



State Engineer's Office

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GOVERNOR

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April 2, 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 March 6, 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 April 3rd in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2006-2007 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
April 3 rd	John Lawson, Mike Beus - Bureau of Reclamation	Water Forecast
May 1 st	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 April 3, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from John Lawson and Mike Beus with the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Lawson and Mr. Beus will be speaking to us about the water forecast for the upcoming season.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2007

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and sixty-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>
Brian Anderson	USBR	bjanderson@gp.usbr.gov
Tom Annear	WY G&F	tom.annear@wgf.state.wy.us
Mark Conrad	WDEQ-WQD	mconra@state.wy.us
Jeff Geyer	SEO	jgeyer@seo.wyo.gov
Steve Gray	WRDS/State Climatologist	sgray8@uwyo.edu
Lee Hackleman	NRCS	lee.hackleman@wy.usda.gov
Greg Kerr	UW - Office of Water Programs	rrek@uwyo.edu
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Jeremy Lyon	WDEQ-WQD	jlyon@state.wy.us
Kirk Miller	USGS	kmiller@usgs.gov
Kathy Muller Ogle	WDEQ-LQD	kmogle@state.wy.us
Mark Opitz	NRCS	mark.opitz@wy.usda.gov
Jack Scott	BOPU	jscott@cheyennebopu.org
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@seo.wyo.gov
Phil Stump	SEO	pstump@seo.wyo.gov
Justin Williams	WY Dept. of Agriculture	jwilli7@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. 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.

February 28, 2007 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6298.40	265,200	26	54
Pathfinder	5793.16	245,600	24	40
Alcova	5488.15	156,400	85	100
Glendo	4614.64	311,300	60	85
Guernsey	4403.99	14,600	32	101

February 28, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6314.51	401,500	494,100
Pathfinder	5799.10	290,000	616,000
Alcova	5488.30	156,700	155,700
Glendo	4613.00	297,700	367,300
Guernsey	4404.56	15,400	14,400

February 2007 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	27.4	102
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	5.4	90
Alcova to Glendo Gains	9.2	67
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	0.8	62

Kendrick ownership was 438,500 acre-feet (AF) on February 28, 2007 and approximately 48% of average (917,500 AF), which compares to the Kendrick ownership of 536,900 AF last year at this date. The February 28, 2007 North Platte ownership was 512,900 AF, which was approximately 90% of average (568,900 AF), which compares to 557,500 AF of North Platte ownership this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 27,900 AF on February 28, 2007, which was approximately 21% of average (134,700 AF), which compares to the 52,500 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortess 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.

Total expected April through July runoff in the North Platte Basin above Glendo Dam is expected to be 720,000 acre feet (AF) or 82% of the 30 year average of 883,000 AF. Approximately 600,000 AF (86% of average) of the runoff is expected to enter Seminoe Reservoir with an additional 30,000 AF (48% of average) being provided to Pathfinder Reservoir from the Sweetwater River, and the balance of 90,000 AF (74% of average) coming from the basin between Pathfinder Reservoir and Glendo Reservoir.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

February 28, 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	5770.41	58,500	38	76
Boysen	4707.53	459,500	62	83
Buffalo Bill	5366.85	445,100	69	109
Pilot Butte	5436.11	21,800	65	82

February 28, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5776.61	73,000	77,200
Boysen	4715.30	570,300	551,300
Buffalo Bill	5370.72	473,000	408,600*
Pilot Butte	5453.57	28,000	26,500

* 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.

February 2007 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	1.4	88
Boysen	24.4	65
Buffalo Bill	11.2	85

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the Shoshone River is approximately 200 cfs and with additional flow from the springs is approximately 280 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 500 cfs.

The total expected April through July runoff in the Shoshone River Basin above Buffalo Bill Dam is expected to be 500,000 acre-feet (78% of average), compared to a 30 year

average of 641,000 acre-feet. The total expected April through July runoff to Boysen Reservoir is 350,000 acre-feet (63% of average).

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (WWDO)

Vicki Winders reported the following:

Mike Purcell took over as director of the Water Development Commission effective March 1st.

A Commission meeting will be held later this week, March 8 and 9, in Cheyenne. Jim Wilson has taken over the member-at-large position on the Commission, replacing William "Jeb" Steward who was elected to the House of Representatives representing House District No. 47.

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) - WATER QUALITY DIVISION

Mark Conrad reported the following:

The Environmental Quality Council (EQC) approved Chapter 1 of the DEQ rules, however, didn't approve the agricultural use policy. The Council would like to approve it as a rule, but they feel that they need more information before promulgating it as a rule.

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Justin Williams reported the following:

Their office is tracking Chapters 1 and 2 of DEQ rules. The Dept. of Agriculture is also planning workshops for producers in drought designated counties to instruct them as to how the designations occur.

WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEMS (WRDS)

Steve Gray reported the following:

WRDS will be getting drought info out this spring/summer. Jim Fahey, with the National Weather Service, will be helping to coordinate this effort.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Mark Opitz reported the following:

Curtis Tarver is the Acting State Conservationist. Jay Mar has replaced George Cleek as the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs.

Mr. Opitz also provided the following links for further information:

Johanns Unveils 2007 Farm Bill Proposals:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/>

Acting State Conservationist and the NRCS Wyoming 2006 Report:

<http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Wyoming NRCS Quarterly newsletter:

<http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/wycivil/civil.html>

Lee Hackleman reported the following:

Mr. Hackleman handed out copies of the Monday morning snow report for March 5th.

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 March 6th. This informative document can be found at:

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

UW OFFICE OF WATER PROGRAMS

Greg Kerr reported the following:

Mr. Kerr handed out a list of the Water Research Program Projects for FY 2007. The abstracts and annual reports of these projects are at:

www.eng.uwyo.edu/civil/research/wwrp/

The following are a list of the projects:

“Real-Time Monitoring of *E-Coli* Contamination in Wyoming Surface Waters”

Paul E. Johnson, Physics and Astronomy, UW, Mar 05 - Feb 08.

“Predicting Drought in the Green River Basin”

Glenn Tootle and Steve Gray, civil and Architectural Engr., UW, Mar 06 - Feb 08.

“Precipitation Measurement and Growth Mechanisms in Orographic Wyoming Snowstorms”

J. Snider and B. Geerts, Dept. of Atmospheric Science, UW, Mar 06 - Feb 09.

“Tracing Glacial Ice and Snow Meltwater With Isotopes”

Dave Williams, Dept. of Renewable Resources, UW, Mar 07 - Feb 09.

“Integrated Management of Groundwater and Surface Water Resources: Investigations of Different Management Strategies and Testing in a Modeling Framework”

Fred Ogden, Civil and Architectural Engr., and Melinda H. Benson, Ruckleshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, UW, Mar 07 - Feb 10

“Detecting the Signature of Glaciogenic Cloud Seeding in Orographic Snowstorms in Wyoming Using the Wyoming Cloud Radar”

Bart Geerts, Dept. of Atmospheric Science, WU, Mar 07 - Feb 10

“Weather Modification Impacts and Forecasting of Streamflow”

Glenn Tootle, Civil and Architectural Engr., UW and Tom Piechota, Univ. of Nebraska,
Mar 07 - Feb 10

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

Kirk Miller reported the following:

Streamflow of 2006 - Water Year Summary

For the period 1930 - 2006 (77 years), water year 2006 streamflows in Wyoming ranked 39th overall (1st equating to the highest). Streamflows for the first two quarters of the water year were above normal (ranked 11th and 12 respectively) followed by lower streamflows during the last two quarters (ranked 52nd and 49th). For more information see:

<http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/2006summary/>

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative

The Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) is a Department of Interior effort directed at addressing potential impacts to wildlife in southwestern Wyoming from energy related development. Multi-agency teams including representatives from Wyoming state agencies currently are organizing and planning for a FY2008 start. For more information see:

<http://www/wlci.gov/>

USGS Budget News

A fourth and final continuing resolution passed February 15 allocated \$977.6 million for the U.S. Geological Survey in FY2007. The USGS is working with the Department of the Interior and Office of Management and Budget officials on the details of funding by program. Early indications are that the proposed increases in the National Streamflow Information Program and the Cooperative Water Program were not funded. For more information see:

http://www/usgs.gov/budget/whats_new.asp

2006 Annual Water Data Report

<http://pubs.water.usgs.gov/wdr2006/>

International Polar Year

March 2007 through March 2009 marks the International Polar Year (IPY), a coordinated, multidisciplinary effort aimed at better understanding the role of the polar regions in global processes. Through an agreement with the National Science foundation, the USGS Wyoming Water Science Center will contribute to IPY objectives

by assisting in the collection of water resources data in the Dry Valleys of Antarctica.
For more information see:
<http://international.usgs.gov/ipy/default.shtml>

New Publications

USGS publications related to water resources of Wyoming can be searched online at:
<http://wy.water.usgs.gov/pubs/statebiblio/index.htm>

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE (SEO)

John Shields reported the following:

There will be a Colorado River Salinity Control meeting June 5-7 in Jackson.

The Bureau of Reclamation's Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lakes Powell and Mead is out. Hearings are set in various places for early April. A preferred alternative has not yet been picked.

SPECIAL REPORT

Tom Annear, with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, was the special presenter today. Mr. Annear gave an interesting presentation on "Winter survival, movement and bio-energetics of trout in tailwater habitat". His PowerPoint presentation can be found **here**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.