



State Engineer's Office

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May 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 May 1, 2007 Water Forum meeting minutes.

The Water Forum will take a break for the summer, but will resume in September. Please visit our website at <http://seo.state.wy.us/> for the 2007-2008 schedule. I would like to send out a big thank you to all of the Water Forum members for your support and encouragement over this last year. We will see you on September 4th in the State Engineer's Office conference room, Herschler Bldg., 4E

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2007

Jodee Pring called the two hundred and sixty-sixth 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>
Matt Bilodeau	COE	matthew.a.bilodeau@usace.army.mil
Melissa Goering	NWS - Cheyenne	melissa.goering@noaa.gov
Terry Gonzales	NRCS	terry.gonzales@wy.usda.gov
Steve Gray	WRDS/State Climatologist	sgray8@uwyo.edu
Lee Hackleman	NRCS	lee.hackleman@wy.usda.gov
Beth Hoobler	SEO	bhoobl@seo.wyo.gov
Jeremy Manley	SEO	jmanle@seo.wyo.gov
Kathy Muller Ogle	WDEQ-LQD	kmogle@state.wy.us
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@seo.wyo.gov
Sarah Strauss	UW - Dept. of Anthropology	strauss@uwyo.edu
Justin Williams	WY Dept. of Agriculture	jwilli7@state.wy.us

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.

April 30, 2007 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6305.51	320,615	32	66
Pathfinder	5792.30	239,537	24	36
Alcova	5498.66	181,109	98	101
Glendo	4629.36	452,164	87	100
Guernsey	4409.83	24,023	53	77

April 30, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6315.41	410,360	484,600
Pathfinder	5799.33	291,879	660,800
Alcova	5489.16	179,888	178,800
Glendo	4627.17	428,824	450,500
Guernsey	4410.00	24,338	31,000

April 2007 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	90.4	89
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	8.7	42
Alcova to Glendo Gains	29.9	81
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	-0.1	-2

Kendrick ownership was 436,200 acre-feet (AF) on April 30, 2007 and approximately 48% of average (917,800 AF), which compares to the Kendrick ownership of 531,400 AF last year at this date. The April 30, 2007 North Platte ownership was 723,200 AF, which was approximately 101% of average (717,700 AF), which compares to 725,900 AF of North Platte ownership this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 26,700 AF on April 30, 2007, which was approximately 19% of average (144,100 AF), which compares to the 51,600 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortess Dam are approximately 1500 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 700 cfs. The level of Alcova Reservoir is at its summer operating range of 5498± one foot.

The May 1 water supply forecast projected a total expected April through July runoff in the North Platte Basin above Glendo Dam to be 445,000 acre feet (AF) or 50% of the 30 year average of 883,000 AF. Approximately 350,000 AF (50% of average) of the runoff is expected to enter Seminole Reservoir with an additional 30,000 AF (48% of average) being provided to Pathfinder Reservoir from the Sweetwater River, and the balance of 65,000 AF (54% 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

April 30, 2007 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5767.96	53,094	35	69
Boysen	4707.80	462,999	62	88
Buffalo Bill	5372.49	485,597	75	128
Pilot Butte	5452.69	27,424	81	89

April 30, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5776.83	73,522	77,300
Boysen	4713.58	544,167	523,700
Buffalo Bill	5370.66	472,593	378,500*
Pilot Butte	5449.46	24,828	30,800

* 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.

April 2007 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	2.8	76
Boysen	31.4	64
Buffalo Bill	40.9	99

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the Shoshone River is approximately 940 cfs and with additional flow from the springs is approximately 780 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 840 cfs.

The May 1 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 250,000 acre-feet (45% of average).

WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEMS (WRDS)

Steve Gray reported the following:

Mr. Gray passed around two handouts; the Objective Long-Term and Short-Term Drought Indicator Blend Percentiles and the May 1, 2007 U.S. Drought Monitor. These publications can be found at <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Lee Hackleman gave the April 30th, Monday Morning Snow report:

Oops, average SWE for the state dropped 9% this past week to 60%. It has been too warm too early. Let's all keep hoping for a late snow storm or we are in a lot of trouble in regards to stream runoff this year. It looks like we are in for a well below normal runoff.

