following reports, please contact the agency representative listed above.

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Chace Tavelli mentioned the Bear River Basin Plan was going through its final review and should be a completed product very soon. He also mentioned the upcoming Interim / Regular Basin Advisory Group meetings:

Green IBAG	11/09/2001 Marbleton
Snake/Salt	12/10/2001 Alpine
Wind/Bighorn	12/11/2001 Thermopolis
Powder/Tongue	12/12/2001 Sheridan
Northeast	12/13/2001 Moorecroft

Mr. Tavelli also noted that the Powder/Tongue and Northeast River Basin Plans would be complete at the end of this year.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

Lawson submitted the following:

The following is a listing of reservoir conditions on October 31, 2001:

1. Water Supply Conditions of the North Platte River Basin

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>%/Avg</u>
Seminoe	6330.14	577,086	57	80
Pathfinder	5816.19	453,331	45	76
Alcova	5488.46	157,080	85	101
Glendo	4595.22	172,766	33	101
Guernsey	4395.73	5,876	13	144

October 31, 2000 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6344.73	791,086	716,900
Pathfinder	5830.73	649,872	593,900
Alcova	5488.20	156,493	155,200
Glendo	4592.19	155,738	171,500
Guernsey	4400.44	4,185	4,100

October Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflow (KAF)</u>	<u>% of Average</u>
Seminoe	11.6	38
Pathfinder (Sweetwater R.)	5.6	90
Alcova to Glendo Gain	12.3	79
Glendo to Guernsey Gain	2.2	79

Kendrick ownership was 988,072 acre feet (AF) on October 31, 2001, and approximately 110% of average (898,400 AF), which compares to the ownership of 1,128,260 AF last year at this date. The October 31, 2001, North Platte ownership was 213,134 AF, which was approximately 43% of average (499,500 AF). This compares to the 460,897 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 146,802 AF on October 31, 2001, which was approximately 105% of average (139,300 AF). This compares to the 148,199 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortez Dam are averaging approximately 800 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 600 cfs.

Alcova Reservoir was drawn down to the winter level of 5488 ft by reducing releases from Fremont Canyon Powerplant and continuing releases from Alcova Reservoir. The drawdown of the reservoir was done in conjunction with a series of releases from Gray Reef Dam of 4000 cfs for five hours each day to provide flushing flows in the North Platte River below Gray Reef Dam beginning on October 2 and finished October 9 through October 12. Water released in the drawdown of Alcova will be restored downstream in Glendo Reservoir.

The Wyoming Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation has scheduled the North Platte Water Operations-Public Information Meeting in Torrington, Wyoming at 10:00 a.m., on November 8, 2001, in the Brand Room of the Rendezvous Center at the Goshen County Fairgrounds. A presentation will be made on the operations of the North Platte River Reservoirs for Water Year 2001 and scenarios of operations for Water Year 2002.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

October 31, 2001 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>%/Avg</u>
Bull Lake	5755.42	28,053	18	33
Boysen	4693.56	299,524	40	49
Buffalo Bill	5336.33	261,283	40	62
Pilot Butte	5437.76	16,447	49	75

October 31, 2000 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5772.10	62,392	85,100
Boysen	4712.58	529,388	606,600
Buffalo Bill	5358.58	390,328	424,300*
Pilot Butte	5454.76	29,148	21,800

* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2000. In 1992, the capacity of the reservoir was increased to approximately 646,565 AF as a result of raising the dam. A long-term average cannot be calculated until several years of operation occur under the increased storage.

October Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflow (KAF)</u>	<u>% of Average</u>
Bull Lake	2.8	52
Boysen	19.3	29
Buffalo Bill	13.5	53

Reservoir releases from Boysen are averaging 400 cfs and are expected to remain at 400 cfs for the winter. The winter release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir is approximately 100 cfs, which with addition of flow from the springs results in a flow of 170 cfs at the Cody river gage.

3. Platte River Cooperative Agreement

Water Management Committee (WMC), Chaired by John Lawson, met on September 12, 2001, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The WMC has completed the review of a flow chart that lays out a process for those projects which clearly fit within the scope of a State's new depletion plan to move forward and for the permitting federal agency, applicant, and States to know that the project's depletive effects to the central Platte are addressed by the respective State's new depletion plan.

