



# State Engineer's Office

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DAVE FREUDENTHAL  
GOVERNOR

PATRICK T. TYRRELL  
STATE ENGINEER

February 27, 2006

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the State Water Forum

FROM: Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman

SUBJECT: Attached for your review and information is a copy of the February 7, 2006 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 March 7th in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

### WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2005-2006 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Caffrey	NHD and FEMA Map Mod projects
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	John Lawson	Water Forecast
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>		

### SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be March 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. Paul Caffrey of the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center will be giving us a presentation on the National Hydrography Dataset and FEMA Map Mod projects.

## WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2006

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and fifty-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>
Bill Bailey	WYDOT	william.bailey@dot.state.wy.us
John Barnes	SEO	jbarne@seo.wyo.gov
Bruce Brinkman	WWDC	bbrink@state.wy.us
Jeff Fassett	Fassett Consulting	jeff@fassettconsulting.com
Laurie Goodman	Trout Unlimited	ldgoodman7@aol.com
Scott Horgen	SEO	shorge@seo.wyo.gov
Mike Jennings	WARWS	mikejennings@wyoming.com
Ed Kouma	BOR	ekouma@gp.usbr.gov
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Jeremy Lyon	WDEQ-WQD	jlyon@state.wy.us
Hugh McFadden	AG	hmcfad@state.wy.us
Kirk Miller	USGS	kmiller@usgs.gov
Kathy Muller-Ogle	WDEQ-LQD	kmogle@state.wy.us
Suzy Noecker	WY Farm Bureau	snoecker@wyfb.org
Erika Olson	AG	eolson@state.wy.us
Mark Opitz	NRCS	mark.opitz@wy.usda.gov
George Parks	WAM	gparks@wyomuni.org
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
Jed Rockweiler	SEO	jrockw@seo.wyo.gov
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@seo.wyo.gov
Phil Stump	SEO	pstump@seo.wyo.gov
Beth Tebben	SEO	btebbe@seo.wyo.gov
Justin Williams	WY Dept. of Agriculture	jwilli7@state.wy.us
David Willms	AG	dwillm@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@seo.wyo.gov](mailto: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:

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

#### January 31, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6315.18	408,086	40	76
Pathfinder	5798.26	283,413	28	47
Alcova	5488.11	156,290	85	101
Glendo	4609.46	269,570	52	83
Guernsey	4403.24	13,547	30	131

#### January 31, 2005 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6298.84	268,413	536,900
Pathfinder	5792.59	241,561	605,500
Alcova	5487.95	155,930	155,100
Glendo	4609.14	267,112	324,800
Guernsey	4606.21	17,853	10,300

#### January 2006 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	28.9	116
Pathfinder (Includes Sweetwater)	6.4	116
Alcova to Glendo Gains	4.4	42
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	0.8	53

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

Kendrick ownership was 537,349 acre-feet (AF) on January 31, 2006 and approximately 57% of average (936,800 AF), which compares to the 638,953 AF of Kendrick ownership on this date last year. The Kendrick ownership was the third lowest January ownership in the last 30 years. The January 31, 2006, North Platte ownership was 526,665 AF, which was approximately 98% of average (535,800 AF), which compares to the 237,334 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 52,989 AF on January 31, 2006, which was approximately 39% of average (135,100 AF), which compares to the 63,149 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was the lowest January ownership in the last 30 years.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortez Dam are approximately 524 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 500 cfs.

a. North Platte River Basin Forecast

The February 1, 2006 water supply forecast indicates above average April – July runoff for Seminoe Reservoir and for the Sweetwater River above Pathfinder Reservoir and for the North Platte River between Alcova Reservoir and Glendo Reservoir.

North Platte Water Supply Forecast

Forecast Points	February 1, 2006 Forecast of April-July Runoff			30 Yr. April-July Runoff Avg. <sup>2</sup>	Most Probable % of Avg.	Comparative Actual April – July Runoff			
	Reasonable Maximum <sup>1</sup>	Most Probable	Reasonable Minimum <sup>1</sup>			W. Yr. 2005	W. Yr. 2004	W. Yr. 2003	W. Yr. 2002
Seminoe Reservoir	1250	950	650	702	135	733	277	530	118
Sweetwater River above Pathfinder Res.	120	70	30	91	111	63	34	17	15
Alcova to Glendo	210	130	40	123	106	39	34	93	18

<sup>1</sup> The probability is estimated to be 8 chances in 10 that the actual volume will fall between the reasonable minimum and reasonable maximum.

