



# State Engineer's Office

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April 23, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the State Water Forum

FROM: Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman

SUBJECT: Attached for your review and information is a copy of the April 3, 2007 Water Forum meeting minutes. Please take a few moments and pencil into your calendar the Water Forum dates for this year. The last meeting of the 2006-2007 season will be May 1<sup>st</sup> in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

### WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2006-2007 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sarah Strauss - UW, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Anthropology	Climate Change and the Social Life of Water in Leukerbad, Switzerland

### SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be May 1, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from Sarah Strauss who is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Wyoming. Ms. Strauss will be speaking to us about the climate change and the social life of water in Leukerbad, Switzerland.

## WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2007

Jodee Pring called the two hundred and sixty-fifth 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>
Michael Beus	USBR-SRAO	mbeus@pn.usbr.gov
Matt Bilodeau	COE	matthew.a.bilodeau@usace.army.mil
Liberty Blain	LCCD	liberty@lccdnet.org
Mark Conrad	WDEQ-WQD	mconra@state.wy.us
John Eise	NOAA - NWS	john.eise@noaa.gov
Steve Gray	WRDS/State Climatologist	sgray8@uwyo.edu
Lee Hackleman	NRCS	lee.hackleman@wy.usda.gov
Rick Huber	WY G&F	rick.huber@wgf.state.wy.us
Harry LaBonde	SEO	hlabond@seo.wyo.gov
John Lawson	USBR	jlawson@gp.usbr.gov
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Jeremy Lyon	WDEQ-WQD	jlyon@state.wy.us
Peter Michael	AG	pmicha@state.wy.us
Kathy Muller Ogle	WDEQ-LQD	kmogle@state.wy.us
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@seo.wyo.gov
Mike Sweat	USGS	mjsweat@usgs.gov
Pat Tyrrell	SEO	ptyrre@seo.wyo.gov
Justin Williams	WY Dept. of Agriculture	jwilli7@state.wy.us
David Willms	AG	dwillm@state.wy.us
Vicki Winders	WWDO	vwinde@state.wy.us
Steve Wolff	SEO	swolff@seo.wyo.gov

### AGENCY REPORTS

In order to assure accurate reporting in the minutes, all attendees are asked to email a copy of the report they gave at the meeting. These minutes consist of a compilation of the written reports received. Please email a report to Jodee Pring, State Engineer's Office at [jpring@seo.wyo.gov](mailto:jpring@seo.wyo.gov). This will increase the efficiency and accuracy of completing the minutes for the Water Forum. 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.

March 31, 2007 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6306.78	331,278	33	70
Pathfinder	5793.59	248,619	24	39
Alcova	5488.80	157,849	86	100
Glendo	4620.67	364,632	70	88
Guernsey	4405.35	16,533	36	86

March 31, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6315.48	411,054	471,200
Pathfinder	5798.98	289,089	645,100
Alcova	5488.70	157,622	158,400
Glendo	4618.66	346,286	416,100
Guernsey	4405.84	17,278	19,100

March 2007 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	100.1	181
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	12.2	103
Alcova to Glendo Gains	16.5	93
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	1.0	67

Kendrick ownership was 437,300 acre-feet (AF) on March 31, 2007 and approximately 48% of average (910,700 AF), which compares to the Kendrick ownership of 535,300 AF last year at this date. The March 31, 2007 North Platte ownership was 638,100 AF, which was approximately 101% of average (629,400 AF), which compares to 617,000 AF of North Platte ownership this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 27,500 AF on March 31, 2007, which was approximately 20% of average (139,300 AF), which compares to the 52,600 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortess Dam are approximately 800 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 800 cfs. The level of Alcova Reservoir is being raised 10 during the month of April and will be at its summer operating

range of 5498± one foot by May 1. A flushing flow was conducted on the North Platte River in coordination with the Wyoming Game and Fish during the week of March 19-23. The flush flows consisted of increasing releases from Gray Reef Dam from 500 cfs to 4,000 cfs for 4 hours and back down to 500 cfs for five consecutive days.

The April 1 water supply forecast projected a total expected April through July runoff in the North Platte Basin above Glendo Dam to be 560,000 acre feet (AF) or 63% of the 30 year average of 883,000 AF. Approximately 440,000 AF (63% of average) of the runoff is expected to enter Seminoe Reservoir with an additional 40,000 AF (65% of average) being provided to Pathfinder Reservoir from the Sweetwater River, and the balance of 80,000 AF (66% of average) coming from the basin between Pathfinder Reservoir and Glendo Reservoir.

2. North Platte Allocation of Storage Water

The allocation letter has been 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 is advising that there is no need for allocation of storage water.

3. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

March 31, 2007 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full</u> <u>Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5770.39	58,465	38	76
Boysen	4707.90	464,319	63	85
Buffalo Bill	5368.65	457,725	71	114
Pilot Butte	5454.05	28,551	85	101

March 31, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5776.63	73,037	77,300
Boysen	4714.42	556,819	543,300
Buffalo Bill	5371.01	474,963	401,700*
Pilot Butte	5453.21	27,853	28,400

\* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2006. 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.