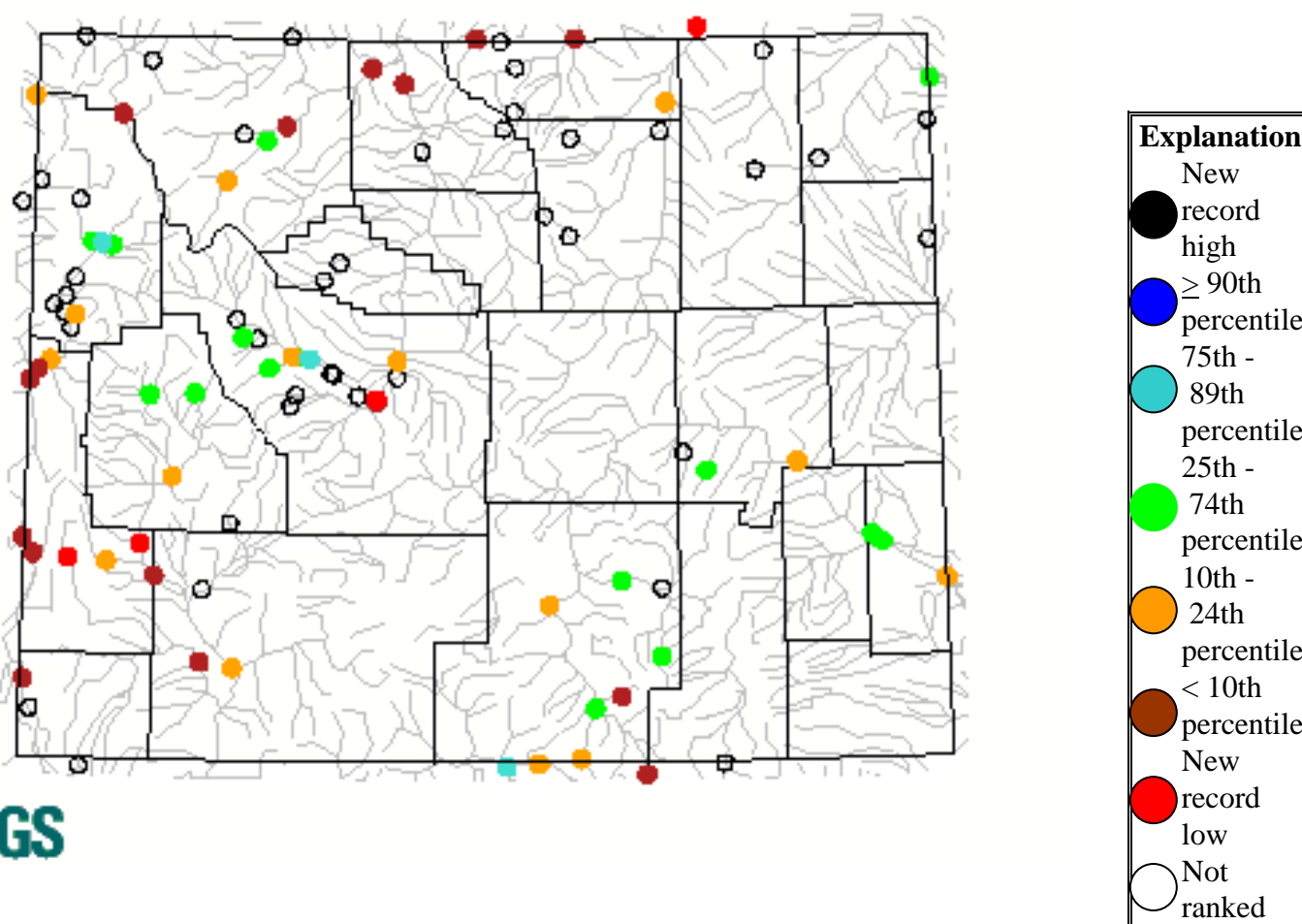
The WMC will be discussing proposed daily operating criteria for the Tamarack Project (Phase I) at its next meeting, which will be Tuesday, December 11, 2001. The meeting will be held at the Gering Civic Center, 1050 M Street, Gering, Nebraska, from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

USGS report to November Water Forum

Statewide streamflow conditions are shown on the following map which illustrates average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the week of the year for real-time gaging stations with 30 or more years of daily streamflow record.

