

December 19, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the State Water Forum

FROM: Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman

SUBJECT: Attached for your review and information is a copy of the December 2, 2003 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 January 6th in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.**

WATER FORUM SCHEDULE
2003-2004
1st TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
Jan. 6th	Jerry Pierce – BLM-Kemmerer	Cumberland Allotment
Feb. 3rd	Round Table - All	Water Planning
March 2nd	Steve Jackson - UW	Tree Ring Study
April 6th	John Lawson - Bureau of Reclamation	Water Forecast
May 4th	Marge Bedessem - UW	Field evaluation of the fate of wastewater components from septic systems

SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be Jan. 6, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. Our special guest will be Jerry Pierce with the Bureau of Land Management in Kemmerer. He will be speaking to us about the Cumberland Allotment.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2003

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and thirty-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	WYDOT	wbaile@state.wy.us
Jim Cochran	Laramie Co. Conservation Dist.	info@lccdnet.org
Mark Conrad	DEQ/WQD	mconra@state.wy.us
Debra Cook	WRDS	decook@uwyo.edu
Jan Curtis	WRDS/ State Climatologist	jcurtis@uwyo.edu
John Harju	SEO	jharju@state.wy.us
Lisa Lindemann	SEO	llinde@state.wy.us
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@state.wy.us
Bill Luckett	Casper Star-Tribune	luckett@trib.com
Jeremy Lyon	DEQ	jlyon@state.wy.us
Erika Olson	AG	eolson@state.wy.us
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@state.wy.us
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@state.wy.us
Dale Strickland	West, Inc.	dstrickland@west-inc.com
Phil Stump	SEO	pstump@state.wy.us
Ed Wallace	WOHS/EMA (WEMA)	ewalla@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 Jodee Pring, 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: jpring@state.wy.us. For more information on the following reports, please contact the agency representative listed above.

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Sue Lowry introduced Lisa Lindemann, who is the new administrator of the ground water division in the State Engineer's Office. Ms. Lindemann was previously with the Wyoming Business Council and brings a vast array of experience and knowledge to our staff. We would like to welcome Lisa to Water Forum and look forward to working with her.

Sue Lowry reported the following:

Two new people have been appointed to the Bear River Commission. They are Sam Lowham and Gordon Thornock. Erick Esterholdt has been appointed as the alternate.

The first Belle Fourche River compact meeting was held November 20, 2003 in Sundance. Representatives from South Dakota, Wyoming, the USGS and the Bureau of Reclamation attended. The group reviewed basin operations for water year 2003 and discussed future operations for the winter and spring of 2004. The Bureau of Reclamation also discussed the contract negotiations they are in with the Belle Fourche Irrigation District. The representatives attending decided that this meeting was very beneficial and expressed interest in continuing to meet in the future. The next meeting is planned for the fall of 2004.

On December 11th and 12th, the Missouri River Basin Association will hold a monitoring stakeholder forum in Kansas City, MO. The goal of this forum is provide stakeholders more information about basin issues and how they can become more involved with the decision makers such as the Corps of Engineers and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 52nd annual Yellowstone River Compact Commission meeting will be held December 16, 2003 in Billings, MT. Some of the topics the group plans to discuss are the budget for 2004 and 2005, the water conservation program, and coalbed methane development.

John Shields reported the following:

The Colorado River Water Users Association will be holding its annual meeting December 10-12, 2003 in Las Vegas, NV. Speakers who will address the 850-plus people attending the meeting will include Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner John Keys, Congressman Chris Cannon of Utah and various Republic of Mexico, Colorado River Basin State and irrigation district officials.

An activity being conducted as part of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, the Yampa River Basin Endangered Fish and Water Management Plan, has been completed in final form and preparation of the Yampa River Basin Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) is nearing completion. It is anticipated that Wyoming, Colorado and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will execute a Cooperative Agreement to implement the Yampa River Plan by the end of this calendar year or shortly thereafter. The PBO will facilitate Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations for Wyoming and Colorado water development projects in the future. The PBO will address incidental take of the endangered fish and provides the Recovery Program to serve as the reasonable and prudent alternative for water project depletions.

The Wyoming Water Association (WWA) held its 70th anniversary Educational Seminar and Annual Meeting on October 22-24, 2003 at the Radisson Hotel in Casper. The annual meeting was a joint meeting with the Upper Missouri Water Association (UMWA) and 35 UMWA members from Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wyoming were in attendance. The event was well attended by WWA members from across the state. Senator Craig Thomas, U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin, State Treasurer Cynthia Lummis and chief water officials from the four states were among the featured speakers at the conference. Copies of the formal written or powerpoint presentations provided at the conference can be downloaded from WWA's website: www.wyomingwater.org.

The WWA's winter Board of Directors meeting will be held on February 11th at 1:30 p.m. at the Water Development Commission's offices, 6920 Yellowtail Road, Cheyenne. The Board meeting will be followed by the first of WWA's weekly legislative review sessions. WWA's 2004 annual meeting will be held October 27-29th in Casper.