<sup>2</sup> Average is based on the 1976-2005 period.

- The allocation letter was sent to Nebraska and Wyoming according to paragraph B.1.b. of Appendix E of the Final Settlement Stipulation of the North Platte Decree. Reclamation advised that there is no need for allocation of storage water this season.
- Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

January 31, 2006 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5776.56	72,868	48	95
Boysen	4716.16	583,836	79	112
Buffalo Bill	5370.65	472,505	73	116
Pilot Butte	5453.57	28,151	83	118

January 31, 2005 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5788.71	104,302	77,100
Boysen	4718.51	622,506	519,100
Buffalo Bill	5369.89	466,873	408,300*
Pilot Butte	5452.51	27,276	23,800

\* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2005. 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.

January 2006 Inflows

Reservoir	Inflows (KAF)	% Average
Bull Lake	3.2	152
Boysen	38.6	105
Buffalo Bill	14.2	95

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is currently 200 cfs, pursuant to the new Winter Release Agreement signed in December 2004. With the inflow from the springs, the flow measured at the Cody river gage is 272 cfs. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 800 cfs.

a. Forecast

The February 1, 2006 water supply forecast indicates below average April – July runoff can be expected at all forecast points in the Bighorn Basin except the Buffalo Bill watershed where average runoff is expected. The water supply forecasts are based on the snowpack at the Snotel stations, along with precipitation and soil moisture data.

Bighorn Water Supply Forecast

Forecast Points	February 1, 2006 Forecast of April-July Runoff			30 Yr. April-July Runoff Avg. <sup>2</sup>	Most Probable % of Avg.	Comparative Actual April – July Runoff			
	Reasonable Maximum <sup>1</sup>	Most Probable	Reasonable Minimum <sup>1</sup>			W. Yr. 2005	W. Yr. 2004	W. Yr. 2003	W. Yr. 2002
Bull Lake Reservoir	150	130	110	140	93	155	117	110	99
Wind River above Bull Lake Creek	460	360	260	411	88	388	294	302	277
Boysen Reservoir	800	500	300	565	89	589	321	262	159
Buffalo Bill Reservoir	800	650	500	653	100	513	387	668	553

<sup>1</sup> The probability is estimated to be 8 chances in 10 that the actual volume will fall between the reasonable minimum and reasonable maximum.

<sup>2</sup> Average is based on the 1976-2005 period.

2. Snow Conditions (from NRCS February 6, 2006 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

Drainage Basin	2/06/06	1/30/06	1/23/06	1/17/06	2/06/05
Wind River	91	87	89	86	97
Bighorn Basin	87	85	88	87	65
Shoshone	87	85	87	85	57
Upper North Platte	128	122	124	126	96
Lower North Platte	111	105	108	110	89

## STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Sue Lowry reported the following:

There will be a Produced Waters Workshop co-sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation, Family Farm Alliance, National Institutes for Water Resources, Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources and U.S. Geological Survey entitled, "Energy and Water – How Can We Get Both for the Price of One?" It will be held April 4-6 at the Marriott Hotel in Ft. Collins, CO. Please go to [www.cwrri.colostate.edu](http://www.cwrri.colostate.edu) for more information or to register.

A meeting to present the draft results of the situation assessment on the feasibility and establishment of a Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) and proposed monitoring plans for spring pulses on the Missouri River will be held Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> in Omaha, NE.

The next day, March 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a joint meeting of the Missouri River Basin Association and State Game and Fish agencies to discuss the final steps to forming the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST).

Two items that the SEO has requested in their budget that we will be monitoring closely are the additional funding for our IT Initiative and the funding for a Colorado River position.

The following is a short list of meetings to be held in the upcoming weeks:

Bear River River Technical Advisory Committee – February 21-23, Montpelier, ID

Interstate Council on Water Policy Roundtable – February 27 – March 2 – Washington, DC

Idaho Water District 01 Annual Meeting – March 6-8 – Idaho Falls, ID

Phil Stump reported the following:

Nebraska v. Wyoming settlement compliance: On December 31, 2005, Wyoming reported to the North Platte Decree Committee that 249 wells were active during the 2005 irrigation season in an area known as the "Triangle" located below Whalen Diversion dam. Wyoming's water replacement obligation for these active wells will be 6076 acre feet during the 2006 irrigation season. Wyoming will also have a replacement obligation for out-of-priority tributary diversions that occur in the "Triangle" in 2006. The State of Wyoming acting through the Wyoming Water Development Commission plans to enter into contracts for storage water from various sources to meet this replacement obligation. The uncontracted Wyoming

account within Glendo Reservoir's storage ownership will be one of the sources of storage water.

