

October 20, 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 October 7, 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 November 4th 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
Nov. 4th	Bruce Brinkman, Hugh Lowham and Larry Ostresh	Testing of hydrologic models for estimating streamflow in mountainous areas
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 November 4, 2003 at 10:00 in the State Engineer's Office Conference room. Our special guests will be Bruce Brinkman, Hugh Lowham and Larry Ostresh. They will be speaking to us about the testing of hydrologic models for estimating streamflow in mountainous areas.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2003

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and thirty-third 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
Barry Lawrence	WWDC	blawre@state.wy.us
Jeremy Lyon	DEQ	jlyon@state.wy.us
Robert Swanson	USGS	rswanson@usgs.gov
Debra Cook	WRDS	decook@uwyo.edu
Jodee Pring	State Engineer's Office	jpring@state.wy.us
Mark Conrad	DEQ/WQD	mconra@state.wy.us
Pepper Herman	WY Assn. Rural Water	wyogw@yahoo.com
Ed Kouma	USBR	ekouma@gp.usbr.gov
Chris Jones	Nat'l Weather Service	chris.jones@noaa.gov
Sue Lowry	State Engineer's Office	slowry@state.wy.us
John Wagner	WQD	jwagne@state.wy.us
Ed Wallace	WOHS/EMA (WEMA)	ewalla@state.wy.us
David Taylor	NRCS	david.taylor@wy.usda.gov
Phil Stump	State Engineer's Office	pstump@state.wy.us
Bill Lockett	Casper Star Tribune	lockett@trib.com
Erika Olson	AG	eolson@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

Phil Stump reported that a NPDC (North Platte Decree Committee) meeting will be held October 28th from 8:00am-12:00 pm in Torrington at the Rendezvous Center of the Goshen Co. Fairgrounds. The different subcommittees will be reporting on their activities since the last meeting. Those subcommittees are: ground water, finance, consumptive use, official files, and control crest.

Sue Lowry stated that a Belle Fourche operations meeting is scheduled for Nov. 20 at 9:00 a.m. in Sundance. This group has not recently met, so a meeting was suggested to discuss operations on the Belle Fourche. Representatives from South Dakota, Wyoming, the Bureau of Reclamation and USGS will be attending this meeting.

The Wyoming Water Association will be holding its educational seminar and joint annual meeting with the Upper Missouri Water Association Oct. 22-24 in Casper at the Radisson Hotel. Wednesday will be the educational seminar and Thursday and Friday will be the joint annual meeting. Contact John Shields at (307) 631-0898 or (307) 635-3458 for further information.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

<http://wy.water.usgs.gov/>

Reports: The Annual Data Reports, Water Resources Data ---Wyoming---Water Year 2002, Volumes 1 and 2, are available for distribution. The reports can be requested directly from the USGS Wyoming District Office (phone 778-2931) or can be accessed online at <http://wy.water.usgs.gov/pubs>

The 2002 Annual Data Report for Wyoming is available in hard copy, online, and in a CD-ROM format. Users who elect to download online should ideally have broadband internet connection to download the large PDF files (Vol.1 = 15.8 MB, Vol. 2 = 6.8 MB). The CD-ROM also has the PDF version of the reports for water years 2001 and 2000.

Drought Web Page: Kirk Miller, Surface Water Specialist for the Wyoming District, is continuing his development of the Wyoming Drought Watch web page. He has compiled runoff plots for many of the USGS streamflow stations. Generally, these plots depict show that high country runoff was near or above normal, but that the water was quickly used as it moved through the lower elevations resulting in lower than normal runoff through those areas. The plots will be available through the link below

<http://wy.water.usgs.gov/projects/drought/index.html>

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

Lawson submitted the following:

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

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	6306.98	332,979	33	46
Pathfinder	5796.48	269,747	27	49
Alcova	5497.68	178,719	97	100
Glendo	4590.22	145,371	28	144
Guernsey	4394.70	5,163	11	50

September 30, 2002 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6302.79	298,556	720,000
Pathfinder	5798.03	281,618	546,200
Alcova	5498.02	179,547	179,100
Glendo	4483.80	114,785	101,100
Guernsey	4384.22	1,035	10,300

