



State Engineer's Office

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PATRICK T. TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

September 26, 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 September 5, 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 October 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
October 3 rd	Jack Meena - States West Water Resources Corp.	Cheyenne Re-use Project
November 7 th	Lucy Pauley - Dept. of Agriculture, Mediation Coordinator	Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resources Mediation Program
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 October 3rd, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from Jack Meena who is

with States West Water Resources Corporation. He will be speaking to us on the Cheyenne Re-use Project.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2006

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and fifty-eighth 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	ACOE	matthew.a.bilodeau@usace.army.mil
Myron Brooks	USGS	mhb Brooks@usgs.gov
Keith Clarey	WSGS	kclarey@uwyo.edu
Steve Gray	WRDS/State Climatologist	sgray8@uwyo.edu
Beth Hoobler	SEO	bhoobl@seo.wyo.gov
Rick Huber	WY G&F	rick.huber@wgf.state.wy.us
George Langstaff	SEO	glangs@seo.wyo.gov
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Jeremy Lyon	WDEQ-WQD	jlyon@state.wy.us
Kirk Miller	USGS	kmiller@usgs.gov
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@seo.wyo.gov
Jim Stafford	WSGS	jstaffor@uwyo.edu
Phil Stump	SEO	pstump@seo.wyo.gov
Mahonri Williams	USBR	mlwilliams@gp.usbr.gov
David Willms	AG	dwillm@state.wy.us
Steve Wolff	SEO	swolff@seo.wyo.gov

AGENCY REPORTS

In order to assure accurate reporting in the minutes, forms are passed out to be completed by the representative of each agency at the meeting. These minutes consist of a compilation of the written reports received. Please complete a form either at the Forum meeting or return within a couple of days to Jodee Pring, State Engineer's Office. This will increase the efficiency and accuracy of completing the minutes for the Water Forum. Reports can also be sent via e-mail to: jpring@seo.wyo.gov. 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.

The final report for the Platte River Basin Water Plan is now available. Please contact Jodie Pavlica, 777-7626, at the Water Development Commission if you would like a copy.

The 50% Framework Water Plan progress review meeting was held in Casper on July 11th. Murray Schroeder, WWC Engineering, went over the team's progress so far. Bill Collins, Collins Planning Associates, had a discussion with the audience on what they would like to see in a Framework Water Plan and their thoughts on Water Planning in the future. The 90% progress review will be held in late February, early March in Riverton. The Basin Advisory Group meetings will be held after the 90% progress review meeting. Please visit www.greenwoodmap.com/framework/ for the latest information.

Phil Stump reported that the North Platte Decree Committee (NPDC) is studying consumptive use. The NPDC is working with the High Plains Regional Climate Center out of Lincoln, NE to determine which of 3 locations would be the most optimum for a weather station. The information from this weather station will facilitate in the consumptive use study.

The new date for signing of the Cooperative Agreement will be the end of December.

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.

The Seven Basin States will be meeting in Salt Lake City, UT on September 28th to work on the Shortage Criteria EIS for Reservoir Operations.

A meeting will be held November 28th in Kemmerer in the Green River Basin to discuss Colorado River Water activities. This meeting will be conducted by the SEO and is being held since there will be no Green River Basin Advisory Group meeting in the fall.

Mr. Shields then introduced Steve Wolff, who is the new Colorado River Coordinator. Mr. Wolff will be studying consumptive use in the Green River Basin and determining Wyoming's usage. He will then develop a program to keep track of consumptive use.

Sue Lowry reported that Jackson Lake has filled and Pallisades is almost full. Bear Lake went over elevation 5911, but fell due to irrigation demands and low inflows.

The Western States Water Council (WSWC) will be holding their next meeting in Sheridan, WY October 4-6. WSWC is the water resources arm of the Western Governor's Association. Coalbed natural gas will be the major topic for this meeting.

On July 28, 2006 Wyoming received a letter from Montana requesting additional water from the Tongue and Powder Rivers. Wyoming sent back a response August 9th.

The state of Utah has been extensively using infrared photography and with this has discovered that the LandSat satellite that is sending back thermaband information is failing and a new satellite that is to be launched in its place does not have thermaband capability. Ms. Lowry requested that if any agencies use this data, to please send a support letter requesting that the new satellite be installed with thermaband capability.

WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEMS (WRDS)

Steve Gray reported the following:

WRDS has been working with WWC Engineering, the consultant on the Framework Water Plan, on getting a web tool developed for the Framework Plan.

The staff has been diligently working on getting the WRDS library online.