### March 2007 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	1.8	100
Boysen	35.9	68
Buffalo Bill	25.4	134

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the Shoshone River is approximately 200 cfs and with additional flow from the springs is approximately 268 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 500 cfs.

The April water supply forecast projected a total expected April through July runoff in the Shoshone River Basin above Buffalo Bill Dam to be 425,000 acre-feet (66% of average), compared to a 30 year average of 641,000 acre-feet. The total expected April through July runoff to Boysen Reservoir is 300,000 acre-feet (54% of average).

### WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (WWDO)

Vicki Winders reported the following:

The Framework Water Plan is wrapping up. A 90% completion meeting will be held in Riverton at the Fremont County Branch Library on June 11 starting at 1:00 p.m.

After that meeting, the Water Planning staff will then conduct the summer Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meetings around the state. The following is the schedule:  
June 12 - Wind/Bighorn BAG - Barling Meeting Room, Courthouse Addition, Cody - 3:00 p.m.

June 13 - Snake/Salt BAG - Town Hall, Council Chambers, Alpine - 6:00 p.m.

June 18 - Powder/Tongue BAG - BLM Bldg., Conference Room A, Buffalo - 6:00 p.m.

June 19 - Northeast WY BAG - Forest Service Bldg., Newcastle - 1:00 p.m.

June 20 - Platte BAG - WY Technology Business Center (behind Art Museum), Conference Room A, Laramie - 11:00 a.m.

June 25 - Bear BAG - Bridger-Carter Room, Uinta County Library, Evanston - 6:00 p.m.

June 26 - Green BAG - Western WY Community College, Room 1302, Rock Springs - 10:00 a.m.

### WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEMS (WRDS)

Steve Gray reported the following:

Mr. Gray passed around two handouts, the 6-10 day precipitation probability outlook and the departures from normal. He also stressed that education is very important. People see snow and rain and think the drought is over.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ASSOCIATION - NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NOAA - NWS)

John Eise reported the following:

Precipitation has been spotty. The chance of any more big storms is pretty slim. These high temperatures that we are having cause greater evaporation. The precipitation does not go into the ground.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Lee Hackleman reported the following:

Mr. Hackleman handed out copies of the Monday morning snow report for April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This report can be found at:

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

Mr. Hackleman also handed out the Drought Status Update for April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This informative document can be found at:

<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/wsc/df/drought.html>

LARAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (LCCD)

Liberty Blain reported the following:

The 2007 LCCD water quality monitoring season started on April 2 for the Cheyenne area of Crow Creek.

The City of Cheyenne finished upgrading the two water treatment facilities and reported to LCCD that they have reduced ammonia discharges by ~98%. These facility upgrades and decreases in ammonia discharges will need to be evaluated by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to determine if the stream is meeting the ammonia standard, or if there are further ammonia concerns on Crow Creek.

LCCD has finished working with the Upper Crow Creek Watershed Steering Committee on developing the Amendment to the Crow Creek Watershed Plan that addresses water quality issues in the upper reaches of the Crow Creek Watershed. The Amendment has been submitted to DEQ for their approval.

LCCD continues to work with U. S. Forest Service on water quality efforts in the Pole Mountain Area of the Medicine Bow National Forest. Data over the last 3 years seems to show improvement in the bacteria levels of Middle Fork and North Branch North Fork Crow Creek, but there are still some water quality concerns on which we are working.

The Laramie County Commissioners are sponsoring a Level One study through the Wyoming Water Development Commission for the Laramie County Aquifer. LCCD is participating with the Commissioners on this project and share similar concerns for future sustainability of groundwater resources in Laramie County.

## UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

Kirk Miller submitted the following:

The USGS Wyoming annual data report for water year 2006 was completed Friday, March 30. As of today, it is available online in its entirety. Beginning with water year 2006 data, the annual data report took on a new format that is a departure from previous versions in a few ways. It is now a National report and at this time is only available online. The report is based on individual sites and the basic product is a Site Data Sheet (SDS).

Note: The main USGS data product continues to be NWISWeb (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>). If you have problems finding the data you need, have questions about downloading data in a format you can use, or any other issues with NWISWeb, please feel free to contact me.

The interface to the data report are text-based or map-based web pages. A persistent URL (<http://pubs.water.usgs.gov/wdr2006>) will direct you to the text-based web page. A link to a map-based web page--or Mapper--can be found on the text-based page (and vice-versa).

I would encourage Wyoming users of this product to provide feedback directly to me (Kirk Miller, [kmiller@usgs.gov](mailto:kmiller@usgs.gov), 307-775-9168). The web pages do have contact links and you should feel free to use them; however, in order for the USGS in Wyoming to be more responsive to your data needs, it would be better if questions, comments, suggestions, etc. also were sent directly to the USGS in Wyoming.

