

November 18, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the State Water Forum
FROM: Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman
SUBJECT: Minutes of the November 5, 2002 Meeting

Attached for your review and information is a copy of the November 5, 2002 Water Forum meeting minutes.

The next meeting will be December 3, 2002 in the State Engineer's Conference Room, Herschler Building, 4 East at 10:00 a.m. The following table shows a list of the scheduled Water Forum meetings. The following table shows a tentative list of the scheduled Water Forum meetings for this fall. 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.

2002-2003 WATER FORUM SCHEDULE
1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
December 3rd	Wyoming Water Development Commission – Ron Vore	Small Water Projects/Bridging the Headgate Update
January 7th	Little Snake River Conservation District – Larry Hicks	LSRCD Projects
February 4th	WWDC, SEO, et. al.	Water Planning Round Table
March 4th	United States Geological Survey – Myron Brooks	USGS update
April 1st	United States Bureau of Reclamation – John Lawson	USBR update
May 6th	Greg Wilkerson-University of Wyoming	Modeling CBM Surface Water Impacts Using Erosion Potential Modeler

SPECIAL REPORT

Ron Vore, Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC), is scheduled to provide the Water Forum with a look at the WWDC's small water project work. Ron will also give a brief update about Bridging the Headgate.

Additional agencies should be making the effort to be represented at the Water Forum meetings. There are regular attendees who travel and take time out of their days to come to Water Forum and continually are met with lack of attendance by other agencies. The State Water Forum was initiated by the Governor, who recognized the importance for all agencies with water-related functions to coordinate with one another on a routine basis so as to avoid duplication of efforts and share ideas and related information when agencies are conducting similar works. Please make all reasonable efforts to have your agency represented at each meeting.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2002

John Shields called the two hundred and twenty fifth 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>
Bill Bailey	WY Dept. of Transportation	wbaile@state.wy.us
Tony Bergantino	Water Resources Data System	tony@wrds.uwyo.edu
Jan Curtis	Water Resources Data System	jcurtis@uwyo.edu
Robin Gray	Water Resources Data System	grayr@uwyo.edu
Pepper Herman	WY Assoc. of Rural Water Districts	wyogw@yahoo.com
Mike Jennings	WY Assoc. of Rural Water Districts	mjennings@coffey.com
Lyle Myler	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	lmyler@gp.usbr.gov
John Shields	State Engineer's Office	jshiel@state.wy.us
Dave Taylor	Natural Res. Conservation Service	dtaylor@wy.nrcs.usda.gov

Several minor changes to the minutes of the October 1, 2002 meeting were made. The date at the top of page 1 was changed to "October 1, 2002" and on page 2, in the first line of the first full paragraph, the bill number; "H.R. 509" was corrected to "H.R. 5099." The minutes were approved as corrected.

AGENCY REPORTS

In order to assure accurate reporting in the minutes, forms are made available to be completed by the agency representatives 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

Tavelli reported the work being done on researching the needs for a digital diversions database. This would make diversion reports from the SEO field offices available digitally. He discussed with Bergantino the initial work that was done by WRDS on the topic.

Shields reported on several upcoming meetings that will involve the State Engineer and his Interstate Streams staff. The Bear River Commission will be meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah on November 18th. The Yellowstone River Compact Commission will hold its annual meeting on December 3rd in Cody. The Colorado River Water Users Association will be holding its annual meeting in Las Vegas on December 16-17th, and several interstate meetings held in conjunction

with that conference, including a seven-Basin meeting with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner John Keys III.

He noted that the seven-state Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum had met on October 29th and 30th in San Diego, CA. The Forum's Policy Committee recommended and the Forum adopted, amendments to the *Policy of Implementation of Colorado River Salinity Standards Through the NPDES Permit Program* adopted by the Forum on February 28, 1977. The policy was amended to address three additional types of industrial discharges to Colorado River system waters: water that has been used for once-through noncontact cooling water purposes; new industrial sources that have operations and associated discharges at multiple location; and "fresh water industrial discharges" where the discharged water does not cause or contribute to exceedances of the salinity standards for the Colorado River System. This policy was also amended to encourage new industrial sources to conduct or finance one or more salinity-offset projects in cases where the permittee has demonstrated that it is not practicable to prevent the discharge of all salt from the proposed construction or activity. The Forum's Policy Committee discussed at considerable length the merits of engaging in selenium loading reduction efforts; heretofore the Forum has concerned itself with reduction of total dissolved solids loading as opposed to particular water constituents. The Policy Committee will be broadened to include representation by water quality and water quantity personnel from all seven of the member States and will be continuing its deliberations with regard to selenium loading reduction efforts, Shields noted.