Interviews are now being conducted for the WRDS-WWDC Project Coordinator position. Mr. Gray hopes to have this position filled soon.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

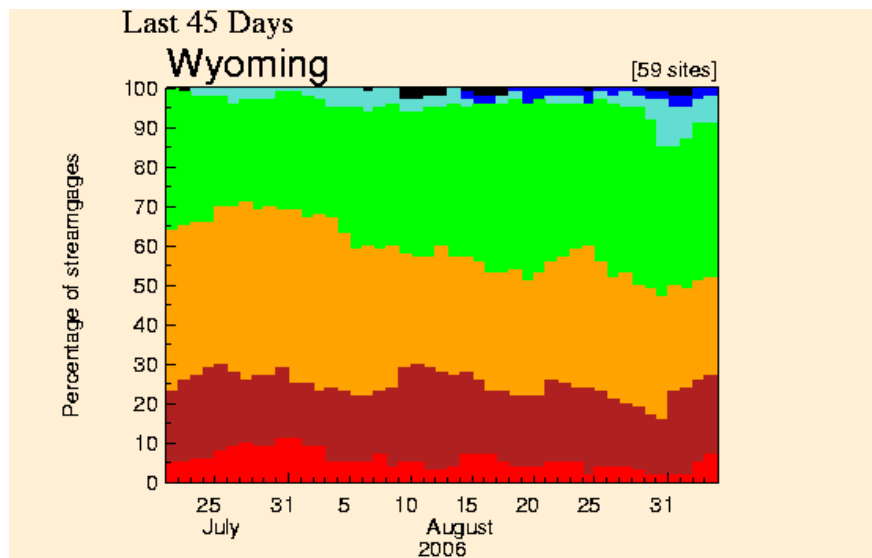
Kirk Miller reported the following:

<http://wy.water.usgs.gov/>

Current Streamflows

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

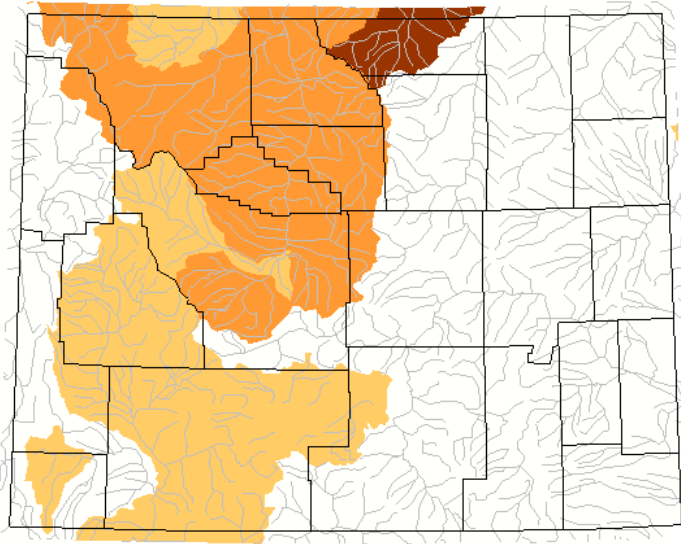
Preliminary 7-day average streamflow data over the last 45 days at about 60 percent of reporting gaging stations in Wyoming with 30 or more years of record indicated below normal (10th to 24th percentile) conditions. As of September 4, streamflow conditions at about 30 percent of these stations are much below normal (10th 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/>

Monday, September 04, 2006



The most recent 7-day average streamflow conditions for the Tongue River basin of northeastern Wyoming were in the less than 5th percentile (severe hydrologic drought). Similar conditions existed throughout the month of August for most of the Tongue and Powder River basins.



Explanation - Percentile classes				
New low	≤ 5	6 - 9	10 - 24	Insufficient data for a hydrologic region
Extreme Hydrologic Drought	Severe Hydrologic Drought	Moderate Hydrologic Drought	Below Normal	

American Landscape Initiative

A Department of Interior budget initiative for fiscal year 2008 is targeting SW Wyoming and existing and planned development of energy resources there. Three DOI agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey are slated for new funds to conduct monitoring, research and mitigation activities.

New Publications

Except for those reports listed as “available online only,” copies of the following are available on request:

Bartos, T.T., Hallberg, L.L., Mason, J.P., Norris, J.R., and Miller, K.A., 2006, Water resources of Carbon County, Wyoming: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2006-5027, 191 p., online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2006/5027/>

Boughton, G.K., Remley, K.R., Bartos, T.T., 2006, Estimated water use in Wyoming during 2000: U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 2006-3099, 4 p., online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3099/>

Clark, M.L., and Mason, J.P., 2006, Water-quality monitoring and regression analysis for specific conductance and sodium-adsorption ratios and load estimates for dissolved solids for four sites in the Powder River Basin, Montana and Wyoming, 2001-2004: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2006-5113, 22 p., online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2006/5113/>

Peterson, D.A., and Zumberge, J.R., 2006, Comparison of macroinvertebrate community structure between two riffle-based sampling protocols in Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana, 2000-2001: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2006-5117, 12 p., available online only at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2006/5117/>

Wright, P.R., Peterson, D.A., and Hallberg, L.L., 2006, Data collection for the assessment of aquatic communities in northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana, 2005: U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 2006-3047, 4 p., online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3047/>

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (ACOE)

Matt Bilodeau reported the following:

As noted in our agency report attached to last March's water forum meeting notes, the jurisdiction of the federal government over the nation's waterways under the Clean Water Act (CWA) was the subject of a hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court held on February 21, 2006. A ruling on that matter was expected early this past summer and, as also noted, it was expected to have a significant impact on clarifying the extent of federal jurisdiction over the nation's waterways and the meaning of the term "waters of the United States."