In reference to the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, the Final EIS is expected to be out in March with the Biological Opinion and Record of Decision to follow within weeks. The anticipated start date of the first increment (13 years) of the Program is still October 1, 2006.

Jodee Pring reported the following:

A 5% progress review meeting on the State Framework Water Plan will be held March 1<sup>st</sup> in Riverton at the Fremont Co. branch library with the consultant, WWC Engineering and the Framework representatives and alternates.

Our consultant for our IT Initiative, Weston Solutions, has given us the elaboration report to review. This report will set the direction and foundation for the project. Weston is also working on use cases that will be ready for our employees to test the second week of March.

We will be providing comments on two draft Environmental Impact Statements (dEIS). One is the Seminoe Road Gas Development Project and the other is the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project.

The Board of Control will be meeting at the Hitching Post all of this week.

#### WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF RURAL WATER SYSTEMS (WARWS)

Mike Jennings reported the following:

WARWS has a new Executive Director, Mark Pepper.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Training Conference will be held April 3-6 in Casper. Please visit [www.warws.com](http://www.warws.com) for a schedule and to register online.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – LAND QUALITY DIVISION (DEQ-LQD)

Kathy Muller-Ogle reported the following:

The Sheridan and Lander field offices have recently moved. Please visit <http://deq.state.wy.us/admin/contacts.asp> for the new addresses.

LQD has seen a recent expansion in the coal mines due to the increase in coal prices. Their office has also seen the recent re-opening of some uranium mines.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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

Kirk Miller reported the following:

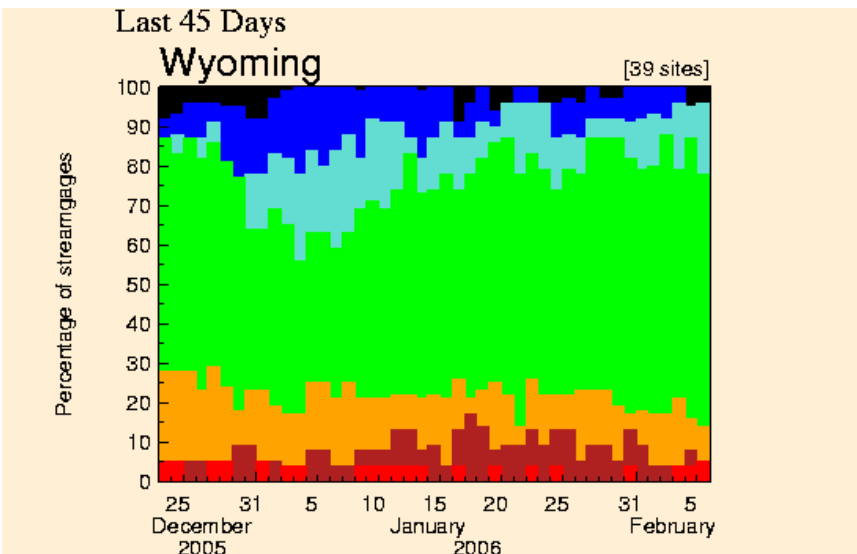
James F. Wilson 1933 - 2006

Jim Wilson passed away February 5<sup>th</sup> after living with multiple myeloma for more than 3 years. He came to Wyoming from USGS headquarters in 1967 to be the Chief of the Hydraulics Section and later the Investigations Section. He served as Acting District Chief four times between 1973 and 1987. He has authored chapters on dye tracing in the authoritative Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations (TWRI) series. He collected data for and served as the Survey representative on the Grand Canyon EIS. His mark on the USGS, however, goes well beyond official titles and formal publications. Those who knew Jim knew him as a man of integrity and generosity. There are few equals to his knowledge of the Survey and his willingness to pass on that information. Upon his retirement in 1994, he logged more than 9,000 hours as a USGS Volunteer for Science. Jim will be missed by all.

Services for Jim will be held 3:30 p.m. Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at the First Presbyterian Church, 220 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Cheyenne.

Current Streamflows      <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wy/nwis/rt>

Preliminary 7-day average streamflow data over the last 45 days at about 20 to 70 percent of reporting gaging stations in Wyoming with 30 or more years of record indicated near normal (25<sup>th</sup> to 74<sup>th</sup> percentile) conditions. As of February 6, streamflow conditions at about 15 percent of these stations are below normal (24<sup>th</sup> percentile or less). Note: Streamflow data are not included for those stations where the stage-discharge relation is affected by ice.