In all 13 drainage basins the average SWE went down. The Belle Fourche Basin is the lowest basin at 3% of average SWE and is melted out. The highest river basin is the Powder-Tongue, which dropped 11% to 83% of average SWE.

Last year at this time we dropped 6% from 85% to 79% of average SWE, the lowest drainage basin was the Powder-Tongue at 60%, and the highest drainage basin was the Upper Bear River at 112%. See the table below for more information.

For those of you with INTERNET capability, this report as well as a map showing SWE percentages for the state can be found at "<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html>"

Figure 1 -- SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT AS PERCENT OF AVERAGE. The following table shows the current, last year and preceding weeks' percentage of average snow water equivalent (SWE) amounts for Wyoming basins. Average is based on all reporting SNOTEL sites in the basin. The reference period for average comparison is 1971-2000. This table does not include manually read snow courses.

DRAINAGE BASIN	4/30/2007	4/23/2007	4/16/2007	4/30/2006	4/23/2006
SNAKE RIVER	55	68	66	107	116
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	70	76	72	110	108
WIND RIVER	56	69	70	68	75
BIGHORN BASIN	71	79	76	66	70
SHOSHONE	62	67	65	67	74
POWDER - TONGUE	83	94	91	60	61
BELLE FOURCHE	3	8	33	63	61
UPPER NORTH PLATTE	59	66	70	87	98
LOWER NORTH PLATTE	68	74	77	78	84
LITTLE SNAKE RIVER	55	61	65	86	100
UPPER GREEN RIVER	54	69	65	91	108
LOWER GREEN RIVER	50	60	58	86	97
UPPER BEAR RIVER	39	56	54	112	121
Weighted State Average	60	69	70	79	85

* red = down

* blue = up

* green = even

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE (SEO)

Jeremy Manley reported the following:

The Laramie County Commissioners are sponsoring a Level One study through the Wyoming Water Development Commission. Consultant interviews will be held on May 9th.

John Shields reported the following:

The seven Colorado River Basin states have signed a Basin States Agreement and put in final form their package of the Agreement, guidelines and comments on the dEIS. A copy of the press release can be found [here](#).

The Upper Colorado River Commission will be meeting June 9th and 10th in Park City, UT. Aaron Million will be presenting his project to the Commission. Mr. Million has entered into contract negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Through modeling, the BOR has determined that there are 165,000 acre-feet of yield available for this project.

Jodee Pring reported the following:

The last meeting of the Framework Water Plan will be held June 11th in Riverton at the Library. WWC Engineering (WWC) will be presenting the 90% draft of this project. After the meeting in Riverton, the water planning team and WWC will be conducting Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meetings to present the 90% information to the basins. The schedule for the meetings is as follows:

June 12th - Wind/Big Horn BAG - 3:00 pm - Cody - Courthouse Addition

June 13th - Snake/Salt BAG - 6:00 pm - Alpine - Town Council Chambers

June 18th - Powder/Tongue BAG - 6:00 pm - Buffalo - BLM building

June 19th - Northeast BAG - 1:00pm - Forest Service office

June 20th - Platte BAG - 11:00 pm - Laramie - WY Technology Business Center

June 25th - Bear BAG - 6:00 pm - Evanston - Library

June 26th - Green BAG - 10:00 am - Rock Springs - Western WY Community College

SPECIAL REPORT

Sarah Strauss, University of Wyoming, Department of Anthropology, gave a presentation "Hydroscaapes: Climate Change and the Social Life of Water in Leukarbad (And Beyond)". Ms. Strauss gave a very informative and interesting presentation. For more information on this project, please contact Ms. Strauss at strauss@uwyo.edu.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.