Tue., Nov. 13, 2001 14:20GMT



Map of 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the week of the year (Wyoming)

Curtis submitted the following:

- 1) October Statistics:
 409 requests so far this year.
 October 31, 2000 – 393 requests
 Total 2000 – 451 requests
 Increase of 3.5% from last year.
- 2) WRDS server received 99128 hits, 19.2% WRDS, 2.0% NWS, 6.6% NRCS, 12.2% SEO, WSGS 1.6%, 41.1% WWDC, 1.9% WSC, 3.5% BORPE, 0.7% RMFRES, 3.5% DEQ, 7.7% WYDOT. WSC = Wyoming State Climatologist
- 3) New Drought study available at:
http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/wy_drought/wy_drought.html
- 4) Great Drought current monitoring website:
<http://enso.unl.edu/monitor/current.html>
- 5) Winter Forecast website:
http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/wsc.monthsum/2001Oct_summary.html
- 6) State Climatologist tasked to revise State's Drought Plan to incorporate triggers (e.g., advisories, watches, warnings, declarations, etc.). This major undertaking will be presented at the next Drought Task Force meeting on 19 March 2002.
- 7) WRDS relocation into 2nd floor Wyo Hall at UW finally completed! Phone numbers remain the same. WRDS library now at about 80% capacity and could accommodate much of the State Engineer's Library holdings if necessary.
- 8) State Climatologist will accompany WWDC BAG on 11-14 December 4-city tours.

NRCS

Taylor reported the following:

1. Construction Projects. Phase 2 of the West Greeley portion of the Allison Draw watershed project has been completed. This phase completes the area between West College Drive and South Greeley Highway. The channel is now complete from West College Drive to an area downstream from Laramie County Community College. We are currently beginning the design phase of the final portion of this project – the area through Orchard Valley. The watershed project has been under construction for about 5 years.
2. Drought. NRCS has been actively participating in drought planning activities around the State. Currently NRCS is gearing up to provide technical help in restoring stock water storage capacity for some of the smaller reservoirs as a part of a Farm Service Agency ECP.
3. Snow. Snow conditions around the State are not super. There is some snow at the higher elevations. Soil profile around the State is generally very dry. It will take an above normal snowpack to get a normal runoff.

4. Hydrologic Boundary. The final portion of the State has received a 1:100,000 review – which was the Southeast corner of the State. Also a final review at the 1:24,000 scale was completed on November 8. Only a small area along the Idaho-Wyoming border remains to be reviewed at the 1:24,000 scale. It is hoped that the product will be completed by the end of January.

SPECIAL REPORT

Grant Stumbough discussed the Wyoming Governor's Drought Management Task Force. Grant pointed out, among other current situations throughout Wyoming, 83% of Wyoming is experiencing below normal precipitation and twelve counties have received a disaster designation. The current dry conditions in Wyoming, pointed out by Mr. Stumbough, segued to the purpose, principles, and subcommittees defining the Drought Management Task Force.

The Co-Chairmen are Ron Micheli, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and Tom Ostermann, State Forester. The Co-Chairs and six subcommittees constitute the structure of the Task Force. Together they work to minimize the effects of drought on people and resources by defining drought, identifying entities and their roles, identifying long and short-term drought mitigation, and providing information. The plan is a dynamic document and stresses the importance of information dissemination. The hiring of a State Climatologist, Jan Curtis, is expected to help with the development and proper interpretation of information.

Mr. Stumbough offered some of his conclusions based on the work that has been done by the Task Force such as the need for more drought relief programs, more water development, and the importance of producers being proactive. The need for more water development was discussed following the presentation. It was noted that there is a need for responsible decision-making, considering all interests when developing water.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.