



State Engineer's Office

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GOVERNOR

PATRICK T. TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

January 13, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the State Water Forum

FROM: Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman

SUBJECT: Attached for your review and information is a copy of the January 4, 2005 Water Forum meeting minutes. Please take a few moments and pencil into your calendar the Water Forum dates for this year.

WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2004-2005 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
February 1 st	Tom Annear	Behavioral and Physiological Effects of Winter Habitat on Trout
March 1 st	Roundtable	Water Planning
April 5 th	John Lawson	Water Forecast
May 3 rd	Rik Gay	Kendrick Selenium Watershed Project

SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be February 1, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. Our special guest will be Tom Annear, who is with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Mr. Annear will be talking to us about the Behavioral and Physiological Effects of Winter Habitat on Trout.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2005

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and forty-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>
Brad Anderson	Anderson Consulting Eng.	baanderson@acewater.com
Mark Conrad	WDEQ-WQD	mconra@state.wy.us
Jim Cranmer	WDEQ	jcranm@state.wy.us
Mike Hackett	WWDC	mhacke@state.wy.us
Harry LaBonde	SEO	hlabon@seo.wyo.gov
Barry Lawrence	WWDC	blawre@state.wy.us
Britt Long	AG	blong2@state.wy.us
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@state.wy.us
Jeremy Lyon	WDEQ-WQD	jlyon@state.wy.us
Hugh McFadden	AG	hmcfad@state.wy.us
Kirk Miller	USGS	kmiller@usgs.gov
Erika Olson	AG	eolson@state.wy.us
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@state.wy.us
Ron Vore	WWDC	rvore@state.wy.us
Virginia Wakefield	WY Livestock Roundup	vrwakefiel@aol.com
Patrick Zimmerer	Hageman & Brighton	pzimmerer@hblawoffice.com

AGENCY REPORTS

In order to assure accuracy in the reporting of the minutes, forms are passed out at the meeting to be completed by the representative of each agency. 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@seo.wyo.gov. For more information on the following reports, please contact the agency representative listed above.

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE (SEO)

Jodee Pring reported the following:

Four firms have submitted proposals for Phase II of our IT Initiative. All four firms will be interviewed on Jan. 19th.

Sue Lowry reported the following:

The SEO will be following a couple of bills that are to go before the Legislature this session. House Bill 0002 deals with changing some of the wording in our statutes to be able to accept applications and maps through e-permitting. This legislation is a necessary step to moving forward with our IT initiative. The other piece of legislation is a House Bill 0020 which deals with being able to levy stiffer penalties for those that tamper with diversions works, headgates, reservoirs, etc. The other legislation we will be following deal with instream flow issues.

John Shields reported the following:

The Department of the Interior has formally requested that the seven Colorado River Basin States develop and submit to the Department a consensus drought water resources management action plan and proposal for shortage criteria for administering water deliveries in the event that continued declines in reservoir storage force the Secretary of the Interior to declare that a shortage water supply exists in the annual operating plan for the Colorado River. The Basin States have been and continue to be engaged in a dialogue to develop such a plan and shortage criteria. Shields noted that the Upper Basin States have communicated their mutual concern to the Lower Colorado River Basin States over the critically low reservoir storage content in Lake Powell and the presumption that half of the Mexican Water Treaty delivery of 1,500,000 acre-feet needs to be delivered by the Upper Division States when Article III of the Colorado River Compact is definitive in stating that the Upper Division States will provide one-half of the deficiency associated with the Mexican Water Treaty.

Shields also reported on discussions occurring among the non-federal participants in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program to seek an extension of time and an additional Federal appropriations ceiling for the Program's capital construction program.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

1. Water Supply Conditions of the North Platte River Basin.

December 31, 2004 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full</u> <u>Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6299.05	269,960	27	45
Pathfinder	5791.57	234,488	23	39
Alcova	5488.02	156,088	85	101
Glendo	4604.35	231,843	45	84
Guernsey	4404.39	15,851	35	199

December 31, 2003 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6301.60	289,200	594,500
Pathfinder	5801.96	313,500	594,200
Alcova	5488.22	156,500	154,500
Glendo	4606.27	245,600	275,900
Guernsey	4403.14	13,400	8,000

December 2004 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	25.7	99
Pathfinder (Includes Sweetwater R.)	5.2	121
Alcova to Glendo Gains	7.0	95

Glendo to Guernsey Gains

0.8

50

Seminole Reservoir was the third lowest December storage in the last 30 years. Pathfinder Reservoir storage was the second lowest December storage in the last 30 years. The total North Platte system storage was the second lowest December storage in the last 30 years.