Phil Stump reported the following:

The Official Files subcommittee of the North Platte Decree Committee (NPDC) has decided to scan all of the official files. The Finance subcommittee recommended to the NPDC parties that a non-profit foundation be hired to administer the finances for joint NPDC activities. All parties agreed to that recommendation.

Jodee Pring reported the following:

During the month of November, six interim Basin Advisory Group (iBAG) meetings were held throughout the state. On November 3rd, the Bear River iBAG was held in Buffalo, November 4th the Green River iBAG was held in Pinedale and on November 5th, the Snake/Salt iBAG was held in Afton. We took a week off and completed the meetings the week of Nov. 17th. The Wind/Bighorn iBAG was held November 18th in Cody, the Powder/Tongue iBAG was held November 19th in Story and the NE Wyoming iBAG was held on November 20th in Newcastle. During the course of these meetings, Mike Besson spoke to the groups about Wyoming's water development program and the projects on which his office has been working. Deputy State Engineer, Harry LaBonde, also attended this round of iBAGs and spoke about the State Engineer's Office and current "hot topics" within the agency. The agendas for each meeting also included speakers talking to the iBAGS about topics that were pertinent to their basin. Please visit the water planning website at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us> for all of the advisory group meeting records.

The Platte Basin Advisory group will be holding their third meeting on December 9th in Casper at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Pronghorn room. The meeting is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Topics to be discussed include an update from the consultant and the planning team and a presentation on economic and forecasting issues.

The next round of iBAG meetings are set for March 22-24, 2004 and April 6-8, 2003.

LARAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Jim Cochran reported the following:

The Crow Creek Watershed Plan report is out and available to the public. Please visit their website at <http://www.lccdnet.org/> for more information.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – WATER QUALITY DIVISION

Mark Conrad reported the following:

Wyoming's Draft 2004 305 (b) State Water Quality Assessment Report and Draft 2004 303(d) List of Waters Requiring TMDLs will be out later this week. Comments on the draft report will be received until close of business February 16, 2004. For more information, visit their website at <http://deq.state.wy.us/>.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Erika Olson reported the following:

The Attorney General's Office has completed their move to the second floor of the Herschler building. Their new address is: Attorney General's Office, Herschler Bldg. 2E, Cheyenne, WY 82002. All phone numbers remain the same.

WYOMING OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Ed Wallace reported the following:

The new mailing address for Homeland Security/Emergency Management is as follows:
 WY Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management, Herschler Bldg., 1E, Cheyenne, WY 82002. The main telephone number is (307) 777-4900 and the fax number is (307) 635-6017.

As of close of business Dec. 15, 2003, Mr. Wallace will be retiring from WOHS/EMA. We thank him for his dedicated participation in the Water Forum and wish him a happy retirement. Mr. Wallace's replacement will be Gary Simmons. We look forward to meeting Mr. Simmons at a future Water Forum.

WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEMS (WRDS)

Jan Curtis reported the following:

Climate Atlas: We have completed text and graphics and are having the atlas proofread by a professional proofreader. I expect to hand over the manuscript and publishing requirements to the university's publication office to start the competitive bidding process within the next week. The Governor has prepared a FOREWORD to the atlas. The on-line version of the atlas will probably come out before the hard copy atlas in early 2004. The on-line version will be updated routinely.

Next BAG tours: Since drought is still of great interest and concern, the state climatologist will attend the next round of Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meetings scheduled in March and April, 2004.

Drought Task Force: On Monday, January 5th, the state climatologist will be giving a special briefing to the AG drought subcommittee on the type and placement of soil-moisture sensors across the state. By better monitoring drought, better declarations of drought and requests for aid may result. Still, all this is highly problematic without additional funding. On Friday, Jan. 9th, he will be presenting his expectations of the drought to the Governor's drought task force in Cheyenne.

CoCoRaHS: Nolan Doesken of the Colorado State Climate Office gave a presentation on the expansion of a cooperative precipitation network in Wyoming at the last Northeast Basin Advisory Group meeting. The program is called CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain and Hail Study). Interest is growing in this program. WRDS staff will be attending a planning meeting in Ft Collins on Jan. 21st to address how Wyoming can make this happen starting this spring. Funding from Mr. Doesken's office is expected to assist us.

WRDS Library: The cataloging/linking project with the Wyoming State Library is going well. If you choose the WRDS Library catalog on the WYLD database (<http://wyld.state.wy.us/>) and search the topic 'water' you will find over 1000 items linked from the WRDS library to the WYLD database. Our reference collection is all catalogued onto WYLD. Almost all of the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) project reports are also catalogued/linked to the WYLD records. The WRDS Library is not yet set up with the Wyoming State Library circulation system but that will come in the future when the bulk of the collection is catalogued onto WYLD. Until then we will use the current circulation system.

