

November 26, 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 November 4, 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 December 2nd 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
Dec. 2nd	Dale Strickland - West, Inc.	PRCA & Platte EIS
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 December 2, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. Our special guest will be Dale Strickland with West, Inc. He will be speaking to us about the Platte River Cooperative Agreement and the Platte EIS.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2003

Phil Stump called the two hundred and thirty fourth 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/State Climatologist	jcurtis@uwyo.edu
Jeremy Lyon	DEQ	jlyon@state.wy.us
Mark Conrad	DEQ/WQD	mconra@state.wy.us
Ed Kouma	USBR	ekouma@gp.usbr.gov
Ed Wallace	WOHS/EMA (WEMA)	ewalla@state.wy.us
Phil Stump	State Engineer's Office	pstump@state.wy.us
John Barnes	State Engineer's Office	jbarnel@state.wy.us
Mike Beus	USBR	mbeus@pn.usbr.gov
Bruce Brinkman	WWDC	bbrink@state.wy.us
Kathy Muller-Ogle	WDEQ	kmogle@state.wy.us
Lyle Myler	USBR	lmyler@state.wy.us
Tim Miller	USBR	twmiller.pn.usbr.gov
Joan Carlson	USDA Forest Service	jycarlson@fs.fed.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

The North Platte Decree Committee (NPDC) consisting of representatives with the U.S Bureau of Reclamation, Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming held a meeting in Torrington on October 28, 2003. The NPDC approved a record-keeping protocol for the official NPDC records. The NPDC parties agreed that a non-profit foundation would administer the finances for joint NPDC activities as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee. The Consumptive Use Subcommittee discussed future joint consumptive use studies, which include the installation of two weather stations and two water balance study sites along tributaries in the North Platte Basin; with one study site above Pathfinder Reservoir and one study site between Pathfinder and Guernsey Reservoirs. As of January 1, 2004, State Engineer Patrick Tyrrell will serve as Chairman for the next two years. The Spring 2004 NPDC meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday, April 13, 2004 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska beginning at 8:00 A.M. MST.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

Lawson submitted the following:

The following is a listing of reservoir conditions on October 31, 2003:

1. Water Supply Conditions of the North Platte River Basin

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>Storage</u>	<u>%/Avg</u>
Seminoe	6304.35	311,077	31	45
Pathfinder	5799.50	293,241	29	52
Alcova	5488.95	158,189	86	102
Glendo	4596.45	180,053	35	105
Guernsey	4398.26	7,967	17	185

October 31, 2002 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6299.43	272,775	689,300
Pathfinder	5801.51	309,707	568,300
Alcova	5489.04	158,393	155,400
Glendo	4591.12	150,038	171,100
Guernsey	4393.18	4,230	4,300

October Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflow (KAF)</u>	<u>% of Average</u>
Seminoe	12.9	45
Pathfinder (Sweetwater R.)	3.0	48
Alcova to Glendo Gains	4.8	32
Glendo to Guernsey	1.7	63

Kendrick ownership was 749,384 acre-feet (AF) on October 31, 2003, and approximately 77% of average (972,500 AF), which compares to the ownership of 771,086 AF last year at this date. The Kendrick ownership was the fifth lowest October ownership in the last 30 years. The October 31, 2003, North Platte ownership was 88,084 AF, which was approximately 19% of average (465,600 AF). This compares to the ownership of 28,343 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The North Platte ownership was the fifth lowest October ownership in the last 30 years. The Glendo ownership was 103,118 AF on October 31, 2003, which was approximately 76% of average (136,400 AF). This compares to the 88,818 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was the fifth lowest October ownership in the last 30 years.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortes Dam are approximately 540 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 5498 ± one foot.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

October 31, 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	5769.97	57,522	38	73
Boysen	4699.16	358,897**	48	62
Buffalo Bill	5366.73	444,733	69	110
Pilot Butte	5453.54	28,126	83	127

October 31, 2002 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5763.24	43,169	78,500
Boysen	4688.89	254,226*	575,500
Buffalo Bill	5352.25	350,721	402,800***
Pilot Butte	5441.25	18,771	22,200

*Storage in Boysen Reservoir was the lowest of record (1953-2002) for the end of October.

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

***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 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflow (KAF)</u>	<u>% of Average</u>
Bull Lake	2.8	54
Boysen	29.3	46
Buffalo Bill	16.4	69

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is approximately 100 cfs and with addition from the springs is 180 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 350 cfs and will be maintained at this release for the winter.

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (WWDC)

Brinkman reported the following:

The WWDC currently has three Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meetings taking place this week. The first was the Bear River meeting held yesterday in Evanston, the second, the Green River meeting is taking place at the present time in Pinedale, and the third, the Snake/Salt meeting will take place tomorrow in Afton.

The new and continuing WWDC project application period just ended the first of November. This year is another banner year for applications. We have 7 proposed Level I projects, 16 phase I and 7 phase II Level II proposed projects, and 9 phase I and 19 phase II Level III proposed projects. These proposed projects will go before the Water Development Commission and the Select Water Committee on December 2nd at the Raddison in Casper. Once the projects have preliminary approval, they will be advertised during the month of January with letters of interest and qualifications due in February, request for proposals will go out in March and are due back in April. Consultant interviews will be held approximately the first week in May.

SPECIAL REPORT

Bruce Brinkman, Hugh Lowham and Dr. Larry Ostresh were today's special presenters. A copy of their powerpoint presentation can be found on the State Engineer's Office website under State Water Forum meetings.

The meeting adjourned at noon.