

# State Engineer's Office

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STATE ENGINEER

October 13, 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 October 3, 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 November 7<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
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lucy Pauley - Dept. of Agriculture, Mediation Coordinator	Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resources Mediation Program
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Slade Franklin - Dept. of Agriculture, Weed and Pest Coordinator	Noxious Weed Control in WY
January 2 <sup>nd</sup>		
February 6 <sup>th</sup>		
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 November 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from Lucy Pauley who is the Mediation Coordinator for the Department of Agriculture. Ms. Pauley will be speaking to us about the natural resources mediation program and the various natural resource mediations in which her department has been involved.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2006

Jodee Pring called the two hundred and fifty-ninth meeting of the State Water Forum to order at 10:00 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Name Agency E-mail

Clint Bassett BOPU cbassett@cheyennebopu.org  
Vicki Beckman WWDO vbeckm@state.wy.us  
Keith Clarey WSGS kclarey@uwyo.edu  
Lee Hackleman NRCS lee.hackleman@wy.usda.gov  
Scott Horgen SEO shorgen@seo.wyo.gov  
Dave Johnson WAM johnson@wyomuni.org  
Jeremy Lyon WDEQ-WQD jlyon@state.wy.us  
Jeremy Manley SEO jmanle@seo.wyo.gov  
Jack Meena States West jmeena@stateswest.com  
Kirk Miller USGS kmiller@usgs.gov  
Kathy Muller-Ogle DEQ-LQD kmogle@state.wy.us  
Mark Opitz NRCS mark.opitz@wy.usda.gov  
Jodee Pring SEO jpring@seo.wyo.gov  
Jed Rockweiler SEO jrockw@seo.wyo.gov  
Jack Scott BOPU jscott@cheyennebopu.org  
John Shields SEO jshiel@seo.wyo.gov  
Jim Stafford WSGS jstaffor@uwyo.edu  
Phil Stump SEO pstump@seo.wyo.gov  
Randy Tullis SEO h2odivone@netcommander.com  
Cheryl Verplancke SEO cverpl@seo.wyo.gov  
Wade Verplancke WWDO wverpl@state.wy.us  
Mahonri Williams USBR mlwilliams@gp.usbr.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.

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 18<sup>th</sup> in the lower conference room of the Water Development Office in Cheyenne. The meeting will run from 9:00 - 12:00 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.

John Shields reported that the Wyoming Water Association (WWA) will be holding its annual conference and educational seminar November 1-3 at the Ramkota in Casper. Please visit <http://www.wyomingwater.org/> for the conference itinerary and registration form.

Phil Stump reported that the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed September 27, 2006 for the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. The ROD can be found at <http://www.platteriver.org>.

The North Platte Decree Committee (NPDC) will be holding a meeting at 1:00 p.m. Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> in Torrington at the Goshen County Fairgrounds.

Jeremy Manley reported that a policy memo has been posted on the SEO website concerning dual well completions in the High Plains aquifer and Lance formation. That document can be found here:

<http://seo.state.wy.us/GW/PDFs/DualAquiferCompletion.pdf>

Work has been done this summer on the monitor well network to replace the old equipment with digital equipment.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Lee Hackleman reported the following:

Summer maintenance on the Snowtel sites is about completed. The NRCS has installed a new site at Targhee. It will be on-line soon.

Mark Opitz reported the following:

A permit checklist has been developed by Randy Tullis of the State Engineer's Office and James Pike of the NRCS. The form, WY-ENG-41Water Rights Verification Form, will provide a document to NRCS to make sure that producers are in compliance with state water law for practices in which NRCS is assisting.

The form can be found at:

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/WY/Engineering/Engineering%20Forms/>. A copy of the bulletin from the NRCS announcing this new form can be found here:

<http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/wyeng/engtools.html>

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

Kathy Muller-Ogle reported the following:

The LQD of the DEQ continues to see coal mines wanting to expand. In recent months, their office has received 3 CHIAs (Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Analysis) reports and 3 mines looking to expand: Antelope Mine, Dry Fork Mine and the North Antelope - Rochelle Mine.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) <http://wy.water.usgs.gov/>

Kirk Miller reported the following:

Current Streamflows <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wy/nwis/rt>

Preliminary 7-day average streamflow data over the last 45 days at about 50 percent of reporting gaging stations in Wyoming with 30 or more years of record indicated below normal (10<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> percentile) conditions. As of October 2,

streamflow conditions at about 20 percent of these stations are much below normal (10<sup>th</sup> percentile or less).