Ownership of North Platte River Storage Water

Kendrick ownership was 640,000 acre-feet (AF) on December 31, 2004, and approximately 67% of average (953,900 AF), which compares to the 747,900 AF of Kendrick ownership on this date last year. The Kendrick ownership was the fourth lowest December ownership in the last 30 years. The December 31, 2004, North Platte ownership was 193,900 AF, which was approximately 38% of average (512,000 AF), which compares to the 151,700 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 63,400 AF on December 31, 2004, which was approximately 46% of average (136,700 AF), which compares to 102,500 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was the second lowest December ownership in the last 30 years.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortes Dam are approximately 520 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 500 cfs.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

December 31, 2004 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5788.22	102,960	68	135
Boysen	4717.48	605,243	82	113
Buffalo Bill	5369.05	461,015	71	114
Pilot Butte	5452.60	27,350	81	116

November 30, 2003 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5770.03	57,700	76,300
Boysen	4701.95	390,600	535,400
Buffalo Bill	5368.63	458,000	405,100*
Pilot Butte	5453.0216	27,700	23,600

* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2004. 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.

December Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Bull Lake	2.9	121
Boysen	41.1	106
Buffalo Bill	15.5	96

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is currently 150 cfs pursuant to the new Winter Release Agreement signed December 2004. With the inflow from the springs the flow measured at the Cody river gage is 245 cfs. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 400 cfs.

3. Snow Conditions (From NRCS January 3rd Report). The following table shows the current and preceding weeks' percentage of average snow water equivalent amounts for Wyoming basins. Average is based on all reporting Snotel sites in the basin. The reference period for average comparison is 1971-2000. The table does not include manually read snow courses.

Snow Pack

<u>Drainage Basin</u>	<u>1/03/05</u>	<u>12/27/04</u>	<u>12/20/04</u>	<u>12/13/04</u>	<u>1/03/04</u>
Wind River	108	72	80	90	121
Bighorn Basin	73	69	70	70	93
Upper North Platte	97	93	103	113	108
Lower North Platte	92	87	91	94	94

4. Other. Regional Director, Maryanne Bach has recently accepted a new position as Director of Research & Development in Denver. Deputy Director, Jaralyn Beek will be acting Regional Director until the position is filled.

The Four States Irrigation Council Annual Conference is scheduled for January 12-14, 2005 in Fort Collins, CO.

WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEMS (WRDS)

Jan Curtis submitted the following report:

An interim drought update will be sent out to the group some time in the next two weeks.

Despite impending snowstorms over SE Wyoming, cold temperatures will result in little moisture (snow water equivalent). December 2004 was also a very dry month for Wyoming. However, late winter and early spring will be critical for helping us out of drought if mountain snow pack cooperates. Currently, snow pack in the northern half of Wyoming is well below normal and behind this time last year.

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (WWDC)

Barry Lawrence reported the following:

The Wyoming Water Development Commission and Legislative Select Water Committees met last month and approved the Omnibus Water Bills – Planning and Construction, which will now be going to the general session of the legislature. Included in the planning bill were appropriations for the State Framework Water Plan at a cost of \$500,000 and the 5-year Weather Modification Pilot Program for the Medicine Bow/Sierra Madre and Wind River Ranges at a cost of \$8.825 million. Scopes of services for all projects will be drafted by February, and solicitation of statements of interest and qualification will be conducted during this same timeframe. The next meeting of the Commission will

be March 4th in Cheyenne for the purpose of approving request for proposals and consultant short lists. Interviews are scheduled to be conducted during the first week of May.

River basin planning activities are continuing in the Platte River Basin with completion of the basin plan slated for later in the year. TriHydro Corporation out of Laramie has been retained to help produce this document in conjunction with the Water Development Office, State Engineer's Office, and the Water Resources Data System at the University of Wyoming. The next meeting of the Platte River Basin Advisory Group is slated for Tuesday, February 8th in Casper at 10 a.m.

