



# State Engineer's Office

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January 26, 2007

DAVE  
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GOVERNOR

PATRICK T.  
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STATE ENGINEER

## 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 2, 2007 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 6<sup>th</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
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Scott Yates, Laurie Goodman - Trout Unlimited	Legislative Update
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Annear - WY Game and Fish	Behavior, bioenergetics and survival of trout below dams in the winter
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Lawson, Mike Beus - Bureau of Reclamation	Water Forecast
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 February 6, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from Scott Yates and Laurie Goodman of Trout Unlimited. Mr. Yates and Ms. Goodman will be giving us an update on the legislation on which Trout Unlimited has been working.

## WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

January 2, 2007

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and sixty-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>
Vicki Beckman	WWDO	vbeckm@state.wy.us
Dennis Beyer	Nine Mile Creek Project	beyer@nprnd.org
Steve Brill	Goshen Co. Weed & Pest	gocoweeds@earthlink.net
Lindsay Cawthra	Albany Co. Weed & Pest	albanywedist@wyoming.com
Mark Conrad	WDEQ-WQD	mconra@state.wy.us
Slade Franklin	WY Dept. of Agriculture	sfrank@state.wy.us
Robert Gilbert	Platte Co. Weed & Pest	saltcedar@wyomingwisp.com
Rick Huber	WY G&F	rick.huber@wgf.state.wy.us
Dave Johnson	WAM	Johnson@wyomuni.org
Skip Lewis	Converse Co. Weed & Pest	concowp@coffey.com
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Jeremy Lyon	WDEQ-WQD	jlyon@state.wy.us
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
Mike Sarchet	Nine Mile Watershed - NE	msarchet@nebmail.com
Cheryl Schwartzkopf	Converse Co. Weed & Pest	concowp@coffey.com
J Sheehan	Carbon Co. Weed & Pest	j_d_sheehan@yahoo.com
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@seo.wyo.gov
Bob Shoemaker	Platte Co. Weed & Pest	bshoemak@wyomingwisp.com
Justin Williams	WY Dept. of Agriculture	jwilli7@state.wy.us
Willis Williams	Carbon Co. Weed & Pest	wwilliam@union-tel.com

### 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.

December 31, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6299.88	276,100	27	48
Pathfinder	5791.51	234,100	23	42
Alcova	5488.10	156,300	85	101
Glendo	4606.29	245,800	47	90
Guernsey	4401.07	10,900	24	127

December 31, 2005 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6315.58	412,000	572,800
Pathfinder	5797.33	276,200	559,000
Alcova	5488.27	156,700	154,500
Glendo	4604.97	236,200	271,900
Guernsey	4401.68	11,600	8,600

December 2006 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	28.4	111
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	2.1	49
Alcova to Glendo Gains	4.4	59
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	0.5	31

Kendrick ownership was 439,500 acre-feet (AF) on December 31, 2006 and approximately 48% of average (918,900 AF), which compares to the Kendrick ownership of 538,300 AF last year at this date. The December 31, 2006 North Platte ownership was 442,800 AF, which was approximately 90% of average (492,700 AF), which compares to 487,400 AF of North Platte ownership this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 28,500 AF on December 31, 2006, which was approximately 22% of average (130,100 AF), which compares to the 53,400 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortes Dam are approximately 525 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

### December 31, 2006 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	5770.41	58,500	38	76
Boysen	4708.67	474,600	64	82
Buffalo Bill	5367.10	447,200	69	108
Pilot Butte	5409.80	3,700	11	14

### December 31, 2005 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5776.24	72,100	77,000
Boysen	4716.91	595,900	580,900
Buffalo Bill	5370.44	471,100	413,800*
Pilot Butte	5453.76	28,300	26,700

\* 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.

### December 2006 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	2.1	88
Boysen	25.1	65
Buffalo Bill	12.8	81

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the Shoshone River is approximately 200 cfs and with additional flow from the springs is approximately 290 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 500 cfs.

## WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (WWDO)

Vicki Beckman reported the following:

Lawrence "Mike" Besson will be stepping down as director of the Water Development Office effective March 1, 2007.