Shields commented on the efforts being made to legislatively extend the capital construction authorization dates for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and its sister program for the San Juan River Basin. At this juncture, the federal legislation, sponsored by Resources Committee Chairman Jim Hansen of Utah, is in the drafts of the omnibus resources bill being considered for adoption in both the House of Representatives and Senate. It remains to be seen whether the omnibus bill can be enacted during the upcoming "lame duck" Congressional session.

The Imperial Irrigation District, San Diego County Water Authority, Coachella Valley Water District and the Metropolitan Water District reached agreement on October 16th on revisions to the October 1999 Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). The so-called "Summary Term Sheet – Principal QSA Revisions" reflects changes in the amount of fallowing that will occur on Imperial Irrigation District lands, the length of time over which fallowing will occur, hence the amount of water that will be received by the SDCWA and CVWD by virtue of the fallowing and additional conservation measures to be installed on the IID and the amount of compensation that IID will receive. The District, under this agreement, will receive \$258 per acre-foot of water transferred to SDCWA. The water transfers to occur under the QSA would have impacts to the Salton Sea and further increase its salinity, as the amount of return flows that would drain into the sea would be reduced considerably by the proposed additional water conservation and land fallowing arrangements.

These revisions to the QSA should allow a favorable biological opinion for the proposed water transfers to be issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the federal Endangered Species

Act and by the California State Water Resources Control Board under the California state environmental statutes relative to mitigation of the impacts of the water transfer on the Salton Sea. Imperial Irrigation District had become quite concerned and vocal in stating that it should not have to bear all of the impacts for mitigating impacts on the Salton Sea while all the benefits of the water transfers were benefiting others elsewhere in California. It appears that these revisions to the QSA have struck a balance that will enable the California parties to complete the required actions in order that the Implementation Agreement for the QSA can be signed by December 31, 2002. That deadline is critical under the Interim Surplus Guidelines (ISG) regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior in December 2001; failing to meet the end of 2002 deadline would result in the Secretary of the Interior suspending the ISG's provisions and California would immediately have the amount of water it could use in 2003 being limited to its basic entitlement of 4.4 million acre-feet per year.

Shields noted the Wyoming Water Association has set its Winter Board Meeting date for January 15, 2003. The meeting will take place in the State Engineer's Conference Room, and will be followed by a Legislative Review Session. The Summer 2003 meeting was set for July 10, with the board meeting to be held in the Platte House, a facility on the grounds of the Dave Johnston Power Plant near Glenrock. A tour of the Dave Johnston Power Plant near Glenrock will be hosted by PacifiCorp on July 11th.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

Lyle Myler was in Lawson submitted the following:

The following is a listing of reservoir conditions on October 31, 2002:

1. Water Supply Conditions of the North Plate River Basin

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>%/Avg</u>
Seminole	6299.43	272,775	27	39
Pathfinder	5801.51	309,707	30	53
Alcova	5489.04	158,393	86	102
Glendo	4591.12	150,038	29	88
Guernsey	4393.18	4,230	9	101

October 31, 2001 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6330.14	577,086	707,900
Pathfinder	5816.19	453,331	581,600
Alcova	5488.46	157,080	155,400
Glendo	4595.22	172,766	170,400
Guernsey	4395.73	5,876	4,200

October Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflow (KAF)</u>	<u>% of Average</u>
Seminole	8.9	30
Pathfinder (Sweetwater R.)	6.4	103
Alcova to Glendo Gain	4.1	27
Glendo to Guernsey Gain	1.8	64

Kendrick ownership was 771,086 acre feet (AF) on October 31, 2002, and approximately 78% of average (984,300 AF), which compares to the ownership of 988,072 AF last year at this date. The October 31, 2002, North Platte ownership was 28,343 AF, which was approximately 6% of average (482,800 AF). This compares to the 213,134 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The North Platte ownership was the lowest October ownership of record back to water year 1951. The Glendo ownership was 88,818 AF on October 31, 2002, which was approximately 64% of average (138,700 AF). This compares to the 146,802 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortez Dam are approximately 530 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 450 cfs to help facilitate construction by BP Amoco in Casper, Wyoming. The level of Alcova Reservoir was lowered to the normal winter operating range of 5488 ± one foot.

North Platte River Water Operations-Public Information Meeting was held October 29, 2002, in Torrington, Wyoming. The meeting was well attended. The North Platte Decree Committee meeting was held in the afternoon of October 29.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

October 31, 2002 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>%/Avg</u>
Bull Lake	5763.24	43,169	28	53
Boysen	4688.89	254,226*	43	43
Buffalo Bill	5352.25	350,721	54	82
Pilot Butte	5441.25	18,771	56	85

*Storage in Boysen Reservoir was the lowest of record (1953-2001) for the end of October.

