



State Engineer's Office

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STATE ENGINEER

December 20, 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 December 6, 2005 Water Forum meeting minutes. Please take a few moments and pencil into your calendar the Water Forum dates for this year. The next meeting will be January 3rd in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2005-2006 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
January 3 rd	Phil Ogle	Kirby Area Water Supply Project
February 7 th	Laurie Goodman and Jeff Fassett	Instream Flow
March 7 th	Paul Caffrey	NHD and FEMA Map Mod projects
April 4 th	John Lawson	Water Forecast
May 2 nd		

SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be January 3, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. Phil Ogle, who is with the Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO), will be giving us a presentation on the Kirby Area Water Supply Project. Please join us to learn about this interesting WWDO project.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2005

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and fifty-second 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>
Ben Brandes	Governor's Planning Office	bbrand@state.wy.us
Terry Gonzales	NRCS	terry.gonzales@wy.usda.gov
Pepper Herman	WARWS	pepperh@wyoming.com
Rick Huber	WY G&F	rick.huber@wgf.state.wy.us
Mike Jennings	WARWS	mikejennings@wyoming.com
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Kathy Mueller-Ogle	WDEQ-LQD	kmogle@state.wy.us
Phil Stump	SEO	pstump@seo.wyo.gov
Mohonri Willimas	USBOR	mlwilliams@gp.usbr.gov

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@seo.wyo.gov. For more information on the following reports, please contact the agency representative listed above.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

The following is a listing of reservoir conditions on November 30, 2005:

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>
Seminole	6316.52	421,500	41	68
Pathfinder	5796.60	270,700	27	49
Alcova	5488.40	156,900	85	101
Glendo	4600.37	204,700	40	91
Guernsey	4399.57	9,200	20	139

November 30, 2004 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6299.94	276,600	623,100
Pathfinder	5790.75	228,900	549,100
Alcova	5487.97	156,000	154,800
Glendo	4599.17	196,900	224,600
Guernsey	4403.36	13,700	6,600

November Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	25.5	88
Pathfinder (Includes Sweetwater)	5.0	106
Alcova to Glendo Gains	4.1	35
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	0.8	42

Kendrick ownership was 538,800 acre-feet (AF) on November 30, 2005 and approximately 57% of average (940,000 AF), which compares to the ownership of 640,900 AF last year at this date. The Kendrick ownership was the third lowest November ownership in the last 30 years. The November 30, 2005, North Platte ownership was 457,400 AF, which was approximately 100% of average (459,500 AF), which compares to the 157,400 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 53,400 AF on November 30, 2005, which was approximately 40% of average (133,000 AF), which compares to the 63,500 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortez Dam are approximately 520 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 500 cfs. The level of Alcova Reservoir is at the normal winter operating range of 5488 ± one foot.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

November 30, 2005 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full</u> <u>Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5775.85	71,200	47	93
Boysen	4718.27	618,400	83	112
Buffalo Bill	5369.84	466,800	72	114
Pilot Butte	5453.75	28,300	84	117

November 30, 2005 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5787.70	101,500	76,500
Boysen	4716.48	589,000	554,100
Buffalo Bill	5368.20	455,100	411,100*
Pilot Butte	5452.76	27,500	24,100

* 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.

November Inflows

Reservoir	Inflows (KAF)	% Average
Bull Lake	4.0	138
Boysen	47.5	97
Buffalo Bill	27.5	133

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is currently 200 cfs and with addition from the springs, is approximately 290 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 900 cfs.

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Sue Lowry reported the following:

The next round of Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meetings will be held in Dec. The dates and locations are as follows:

Dec. 6 – 6:00p – 9:00p – Wind/Bighorn BAG – Cody – Big Horn Federal

Dec. 7 – 3:00p – 6:00p – Powder/Tongue BAG – Dayton – Town Hall

Dec. 8 – 1:00p – 4:00p – Northeast WY BAG – Sundance – Crook Co. Courthouse

Dec. 13 – 10:00a – 1:00p – Platte BAG – Torrington – Pinnacle Bank

Among other interesting topics to be presented at these meetings, the State Framework Water Plan will be discussed. Jodie Pavlica, Project Manager for the Framework plan, will be presenting a review of what has gone on with River Basin planning thus far and what the Framework plan means for the basins. Each BAG will also be asked to choose a representative and an alternate to be their contact with the Framework water plan consultant, the planning team and the Water Development Commission. The issues that each BAG brought forward at the time their basin plan was being completed will also be reviewed.

The agendas and minutes for the meetings can be found on the WWDO website at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us/>.

Several interstate river basin commissions meet this time of year. The Bear River Commission (Wyoming, Idaho, Utah) met on November 1. The Yellowstone River Basin Commission (Wyoming and Montana) met on November 30 and the Belle Fourche River compact states (Wyoming and South Dakota) met on December 8. At the Belle Fourche meeting, Doug Yadon with SEH Consultants provided an overview of the WWDC Level I study on potential reservoir sites in Crook County below Keyhole Reservoir he has recently completed. The Upper Missouri Water Association held its annual meeting on December 2 in Spearfish, South Dakota and the Colorado River Water Users Association is meeting this week in Las Vegas.

The 2006 Wyoming Legislative session will be a budget session and the State Engineer's Office has submitted exception requests to address issues in the Yellowstone and Green River basins, as well as a request for funds to look at monthly groundwater elevations in the CBNG areas. The SEO is also requesting funds to continue their Information Technology upgrade project.

Phil Stump reported the following:

The North Platte Decree Committee (NPDC) met on October 11, 2005 in Torrington at the Fairgrounds. The Finance Subcommittee is completing a report which contains the budget, procurement and disbursement procedures of the Decree Committee. The Consumptive Use Subcommittee will be completing various tasks over the next few years; i.e., sending out a questionnaire to about 450 producers located upstream of Guernsey Reservoir, installing two to three weather stations, and installing instruments to directly measure evapo-transpiration.

The next NPDC meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 1:30 pm in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Dr. Ann Bleed, Acting Director for the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will be chairing the meeting.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Terry Gonzales handed out the Monday Morning Snow Report and the Snow Precipitation Update. To view the latest of these reports go to:

<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html>

SPECIAL REPORT

The special report today was from the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems. Mike Jennings gave a powerpoint presentation titled "Wellhead Protection" which can be found here. Pepper Herman also gave a powerpoint presentation titled "Sourcewater Protection" and that presentation can be found here.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.