Mike Sweat reported the following:

Recent measured streamflows have been larger to much larger than expected for this time of year. Earlier and probably lower annual peaks, with shorter durations, should be expected. Baseflows are likely to be much smaller than averages.

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE)

Matt Bilodeau reported the following:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the re-issuance of their Nationwide Permits in Part II of the Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 47, dated March 12, 2007. They are issued under the auspices of the Regulatory Branch Office, Civil Works Directorate, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters Office located in Washington, D.C.

The website address for the Regulatory Program Office in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters Office is: <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/>

The Chief of Engineers is authorized to establish general permits in accordance with Section 404(e) of the Clean Water Act. The Corps authority to established general permits is further described in Corps consolidated regulations at 33 CFR Part 322.2(f). The Corps Nationwide Permit Program is described at 33 CFR Part 330.

A Nationwide Permit is a type of general permit which authorizes activities in waters of the United States on a nationwide basis unless specifically limited. As stated in the Corps regulations, general permits are issued for a category or categories of activities when (1) those activities are substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal and cumulative environmental impacts; or (2) the general permit would result in avoiding unnecessary duplication of the regulatory control exercised by another Federal, state, or local agency provided it has been determined that the environmental consequences of the action are individually and cumulatively minimal.

The Omaha District issued a Public Notice dated March 19, 2007, that the Corps headquarters office prepared containing a link to the March 12, 2007, Federal Register announcing the issuance of the Nationwide Permits and a link to decision documents for the new and reissued nationwide permits. A copy of that Public Notice which was handed out at the Water Forum Meeting is attached. It is also available on the Corps Wyoming Field Office Regulatory web site at:

<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rwy/Wyoming.htm>

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality issued a letter on March 20, 2007, describing the action they have taken with regards to providing Section 401 Certification of the Nationwide Permits in Wyoming. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for providing Section 401 Certification of the Nationwide Permits on behalf of the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes for activities on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. The EPA has not provided 401 certification as of this date. Accordingly, use of the Nationwide Permits on the Wind River Indian reservation will require project specific 401 certification from the EPA.

A table prepared by the Corps headquarters office summarizing the 2007 Nationwide Permits is available for quick reference. However, the March 12, 2007, Federal Register referenced above and on the enclosed Public Notice should be consulted for complete information on the 2007 Nationwide Permits.

The Wyoming Regulatory Office will be issuing a more complete Public Notice on the status of the Nationwide Permits and their availability for use in Wyoming after the proposed Regional Conditions for Wyoming have received required final review and approval by the Corps Northwest Division Commander in Portland, Oregon and after the EPA has provided their Section 401 certification letter needed to authorize activities under the Nationwide Permits on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

The Nationwide Permits went into effect on March 19, 2007. They will remain in effect unless suspended, modified or revoked in accordance with the Corps regulations for a period of five years, until March 18, 2012.

#### STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE (SEO)

Sue Lowry reported the following:



On March 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a Bureau of Reclamation meeting on Yellowtail Reservoir. The Montana area office has decided on a 2000 cfs steady flow.

The Missouri River Association of States and Tribes is looking for an Executive Director. If interested, please contact Ms. Lowry.

John Shields reported the following:

The April 1<sup>st</sup> forecast of projected inflow for the April through July streamflow into Flaming Gorge Reservoir is 550,000 acre-feet, as estimated by the NOAA Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC). This is 41% of the normal/long term average. The CBRFC is projecting the Lake Powell inflow during April through July to be 4 million acre-feet (50% of normal).

The seven Colorado River Basin States continue to develop their comments and proposed shortage guidelines for submittal to the Secretary of the Interior by the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for the "Interim Shortage Guidelines and Coordinated Reservoir Operation for Lake Mead and Lake Powell" draft environmental impact statement (dEIS). The Basin States representatives will again be meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to sign the Basin States Agreement and put in final form their package of the Agreement, guidelines and comments on the dEIS. The Basin States will be recommending the Basin States Alternative, analyzed in the dEIS, be adopted as the preferred alternative in the Final EIS and the subject of the Secretary's Record of Decision (to be issued by 12/31/2007).

Jodee Pring reported the following:

The Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming will be holding a Wildlife Heritage Summit on May 11 and 12 at the Parkway Plaza Hotel in Casper, WY. Please visit [www.whfw.org](http://www.whfw.org) for more details.

The Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Mediation Program will be holding a training workshop June 18 - 21 in Cheyenne. The program is designed for anyone interested in learning mediation skills. Please contact Lucy Pauley at [lpau@state.wy.us](mailto:lpau@state.wy.us) for more information.

### SPECIAL REPORT

Mike Beus, Water Operations Manager with the Bureau of Reclamation's Snake River Area Office and John Lawson, Area Manager of the Wyoming Area Office, were our special presenters today. Mr. Beus and Mr. Lawson spoke on the forecast for the upcoming season. Mr. Beus' PowerPoint presentation can be found [here](#) and Mr. Lawson's PowerPoint can be found [here](#).

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.