October through September Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflow (KAF)</u>	<u>% of Average</u>
Seminoe	671.6	66
Pathfinder (Sweetwater R.)	95.9	61
Alcova to Glendo Gain	139.0	60
Glendo to Guernsey Gain	38.1	48

Kendrick ownership was 752,534 acre feet (AF) on September 30, 2003, and approximately 77% of average (977,200 AF), which compares to the ownership of 773,926 AF last year at this date. The Kendrick ownership was the fifth lowest September ownership in the last 30 years. The September 30, 2003, North Platte ownership was 72,233 AF, which was approximately 17% of average (436,600 AF). This compares to the ownership of 10,870 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 104,481 AF on September 30, 2003, which was approximately 75% of average (138,500 AF). This compares to the 89,893 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was the fifth lowest September 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 will be lowered to its winter operating range of 5498 \pm one foot by the end of October.

2. Information Meeting, North Platte

The North Platte water information meeting will be held October 27, 2003, 1500 hours at Torrington Fairgrounds Rendezvous Center.

3. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

September 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	5769.44	56,345	37	70
Boysen	4698.53	351,939	47	61
Buffalo Bill	5369.70	465,714	72	108
Pilot Butte	5431.11	12,426	37	75

September 30, 2002 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5762.12	40,907	80,300
Boysen	4687.23	238,985*	580,800
Buffalo Bill	5353.59	358,903	430,300**
Pilot Butte	5417.40	6,142	16,600

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

** 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 through September Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflow (KAF)</u>	<u>% of Average</u>
Bull Lake	142.6	75
Boysen	548.2	54
Buffalo Bill	782.7	90

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is approximately 685 cfs and with addition from the springs is 745 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 350085 cfs and will be maintained at this release fro the winter.

4. Information Meeting, Bighorn

The Boysen water information meeting will be held at the Elks Lodge in Worland at 1000 hours, October 10, 2003 in Worland.

WRDS/STATE CLIMATE OFFICE INPUT BY JAN CURTIS:

Drought Support

As you know, Wyoming's drought has taken a great deal of Jan Curtis' time away from other WRDS and State Climate responsibilities. From the meeting in Cedar City, he is planning to involve more of the local and regional stake holders in the weekly drought monitoring updates process. He has been asked by Grant Stumbough, WY DEPT. AG, to give his drought subcommittee group a presentation on potential soil moisture sensors that could be employed in Wyoming and to prioritize a list of locations for these sensors. This meeting will be on 5 Jan 04 in Cheyenne. The next drought Task Force Management meeting will occur on 9 Jan 04 at 10AM in the Hathaway Basement Conference Room.

Wyoming Climate Atlas

This is nearing completion. Expected printing in March 2004.

Basin Plans

Delivery of the Snake/Salt basin plan has arrived and the Wind/Bighorn final basin plan is expected in the next several weeks.

Surveys

The irrigation and Bridging the Headgate WWDC surveys are nearing completion with about 70% responding.

Server Statistics

	Hits	Avg	AvgM	%	Bytes	Avg	AvgM	%
WRDS	34935	1164.5	1164.5	20.4	2898706776	96623559	96623559	47.2
NWS	4393	146.4	146.4	2.6	15194326	506478	506478	0.2
LIB	17883	596.1	596.1	10.4	2791386777	93046226	93046226	45.5
NRCS	11456	381.9	381.9	6.7	136275301	4542510	4542510	2.2
SEO	22535	751.2	751.2	13.2	433623779	14454126	14454126	7.1
WSGS	17998	599.9	599.9	10.5	539396605	17979887	17979887	8.8
WWDC	55838	1861.3	1861.3	32.6	1567844988	52261500	52261500	25.5
WSC	13525	450.8	450.8	7.9	381243428	12708114	12708114	6.2
BORPE	5034	167.8	167.8	2.9	58107784	1936926	1936926	0.9
RMFRES	3363	112.1	112.1	2.0	7254060	241802	241802	0.1
DEQ	1623	54.1	54.1	0.9	30307362	1010245	1010245	0.5
WYDOT	405	13.5	13.5	0.2	6212077	207069	207069	0.1
Total	171145	5704.8	5704.8	100.0	6140289877	204676329	204676329	100.0

Meetings

Debra Cook will attend the WWA meeting in Casper 22-24 October.