In the upcoming legislative session, the Omnibus Bill - Construction proposes funding 28 projects with an appropriation of approximately \$29 million, and the Omnibus Bill - Planning proposes funding 29 planning projects with an appropriation of approximately \$6 million. Included among the planning projects is an update of the Green River Basin Plan with a budget of \$600,000 and a groundwater study of the Lusk area for the State Engineer's Office with a budget of \$200,000. In preparation for the upcoming planning projects, the 2007 consultant selection process will be initiated later this month with the advertising for Statements of Interest and Qualifications.

For the weather modification project in the Sierra Madre/Medicine Bow Ranges, all of the environmental work, including permitting has been completed and 12 generators are operational. Cloud seeding also commenced this month in this range. Permitting is underway and 5 generators are being tested in the Wind River Range.

On January 31, a workshop will be held in Powell, WY for irrigation districts and rural subdivisions. This workshop "Residential Issues and Raw Water Supply Opportunities for Irrigation Districts in Wyoming" is being funded by the Bureau of Reclamation's Science and Technology Program, the University of Wyoming and the Water Development Commission. For more information, email John Wilkins-Wells at [johnww@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:johnww@lamar.colostate.edu).

#### WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES (WAM)

Dave Johnson reported the following:

The WAM Winter workshop will be held Jan. 17 - 19 at LCCC. Please go to [www.wyomuni.org](http://www.wyomuni.org) for more information.

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

Sue Lowry reported the following:

The Belle Fourche River Compact meeting was held in Beulah, WY on December 4, 2006. The meeting was well attended and some of the items discussed were storage levels at Keyhole Reservoir and coalbed natural gas.

On Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, the Yellowstone River Compact Commission held their meetings. On the afternoon of Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, the technical committee got together to discuss coalbed natural gas activities, water management activities during the 2006 irrigation season and the water supply outlook.

On Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, the Commission met and MT introduced their interim Commissioner, Mary Sexton. Ms. Sexton is the director of the MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation. Other issues that were discussed at this meeting include the statewide adjudication currently ongoing in MT, coalbed natural gas development, weather modification, and water year administration highlights for 2006.

On Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Sue Lowry and Jodee Pring attended a MRBA/MoRAST meeting in Minneapolis, MN. MRBA (Missouri River Basin Association) is disbanding and forming a new group MoRAST (Missouri River Association of States and Tribes). MRBA will be adopting rules for dissolution and MoRAST will be moving forward with articles of incorporation and discussion on leadership of the organization.

On Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ms. Lowry will be attending the America Water Resources Association National Water Policy Dialogue in Washington, DC.

Jodee Pring reported the following:

The 90% Framework progress review meeting will be held the week of March 12<sup>th</sup>. After this meeting, Murray Schroeder, consultant for the project, will be attending the spring Basin Advisory Group meetings (BAG) to give the same presentation to all of the BAGs.

The snow water equivalent statewide remained the same as last week (79%). Most drainage basins dropped slightly from the week before. Please go to <http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/snowrept/snowrept.html> for the latest snow report.

John Shields reported the following:

A Wyoming Legislative Water Law Workshop will be held January 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 11:00 in room 1699 of the Herschler Bldg. This workshop is for new and returning legislators who would like to learn more about Wyoming Water Law. Mike Besson of the Water Development Office and Pat Tyrrell, State Engineer will be conducting the workshop.

The Wyoming Water Association Board of Directors will be having a meeting January 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 p.m. After the meeting, there will be a legislative review. Please visit [www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org) for more details.

#### SPECIAL REPORT

Slade Franklin, Weed and Pest Coordinator for the Department of Agriculture was our special presenter for today. Mr. Franklin gave a PowerPoint presentation on the different counties in the state that have Weed and Pest programs and how noxious weeds get added to the state list of invasive species. A copy of his PowerPoint presentation can be found **here**.

Mr. Franklin brought a special guest with him, Mike Sarchet, who is with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed Council in Nebraska. This group has done extensive work combating Salt cedar and Russian olive along Nine Mile Creek. A copy of this very informative PowerPoint presentation can be found **here**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.