October 31, 2001 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5754.78	26,878	81,100
Boysen	4693.56	299,524	591,000

Buffalo Bill	5336.33	261,283	408,000**
Pilot Butte	5455.42	28,053	22,100

** The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2002. 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	4.0		75
Boysen	34.0	52	
Buffalo Bill	15.6		64

The release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir is approximately 100 cfs, which with addition of flow from the springs results in a flow of approximately 180 cfs at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is approximately 300 cfs and will be maintained at this release for the winter.

SPECIAL REPORT

Mr. Jan Curtis, Wyoming State Climatologist, brought three of his staff to the meeting to discuss some of their individual efforts that help keep WRDS running. Barbara Muller, WRDS Librarian, spoke about the vast amount of information, documents, data, books, and periodicals housed/supported by the library. She explained how the aforementioned are collected and how they can be accessed via the website (<http://library.wrds.uwyo.edu>). Following Barbara, Jan talked about the updating of the Wyoming Climate Atlas that he is working on. He described some of the available products that will be found in the revised Atlas. Approximately 1000 copies will be printed and sold on a cost basis. WRDS will try to make the Atlas available on line. Robin Gray gave an update on the Wyoming Water Planning web site. Robin is very busy keeping up with the extraordinary amount of data produced by the Water Planning process; She is the person responsible for making all of the data available via the Internet. Tony Bergantino, Senior Programmer Analyst, talked about some of the cooperative projects with the Wyoming Geologic Services which can be accessed through the “online data” of the WRDS web site (<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu>). Tony then showed an impressive 3D interactive images display of landslides and landscapes in the Snake River Canyon area. He demonstrated the ability of “walking or flying through” the landscape in a real-time 3D environment pointing out landslide areas. Very much like flying through the area in an airplane. This is available in the “online data” as well.

Unfortunately the attendance was once again very poor. This is very unfortunate for the people who prepare/travel to speak or just to sit in on the meeting. Those of you who did not attend missed a very informative and exciting special presentation.

Curtis also submitted the following report:

During November, I will accompany the Basin Advisory Group (BAG) team to Evanston and Green River and participate in the Public Water Supply Symposium in Rawlins (18-20).

I have been invited by the Palm Beach Women's Association (at their expense) to give a presentation on climate change (9-13th). On the 14th, I give a luncheon talk to Don Broz's Rotary in Laramie. Finally, in Cheyenne on the 25th, the next Governor's Drought Task Force meeting will take place. We hope to brief the new Governor-Elect on the severity of our drought. I will return to Cheyenne on the 26th to defend the funding of my 2nd year Wyoming Climate Atlas to the Select Committee (Project 4: Wyoming Water Research Program).

For the month of October and yesteryears, the "hits" on the Water Resources Data System (WRDS) website have been the following:

Year	Month	Month Total	Year Total
2001	Jan	40	40
2001	Feb	52	92
2001	Mar	55	147
2001	Apr	48	195
2001	May	38	233
2001	Jun	31	264
2001	Jul	32	296
2001	Aug	30	326
2001	Sep	26	352
2001	Oct	39	391
2001	Nov	41	432
2001	Dec	31	463
2002	Jan	49	49
2002	Feb	39	88
2002	Mar	45	133
2002	Apr	50	183
2002	May	52	235 Doing much better in 2002
2002	Jun	46	281
2002	Jul	39	320
2002	Aug	42	362
2002	Sep	53	413
2002	Oct	50	463

Server Statistics (Traffic Volume) for October 2002

Entity	Hits	Avg	AvgM	%	Bytes	Avg	AvgM	%	
WRDS	19466	627.9	627.9	16.1	347865389	11221464	11221464	13.4	
NWS	7494	241.7	241.7		6.2	21177077	683131	683131	0.8

LIB	8271	266.8	266.8	6.8	257211986	8297160	8297160	9.9
NRCS	10332	333.3	333.3	8.5	104019293	3355461	3355461	4.0
SEO	16500	532.3	532.2	13.7	347244041	11201420	11201420	13.4
WSGS	5189	167.4	167.4	4.3	59930389	1933238	1933238	2.3
WWDC	43675	1408.9	1408.9	36.1	1404460699	45305183	45305183	54.1
WSC	7971	257.1	257.1	6.6	183313488	5913338	5913338	7.1
BORPE	5492	177.2	177.2	4.5	41233180	1330102	1330102	1.6
RMFRES	2801	90.4	90.4	2.3	5629833	181607	181607	0.2
DEQ	1426	46.0	46.0	1.2	29914924	964997	964997	1.2
WYDOT	466	15.0	15.0	0.4	4823768	155605	155605	0.2
Total	120851	3898.4	3898.4	100.0	2596731324	83765527	83765527	100.0

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.