



State Engineer's Office

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GOVERNOR

PATRICK T. TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

November 20, 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 November 7, 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 December 5th 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
December 5 th	Slade Franklin - Dept. of Agriculture, Weed and Pest Coordinator	Noxious Weed Control in WY
January 2 nd		
February 6 th	Scott Yates, Laurie Goodman - Trout Unlimited	Legislative Update
March 6 th	Tom Annear - WY Game and Fish	Behavior, bioenergetics and survival of trout below dams in the winter
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 December 5, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from Slade Franklin who is the Weed and Pest Coordinator for the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Franklin will be speaking to us about new methods they are using for controlling tamarisk and other noxious weeds.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

November 7, 2006

Pat Tyrrell called the two hundred and sixtieth 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
Terry Gonzales	NRCS	terry.gonzales@wy.usda.gov
Steve Gray	WRDS/State Climatologist	sgray8@uwyo.edu
Beth Hoobler	SEO	bhoobl@seo.wyo.gov
Dave Johnson	WAM	johnson@wyomuni.org
Harry LaBonde	SEO	hlabon@seo.wyo.gov
Jeremy Lyon	WDEQ-WQD	jlyon@state.wy.us
Kathy Muller Ogle	DEQ-LQD	kmogle@state.wy.us
Ginger Paige	UW - Renewable Res.	gpaige@uwyo.edu
Lucy Pauley	WDA	lpaule@state.wy.us
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
Jack Scott	BOPU	jscott@cheyennebopu.org
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@seo.wyo.gov
Pat Tyrrell	SEO	ptyrre@seo.wyo.gov
John Wagner	DEQ-WQD	jwagne@state.wy.us
Mahonri Williams	USBR	mlwilliams@gp.usbr.gov
David Willms	AG	dwillm@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.

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE (SEO)

Jodee Pring reported the following:

The Water Forum schedule for this season can be found online. Please visit <http://seo.state.wy.us/news.aspx> for the latest schedule and Water Forum minutes.

A Framework Water Plan seminar will be held October 18th in the lower conference room of the Water Development Office in Cheyenne. The meeting will run from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and invited guests include heads of various state agencies along with members of the Select Water Committee and Water Development commissioners. The meeting will be a facilitated discussion on the future of water planning in the state of Wyoming. The public is invited to attend.

On December 4th, the Belle Fourche Compact meeting will be held at 2:00 pm at the Buffalo Jump Saloon and Steakhouse in Beulah.

On Dec. 5th from 1:30pm - 5:00 and Dec. 6th from 8:30am - 12:00 pm the Yellowstone River Compact Commission will be holding its technical advisory committee meeting and its annual meeting at the Beartooth Room on the campus of MSU - Billings.

On Dec. 13th in Minneapolis, MN, the Missouri River Basin Association (MRBA) will be holding a meeting to discuss dissolution of MRBA and the move to the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST). On Dec. 14th, MoRAST will be holding a meeting in the same location to discuss finalization of this organization and plans for the future.

John Shields reported the following:

The Wyoming Water Association's Education Seminar and Annual meeting held November 1-3 in Casper was well-attended and quite informative. Special presentations were made by Dan Keppen, Executive Director of the Family Farm Alliance; Jason Peltier, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science; and the Honorable Mike Enzi, United States Senator. The WWA Board voted to increase the number of scholarships awards to three \$1000 scholarships each year. These scholarships are available to children or grandchildren of any WWA Member attending or who will be attending the University of Wyoming or any Wyoming community college. Contact John Shields or go to www.wyomingwater.org for more information or to obtain an application form.

The Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) will be holding its annual conference on December 13-15 in Las Vegas. This meeting of over 1200 water users from around the Basin will include an address by Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne concerning the ongoing preparation of the Colorado River Shortage Guidelines and Coordinated Reservoir Operations during Low Reservoir Storage Conditions environmental impact statement (EIS). The Upper Colorado River Commission and seven Colorado River Basin States representatives will be meeting in conjunction with the CRWUA conference.

The State Engineer will be hosting a Colorado River Issues meeting (a special meeting of the Green River Basin Advisory Group) on November 28, 2006 at the Lincoln County Library in

Kemmerer. The meeting will get underway at 10:00 am and will feature in-depth presentations and discussion on the seven Colorado River Basin States discussions, the ongoing Shortage Guidelines EIS process, the proposed Lake Powell pipeline to the St. George, Utah locale and the initiation and development of Wyoming's Green River annual consumptive use determination program.

Harry LaBonde reported the following:

The State Engineer's Office has been involved with an interagency working group to develop rules concerning electronic signatures. It will be the end of the year before the final document is prepared for public comment. It is anticipated that public comment will then be taken into the month of June.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Terry Gonzales reported the following:

Summer maintenance on the Snowtel sites in Wyoming and South Dakota is complete.

Through the Wyoming Water Development Commission's Weather Modification program, extremely accurate precipitation gages have been requested. NRCS will add these to the gages next summer.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) - LAND QUALITY DIVISION (LQD)

Kathy Muller-Ogle reported the following:

Revisions for the Dry Fork and North Antelope - Rochelle coal mines have been approved. Uranium prices continue to rise; therefore, DEQ has seen lots of requests for exploratory drilling.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

1. Water Supply Conditions of the North Platte River Basin.

October 31, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6299.70	274,800	27	43
Pathfinder	5790.28	225,700	22	43
Alcova	5489.19	158,700	86	102
Glendo	4596.54	180,600	35	106
Guernsey	4396.52	6,500	14	127

October 31, 2005 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6317.22	428,600	639,600
Pathfinder	5795.66	263,600	520,000
Alcova	5489.52	159,500	155,700
Glendo	4595.38	173,700	169,900
Guernsey	4397.14	7,000	5,100

October 2006 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminoe	41.0	146
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	1.9	31
Alcova to Glendo Gains	4.8	36
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	1.5	65

Kendrick ownership was 440,600 acre-feet (AF) on October 31, 2006 and approximately 48% of average (923,600 AF), which compares to the ownership of 540,900 AF last year at this date. The October 31, 2006 North Platte ownership was 371,600 AF, which was approximately 88% of average (421,500 AF), which compares to the 429,700 AF of North Platte ownership this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 29,000 AF on October 31, 2006, which was approximately 22% of average (130,400 AF), which compares to the 53,600 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortez 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

October 31, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5769.76	56,900	37	75
Boysen	4708.26	469,100	63	77
Buffalo Bill	5365.08	433,500	67	105
Pilot Butte	5410.63	4,000	12	16

October 31, 2005 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5775.32	69,900	76,100
Boysen	4718.80	627,500	609,500
Buffalo Bill	5367.63	451,300	411,900*
Pilot Butte	5454.30	28,800	25,700

* 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.

October 2006 Inflows

Reservoir	Inflows (KAF)	% Average
Bull Lake	7.6	146
Boysen	52.1	86
Buffalo Bill	21.6	89

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the Shoshone River is approximately 200 cfs and with additional flow from the springs is approximately 250 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 500 cfs.

SPECIAL REPORT

Lucy Pauley, Mediation Coordinator for the Department of Agriculture was our special presenter today. Ms. Pauley told the group about the different mediation programs their department offers and gave a very interesting and informative PowerPoint presentation. That presentation can be found [here](#).

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.