The U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision in the referenced "Rapanos/Carabell" case on June 19, 2006. A copy of a syllabus summarizing the case is attached as are copies of newspaper articles that appeared at the time. A copy of the complete Supreme Court decision record is available off the internet.

A major focus of the decision was the extent of federal government's regulatory jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act over the nation's waterways and, in particular, ephemeral and intermittent waterways. In light of the court's decision, the Corps and EPA are reviewing the decision to determine what kind of guidance to put out to their personnel.

In an email dated July 5, 2006, Mr. Mark Sudol, Chief of the Corps Regulatory Program in Washington D.C. directed Corps regulatory program personnel to "...delay making CWA jurisdictional determinations for areas beyond the limits of the traditional navigable waters, (i.e. outside the "Section 10" waters) for the next three weeks."

Corps personnel were also advised not to announce or make any changes in how we document our jurisdictional determinations or in the areas over which we are asserting CWA jurisdiction without prior coordination and concurrence from Corps headquarters pending issuance of substantive guidance.

As of the date of this water forum meeting, the subject interim guidance has not been received.

A complete copy of the court opinion is available from the following link:
<http://www.supremecourt.us/opinions/05pdf/04-1034.pdf>

WYOMING STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (WSGS)

Keith Cleary reported the following:

A report titled “Report on Desalinization of the Powder River Basin” is now available. The cost of this publication is \$7.00.

A request for proposal is out for a water resources study in Sublette County. This study is being done in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

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

August 31, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6300.45	280,400	28	40
Pathfinder	5787.76	209,200	21	39
Alcova	5498.25	180,100	98	100
Glendo	4582.92	110,900	21	77
Guernsey	4403.28	13,600	30	47

August 31, 2005 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6322.06	480,200	698,700
Pathfinder	5791.86	236,500	538,100
Alcova	5498.24	180,100	180,000
Glendo	4587.82	133,400	142,300
Guernsey	4405.80	17,200	29,100

October through August Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	730.6	79
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	58.1	42
Alcova to Glendo Gains	77.6	40
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	9.3	29

The August inflows were below average for all reservoirs in the North Platte Basin except for Guernsey Reservoir. Pathfinder Reservoir recorded the 3rd lowest August inflows in the last 30 years. Guernsey Reservoir recorded the 3rd highest August inflows in the last 30 years.

Kendrick ownership was 451,964 acre-feet (AF) on August 31, 2006 and approximately 48% of average (943,000 AF), which compares to the ownership of 558,120 AF last year at this date. The August 31, 2006, North Platte ownership was 312,695 AF, which was approximately 63% of average (495,800 AF), which compares to 434,539 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 31,364 AF on August 31, 2006, which was approximately 22% of average (142,200 AF), which compares to the 55,451 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was the lowest August ownership in the last 30 years.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortes Dam are approximately 525 cubic feet per second (cfs). The level of Alcove Reservoir will be maintained at the normal summer operating range of 5498± one foot through the month of September.

An allocation of water for the North Platte Project began in June 2006 and has continued through the summer. Weekly allocation updates have been provided to the North Platte Project districts and to the States of Wyoming and Nebraska. Irrigation releases from Guernsey Reservoir will be completed by midnight on September 7, 2006.

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Final Environmental Impact Statement was filed on May 26, 2006. A Record of Decision is anticipated from the Secretary of the Interior in the near future.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

August 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	5775.92	71,274	47	68
Boysen	4707.30	456,400	62	79
Buffalo Bill	5374.92	503,392	78	102
Pilot Butte	5428.92	11,235	33	58

August 31, 2005 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5794.25	120,036	104,300
Boysen	4721.11	668,228	580,200
Buffalo Bill	5376.89	518,094	494,700*
Pilot Butte	5439.69	17,714	19,400

* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2004. 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 through August Inflows

Reservoir	Inflows (KAF)	% Average
Bull Lake	154.8	87
Boysen	462.6	51
Buffalo Bill	685.9	85

Inflows to Bull Lake, Boysen, and Buffalo Bill Reservoirs were below average during August.

A severe drought condition in the Wind River basin has necessitated Wind/Bighorn River accounting this summer. Current releases from Boysen Reservoir are only in response to downstream demands.

SPECIAL REPORT

Steve Gray, Water Resources Data Systems (WRDS) Coordinator and State Climatologist gave a presentation entitled "Wyoming Drought and Water Resources. This very interesting and informative PowerPoint presentation can be found [here](#).

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.