Explanation - Percentile classes						
New low	< 10	10-24	25-74	75 - 89	≥ 90	New high



## Discontinued Stations

USGS gaging operations have or will be discontinued for fiscal year 2006 at 13 sites in and near the Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR) because of a loss of funding. Operations were funded through an agreement between the USGS and the Tribal Water Engineer (TWE) through the Joint Business Council. Loss of funds was a result of programmatic decisions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). These decisions—described as permanent—have affected USGS gaging operations in six other USGS Water Science Centers. USGS has initiated headquarters-level discussions with BIA program managers.

USGS operations at the following 5 annual streamflow-gaging stations were discontinued November 1, 2005.

06220800	Wind River above Red Creek near Dubois, WY
06228350	South Fork Little Wind River above Washakie Reservoir, WY
06228450	South Fork Little Wind River below Washakie Reservoir, WY
06228800	North Fork Little Wind River near Fort Washakie, WY
06244500	Fivemile Creek above Wyoming Canal, WY

USGS operations at the following 3 seasonal streamflow- and 5 canal-gaging stations will be discontinued effective April 1, 2006.

06222500	Dry Creek near Burris, WY
06223500	Willow Creek near Crowheart, WY
06229900	Trout Creek near Fort Washakie, WY
06222100	Upper Wind River "A" Canal at Headworks
06222510	Dry Creek Canal at Headgate
06227596	Johnstown Ditch at Headworks
06227810	Lefthand Ditch at Headworks
06228510	Ray Canal at Headworks

In addition to the gaging stations, USGS operations will be discontinued at 4 rating-only sites effective April 1, 2006.

## President's FY07 Budget Request

The President's fiscal year 2007 budget request calls for a \$2.8M increase to the National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP). When completely implemented, NSIP will provide full federal funding for a core network of streamflow-gaging stations. The President's request also calls for a net decrease of \$662K to the Cooperative Water Program and includes additional stipulations on how the funds can be spent. The CWP provides USGS matching funds for cooperative agreements with State and other entities. For more information, see <http://www.usgs.gov> or <http://www.icwp.org>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> National Stakeholder Roundtable

The second National stakeholder roundtable was held Jan 30 – Feb 1 in Austin, TX. There were over 100 participants including about 70 non-USGS people from 20 states. Presentations and panel discussion participants included Congressional and Department of Interior staff, USGS personnel, and a member of the Texas Water Development Board. Breakout sessions addressed questions with and without the input of USGS personnel. The official meeting record, presentations, and additional summaries will be available from <http://www.icwp.org>

### New Publications

Clark, M.L., Lambing, J.H., and Bobst, A.L., 2006, Surface-water monitoring in watersheds of the Powder River Basin, 2005: U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 2005-3137, 4 p., online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2005/3137/>

### WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Bruce Brinkman reported the following:

3 new employees have been added to the WWDC staff. Brian Clerken has joined the construction division and Karen Halvorsen and Brian Smith have joined the dams and reservoirs section.

There are 22 new projects for which the WWDC is seeking professional services. Of these, one is a Level I new development; 7 are Level II rehabilitation, 6 are Level II new development; 2 are Level II storage; 5 are Level II rehabilitation and one is an instream flow study. The Statements of Qualification and Statements of Interest are due February 10, 2006.

### WYOMING FARM BUREAU

Suzy Noecker reported the following:

The Wyoming Farm Bureau will be holding its annual legislative meeting February 27-28 at Little America Hotel in Cheyenne.

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Mark Opitz reported the following:

Adolfo Perez is the new State Conservationist.

The National Association of Conservation Districts will be hosting the Bridging the Headgate website.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Erika Olson reported the following:

The Water and Natural Resources Division of the Attorney General's Office has moved to the Pioneer Building, 2424 Pioneer Ave.

## SPECIAL REPORT

Jeff Fassett of Fassett Consulting and Laurie Goodman, with Trout Unlimited – Wyoming Water Project (TU-WWP), gave a presentation on the legislation that has been developed for introduction this session on the study of temporary changes of use of water rights for in-channel purposes. A handout was given to those present explaining Senate File 74 and can be found **here**. A copy of Senate File 74 can be found on the Wyoming State Legislature website, <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/>.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.