Explanation - Percentile classes						
New low	< 10	10-24	25-74	75 - 89	≥ 90	New high

Hydrologic Drought <http://wy.water.usgs.gov/projects/drought/>

Preliminary 7-day average streamflow conditions for water year 2006 relative to the previous 5 years indicate below normal streamflow conditions continued to persist.

New Director

Mark Myers was confirmed as the 14<sup>th</sup> director of the USGS. Dr. Myers was the former State Geologist and head of Alaska's Geological Survey.

Discontinued Streamflow-Gaging Station

The following streamflow-gaging station has been discontinued because cooperator funding is not available:

09216050 Big Sandy River at Gasson Bridge near Eden WY

Streamflow data and statistics through September 30, 2006 will remain available from the USGS water data server NWISWeb. Questions or concerns should be directed to Kirk Miller ([kmiller@usgs.gov](mailto:kmiller@usgs.gov); (307) 775-9168).

New Publications

There are no new publications to report since last water forum. USGS publications related to water resources of Wyoming can be searched online at:

<http://wy.water.usgs.gov/pubs/statebiblio/index.htm>

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

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

September 30, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6298.76	267,800	26	40
Pathfinder	5786.73	202,700	20	41
Alcova	5498.14	179,800	98	100
Glendo	4590.21	145,300	28	138
Guernsey	4392.49	3,900	9	42

September 30, 2005 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6318.19	438,630	665,600
Pathfinder	5792.21	238,900	497,800

Alcova	5498.31	180,300	179,100
Glendo	4588.84	138,400	105,600
Guernsey	4393.10	4,200	9,200

September Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	21.1	108
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	0.7	11
Alcova to Glendo Gains	6.2	69
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	3.3	73

Kendrick ownership was 442,693 acre-feet (AF) on September 30, 2006 and approximately 48% of average (928,000 AF), which compares to the ownership of 542,500 AF last year at this date. The Kendrick ownership was the second lowest September ownership in the last 30 years. The September 30, 2006 North Platte ownership was 328,588 AF, which was approximately 84% of average (391,900 AF), which compares to the 402,100 AF of North Platte ownership this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 29,597 AF on September 30, 2006, which was approximately 22% of average (132,500 AF), which compares to the 54,000 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. During the month of October, the level of alcove Reservoir is being lowered 10 feet to the normal winter operating range of 5488 ± one foot.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

September 30, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5767.11	51,300	34	66
Boysen	4706.63	447,800	60	80
Buffalo Bill	5366.19	441,100	68	101
Pilot Butte	5411.25	4,200	12	26

September 30, 2005 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5774.02	66,800	77,400
Boysen	4719.06	631,900	562,500
Buffalo Bill	5367.60	450,300	435,200*
Pilot Butte	5436.17	15,400	16,000

\* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2005. 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.

#### September Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	5.9	61
Boysen	36.9	67
Buffalo Bill	15.7	59

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the Shoshone River is approximately 540 cfs and with additional flow from the springs is approximately 600 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam to Wind River is currently 500 cfs.

#### WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (WWDC)

Vicki Beckman reported the following:

Over the past few months, the Water Development Office has greeted a few new faces. Jason Mead, Steve Muth, and Brian Smith have joined the recently created Dam and Reservoir Section within the Planning Division while two new engineers, Wade Verplancke and Rich Cripe, have filled out the Construction Division. Welcome aboard to all!!

The Water Development Commission has changed the application deadline for all new and continuing projects this year. The new application deadline is August 15; the continuing project deadline is October 15. To date, 83 applications have been received. Preliminary recommendations are being generated by the staff, which will be acted upon by the Water Development Commission at a November 9 and 10 meeting at the Oil and Gas Commission in Casper.

#### CHEYENNE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (BOPU)

Clint Bassett reported the following:

Mr. Bassett, Water Conservation Specialist, has been conducting several public outreach sessions on the Cheyenne re-use project. These sessions have been to help the public understand the nature of the project along with the mechanics of the system.

The BOPU has installed web cams at two reservoirs. One has been installed at the dam at Hog Park Reservoir and the other at the dam at Rob Roy Reservoir. These web cams can be accessed at <http://www.cheyennebopu.org>

#### SPECIAL REPORT

Jack Meena, States West Water Resources, gave a video and Powerpoint presentation on the Cheyenne re-use project. This very interesting and informative PowerPoint presentation can be found [here](#).

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.