Jan Curtis will be attending a meeting of the WCC-102 in Moscow, ID on 12-14 November. He will be giving a presentation on the Basin Plans Stream Flow Model Forecast tool:

<http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/green/techmemos/task3b.html>

For info on the WCC-102, see: <http://www.lgu.umd.edu/project/outline.cfm?trackID=404>

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (WWDC)

Lawrence reported the following:

Barry Lawrence reported that twenty new applications for planning projects were received by the Water Development Commission for consideration and/or inclusion in this year's Omnibus Planning Bill. Five of the applications received were from the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes. Also, eight additional applications were received for Level III funding consideration in this year's Omnibus Construction Bill.

The Commission will hold a teleconference on Tuesday, October 21st at 10 a.m. The primary purpose of the meeting will be contract amendments. The next meeting of the Joint Legislative Select Water Committee/Water Development Commission is set for December 2nd and 3rd at the Radisson Hotel in Casper. A workshop is also scheduled for the afternoon of December 1st. The primary focus of these meetings will be consideration of this year's project applications (both new and ongoing projects).

The Platte Basin Advisory Group will be holding its second meeting on Tuesday, October 14th at 1 pm at the Water Development Commission offices at 6920 Yellowtail Road in Cheyenne. At the meeting the group will formalize its ground rules, re-visit its membership list, and develop a mission statement. If time allows, they will also start the issues identification process.

The Water Development Commission has taken delivery of the final Snake-Salt River Basin Planning Documents. All text, graphics, GIS coverages and spreadsheet models will be going online as well. Hard copies may be obtained by contacting the WWDC.

The following additional BAG meetings have been set:

Mon. Nov. 3, 6pm – Bear River BAG, Evanston, WY
 Tues. Nov. 4, 10am – Green River BAG, Pinedale, WY
 Wed. Nov. 5, 6pm – Snake/Salt BAG, Afton, WY
 Tues. Nov. 18, 3pm – Wind/Bighorn BAG, Cody, WY
 Wed. Nov. 19, 6pm – Powder/Tongue BAG, Story, WY
 Thurs. Nov. 20, 1pm – Northeast BAG, Newcastle, WY

WYOMING OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY (WOHS/EMA - WEMA)

Wallace reported the following:

The former Wyoming Emergency Management Agency (WEMA) has a new name and now a new location. The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security/ Emergency Management Agency will be moving to the Herschler Building, First Floor East Wing. All telephone numbers and e-mail addresses will remain the same.

The week of October 13-17, 2003 has been proclaimed by Governor Freudenthal to be Winter Awareness Week. A communications test will be conducted on Wednesday morning, October 15 at 10:00 a.m. This test blizzard warning will be used to determine if all communications channels are functioning.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VIII in Denver has transferred Kaycee Mapping Money to FEMA HQ. This funding will be used to aid the US Army Corps of Engineers and the NRCS in updating the flood map for the Kaycee, WY area.

NRCS

Taylor reported the following:

NRCS in Wyoming reported that the following watershed plans continue being developed for the following projects.

1. Middle Fork of Popo Agie at Lander - This flood prevention project is proceeding as planned. Alternative solutions to the potential flooding are being evaluated.
2. Kaycee - This flood prevention project is being planned in a cooperative effort by the NRCS and Corps of Engineers from Omaha, NE. A meeting was held this summer with the Corps, NRCS, and FEMA representatives to determine the direction planning is to proceed. Each agency agreed to their responsibility in the planning effort. Planning is proceeding smoothly. The only hitch to date is the elevations for the topography survey contracted by the city. The elevations are not based on mean sea

level, and the projection of data does not match any GIS format. Efforts are being made to resolve both issues.

3. Metz Ditch - part of Colorado Colony Canal. Alternative irrigation supply systems are currently being designed.

On a lighter note, it was pointed out that snow has been ordered, but that order is not currently being filled. Hopefully more on the snow later.

SPECIAL REPORT

Chris Jones of the National Weather Service out of Riverton was today's special presenter. A copy of his powerpoint presentation can be found on the State Engineer's Office website under State Water Forum meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.