



# State Engineer's Office

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PATRICK T. TYRRELL  
STATE ENGINEER

January 23, 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 January 3, 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 February 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
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Laurie Goodman and Jeff Fassett	Instream Flow
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 February 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. Jeff Fassett of Fassett Consulting and Laurie Goodman, with Trout Unlimited – Wyoming Water Project (TU-WWP), will be giving us 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 and other TU-WWP initiatives.

# WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2006

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and fifty-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>
Harry LaBonde	SEO	hlabon@seo.wyo.gov
Barry Lawrence	WWDC	blawre@state.wy.us
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Jeremy Lyon	WDEQ-WQD	jlyon@state.wy.us
Phil Ogle	WWDC	pogle@state.wy.us
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@seo.wyo.gov
Phil Stump	SEO	pstump@seo.wyo.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](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:

The following is a listing of reservoir conditions on December 31, 2005 **(THESE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED)**:

#### 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	6315.52	411,500	40	71
Pathfinder	5797.34	276,300	27	48
Alcova	5488.15	156,400	85	101
Glendo	4605.00	236,500	46	86
Guernsey	4401.69	11,600	25	140

December 31, 2004 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6299.05	269,960	582,000
Pathfinder	5791.57	234,488	575,400
Alcova	5488.02	156,088	154,500
Glendo	4604.35	231,843	274,000
Guernsey	4404.89	15,851	8,300

December 2005 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminoe	22.1	85
Pathfinder (Includes Sweetwater)	4.5	102
Alcova to Glendo Gains	4.2	55
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	0.6	38

The Pathfinder Reservoir storage was the fourth lowest December storage in the last 30 years.

Kendrick ownership was 538,400 acre-feet (AF) on December 31, 2005 and approximately 57% of average (938,100 AF), which compares to the 640,000 AF of Kendrick ownership on this date last year. The Kendrick ownership was the third lowest December ownership in the last 30 years. The December 31, 2005, North Platte ownership was 486,800 AF, which was approximately 98% of average (498,000 AF), which compares to the 193,900 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 53,300 AF on December 31, 2005, which was approximately 40% of average (133,700 AF), which compares to the 63,400 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, 2005 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5776.22	72,050	47	94
Boysen	4716.89	595,600	80	110
Buffalo Bill	5370.43	471,000	73	115
Pilot Butte	5453.77	28,300	84	118

December 31, 2004 Water Supply Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5788.22	102,960	76,900
Boysen	4717.48	605,243	536,700
Buffalo Bill	5369.05	461,015	409,400*
Pilot Butte	5452.60	27,350	23,900

\* 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.

December Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	3.2	128
Boysen	33.5	86
Buffalo Bill	15.5	96

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is currently 200 cfs, with the inflow from the springs; 307 cfs was measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 900 cfs.

2. Snow Conditions (from NRCS December 25<sup>th</sup> 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>12/25/05</u>	<u>12/19/05</u>	<u>12/12/05</u>	<u>12/05/05</u>	<u>12/25/04</u>
Wind River	73	78	76	84	99
Bighorn Basin	84	82	84	87	71
Upper North Platte	119	130	116	120	95
Lower North Platte	95	93	96	98	88

\*Red = down      \*Blue = up      \*Green = even

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Sue Lowry reported the following:

The Four States Irrigation Council will be meeting in Fort Collins January 11 – 13<sup>th</sup>. Phil Stump and Sue Lowry are planning on attending these meetings.

The Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) will be holding a Cooperators meeting in Austin, TX Jan. 31 – Feb. 2.

Phil Stump reported the following:

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has a revised schedule. The release date for the Final EIS is set for March of 2006 and the Biological Opinion and the Record of Decision is set for release in the spring of 2006.

A public hearing concerning the Pathfinder Modification Project is set for January 11 from 10:15 to 11:00. This hearing will be held in the conference room of the Water Development Offices in Cheyenne.

A survey will be sent out to approximately 450 people in the area above Guernsey. This survey is about 12 pages long and the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the National Agricultural Service are helping with this survey.

John Shields reported the following:

The discussions are still ongoing among the seven Colorado River Basin States to develop a consensus alternative to be offered to the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion in the National Environmental Policy Act analysis (EIS) for Lower Basin shortage guidelines and to explore coordinated reservoir operations for the operation of Lakes Powell and Mead so as to enhance the protection afforded to the Upper Basin by Lake Powell, and to delay the onset and minimize the extent and duration of shortages in the Lower Basin. Upcoming meetings will be held on January 5-6th and later in January, in order to meet a Secretary-imposed deadline for submitting a mutually-supported alternative by February, 2006.

The Wyoming Water Association will be holding its next Board of Directors' meeting on February 14th at 1:00 pm in the Water Development Commission's conference room in Cheyenne. The Association's first Legislative Review Session will follow the Board Meeting.

Harry Labonde reported the following:

A Legislative Water Seminar, sponsored by the State Engineer's Office and the Water Development Commission, will be held, Saturday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 3:00 in the Herschler Bldg., Room 1299.

#### WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (WWDC)

Phil Ogle reported the following:

The last round of the fall Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meetings were held in December. The State Framework Water Plan was discussed. Jodie Pavlica, Project Manager for the Framework plan, presented a review of what has gone on with River Basin planning thus far and what the Framework plan means for the basins. Each BAG also chose 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 was also reviewed.

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

The next joint meeting of the Water Development Commission and the Select Water Committee will be held Jan. 11-13<sup>th</sup> in Cheyenne. The workshop will be held from 8:00 to 5:00 in the WWDC conference room on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The Water Development Commission will hold their meeting January 12<sup>th</sup>, also at the WWDC offices, beginning at 8:30 a.m. January 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:30 a.m. will be the Select Water Committee meeting, to be held in Room 302 of the Capitol Bldg. Tours for all new projects are going on the week of Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are 31 new projects and 20 projects moving to construction.

Barry Lawrence reported the following:

The search for a new Director of the Water Resources Data Systems (WRDS) has begun. The job announcement can be found at:

<http://uwadmweb.uwyo.edu/hremloyment2/Nonclass.htm#APRS4758>

The scoping statement for the Wyoming Weather Modification Pilot Project in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest has been released. The deadline date for comments on this scoping statement is February 6, 2006. Information on this project can be found at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/projects/specper/index.shtml>

### SPECIAL REPORT

The special report today was from Phil Ogle of the Wyoming Water Development Commission. Mr. Ogle was the project manager on the Kirby Area Water Supply Level I Study. The Westside Irrigation District and the Washakie Development Association were the sponsors of this project. Mr. Ogle's powerpoint presentation can be found here.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.