The following additional Basin Advisory Group meetings have been set:

Tues. Mar 22, 3 pm – Wind/Bighorn BAG, Riverton, WY

Wed. Mar 23, 6 pm – Powder/Tongue BAG, Ucross, WY

Thurs. Mar 24, 1 pm – Northeast BAG, Lusk, WY

Mon. Apr 4, 6 pm – Bear River BAG, Evanston, WY

Tues. Apr 5, 10 am – Green River BAG, Big Piney, WY

Wed. Apr 6, 6 pm – Snake/Salt BAG, Afton, WY

Ron Vore reported the following:

The Wyoming Water Development Commission recently approved revised operating criteria for the Small Water Project Program. Primary changes to this program are in the application opportunities for project sponsors, additional eligible practices and conditions by which public benefit of a project is substantiated. Specifically, project applications will be accepted March 1, June 1 and September 1. Applications meeting criteria requirements will be considered during regularly scheduled Commission meetings in May, August and November/December. Irrigation diversion and conveyance projects that meet criteria requirements are now eligible for grant funding. Public benefit is to be substantiated by a projects ability to mitigate an environmental impairment, enhance threatened and endangered species habitat, or be supported by an environmental evaluation or planning process.

WWDC and the Water Resources Data System (WRDS) are updating the Water Management and Conservation Assistance Programs Directory. This will be the third edition of this publication. The last time this Directory was updated was in October of 2001. We are inviting local, state and Federal agencies and organizations to once again participate in providing updated program and contact information to be included in this bulletin. A call for information will be released via email in the near future and will request that responses be submitted to Justin Mulbay at WRDS.

The Wyoming Water Association Conservation Committee will be meeting at the WWDC conference room on January 10, 2005. Members of this committee will be discussing information and presentations from the October 2004 Educational Seminar and Annual Workshop held in Casper. We will also be considering strategy for the development of an Association policy on water management and conservation. An update will be made to the WWA board at their meeting scheduled for January 13, 2005.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

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

Kirk Miller submitted the following:

Discontinued Monitoring <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wy/nwis/rt>

Real-time water resources monitoring by the USGS will be discontinued at the following 4 sites in Wyoming. The sites will be discontinued effective October 1, 2004 (beginning of water year 2005) because of insufficient funding. Real-time streamflow information and reviewed and published daily values and statistics for the sites for water year 2005 will not be available from the USGS. Historical data and statistics for the sites will remain available from the USGS.

<i>Station ID</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Station Name</i>
06226000	59	Wyoming Canal near Lenore
06260400	46	South Fork Owl Creek below Anchor Reservoir
06282000	84	Shoshone River below Buffalo Bill Reservoir
13013650	10	Snake River at Moose

In addition to continuous streamflow monitoring, continuous water-quality was monitored seasonally at USGS 13013650 Snake River at Moose.

Current efforts are focused on identifying potential funding sources for continued operations at USGS 13013650 Snake River at Moose. Discussions are ongoing regarding continued seasonal streamflow-gaging operations on Wyoming Canal at a different location. Inquiries regarding status of the discontinued sites on South Fork Owl Creek and the Shoshone River can be directed to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Inquiries regarding any of these sites may be directed to Kirk Miller (307/778-2931 ext. 2716; kmiller@usgs.gov).

FY2005 Budget Information

The USGS [Cooperative Water Program](#) provides water resources information through a program of shared funding with State, Tribal, and local partners. The FY2005 allocation for Wyoming will include the USGS across-the-board 1.4 percent rescission.

The USGS [National Streamflow Information Program](#) (NSIP) is based on a plan calling for a core network of USGS-funded streamflow-gaging stations. FY2005 funding for stations operated in Wyoming has not been received. Indications are those funds have been reduced 2.5 percent from FY2004 levels.

SPECIAL REPORT

Brad Anderson with Anderson Consulting Engineers out of Ft. Collins, CO was our special speaker for today. Mr. Anderson presented the results of the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) Level II Feasibility Study for the Midvale Conservation Program. Mr. Anderson's presentation was very interesting and informative. A copy of the powerpoint presentation can be found here.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.