The library has recently received several new items for the reference collection. One is a 4 volume set, "Water: Science and Issues," and the other is a new encyclopedia, "Encyclopedia of Water." Both are excellent additions to the collection. Another addition is the "Groundwater Atlas of Colorado" by the Colorado Geological Survey.

As far as requesters, we continue to assist a large number of engineers and consultants. We have seen upperclassmen from the College of Engineering as requesters as well as graduate students. We have seen an increase in the number of requests for help in locating information from other public and community college libraries around the state.

Basin Plans & Misc:

Snake/Salt – The Executive Summary, Final Report, and Technical Memos have been reviewed, secured, and are now available online (PDF version only). GIS (final version) has not yet been received from Sunrise Engineering.

Wind/Bighorn – The Executive Summary and Final Report have been reviewed and will be placed online next week (PDF version only). Technical Memos are currently being reviewed. GIS coverages for irrigated lands, PODs, and the water rights database are online. Remaining GIS coverages are being reviewed.

Waterplan Website – The homepage and all navigational pages have been redesigned and are currently being reviewed by WWDC staff. The website has been updated for all meeting minutes and powerpoint presentations for the July BAG Meetings. Agendas were posted for the November BAG Meetings.

WWDC Website – The homepage was redesigned in November, approved by the WWDC staff, and revisions have been placed online. Watershed plans and a GIS coverage displaying the boundaries of all WWDC Watershed plans will be posted to this website.

Irrigation Survey - Cutoff for submission was December 1st. All updates to the access database have been made and are currently being reviewed. New reports will be posted online next week. 93 responses were received for this survey. WWDC contacts - Jon Wade and Barry Lawrence.

Bridging the Headgate Survey – A second e-mail requesting information on all current water projects will be sent this week. 41 online responses have been received. WWDC contact - Ron Vore.

More Projects:

We are getting closer to distributing pocket PCs to the counties (homeland security). All physical components are in. Tony Bergantino is working with ESRI to do testing on their software for the new

operating system on the pocket PCs. Counties should be able to verify field data and get results to us, thus improving a number of coverages such as wells, etc.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

Lawson submitted the following:

The following is a listing of reservoir conditions on November 30, 2003:

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	6302.82	298,793	29	46
Pathfinder	5800.77	303,568	30	52
Alcova	5488.02	156,088	85	101
Glendo	4601.54	212,487	41	93
Guernsey	4400.88	10,648	23	177

November 30, 2002 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6296.83	253,912	656,700
Pathfinder	5803.01	322,427	583,400
Alcova	5488.21	156,515	154,900
Glendo	4596.73	181,742	229,600
Guernsey	4398.26	6,873	6,000

October through November Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflow (KAF)</u>	<u>% of Average</u>
Seminoe	32.8	56
Pathfinder (Sweetwater R.)	9.5	89
Alcova to Glendo Gains	8.8	32
Glendo to Guernsey	3.1	66

Kendrick ownership was 748,617 acre-feet (AF) on November 30, 2003, and approximately 77% of average (969,400 AF), which compares to the ownership of 770,427 AF last year at this date. The Kendrick ownership was the fifth lowest November ownership in the last 30 years. The November 30, 2003, North Platte ownership was 114,679 AF, which was approximately 23% of average (500,000 AF). This compares to the ownership of 48,252 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The North Platte ownership was the sixth lowest November ownership in the last 30 years. The Glendo ownership was 102,489 AF on November 30, 2003, which was approximately 76% of average (135,300 AF). This compares to the 88,048 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was the fifth lowest November ownership in the last 30 years.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortess Dam are approximately 534 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 500 cfs. The level of Alcova Reservoir was lowered to the normal winter operating range of 5488 \pm one foot.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

November 30, 2003 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>%/Avg</u>
Bull Lake	5770.01	57,610	38	73
Boysen	4700.61	375,172**	51	66
Buffalo Bill	5367.58	450,537	70	112
Pilot Butte	5453.16	27,812	82	119

November 30, 2002 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5763.64	43,985	78,800
Boysen	4690.11	265,696*	566,100
Buffalo Bill	5353.32	357,143	403,500***
Pilot Butte	5453.78	28,326	23,300

*Storage in Boysen Reservoir was the lowest of record (1953-2003) for the end of November.

**Storage in Boysen Reservoir was the fourth lowest of record (1953-2003) for the end of November.

***The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2003. 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 through November Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflow (KAF)</u>	<u>% of Average</u>
Bull Lake	4.4	54
Boysen	66.7	59
Buffalo Bill	28.5	64

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is approximately 100 cfs and with addition from the springs is 200 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is approximately 350 cfs and will be maintained at this release for the winter.

SPECIAL REPORT

Dale Strickland of West, Inc. was today's special presenter. He spoke about the Platte River Cooperative agreement and the Platte Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which is due out in January of 2004. A copy of his power point presentation can be found on the State Engineer's Office website under State Water Forum meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.