



# State Engineer's Office

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STATE ENGINEER

March 8, 2010

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the State Water Forum

FROM: Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman

SUBJECT: Attached for your review and information is a copy of the February 2, 2010 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 March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

### WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2009-2010 1<sup>st</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Blane Christopherson	Allison Draw Project
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bureau of Reclamation	Water Supply Forecast
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Bartos	High Plains Aquifer Study

### SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be April 6, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from the Bureau of Reclamation on the Water Supply Forecast for the upcoming irrigation season.

# WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2010

Jodee Pring called the two hundred and ninety-first 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
Blane Christopherson	NRCS	blane.christopherson@wy.usda.gov
Barry Lawrence	WWDO	blawre@state.wy.us
Kirk Miller	USGS	kmiller@usgs.gov
Teresa Nealon	Trihydro	tnealon@trihydro.com
Chris Nicholson	WRDS	cnichol5@uwyo.edu
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
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:

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, a Wind/Bighorn Basin Advisory Group meeting will be held in Thermopolis at Big Horn Federal Bank starting at 6:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting includes a presentation by Jerry Gibbens on the final draft of the Wind/Bighorn Water Plan Update and a presentation from Scott Quillinan on the Groundwater portion of this update.

Work continues by the Water Planning team on the Bear River Basin Water Plan update. We continue to make progress on updating tech memos and portions of the original plan.

On March 24, a Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) video conference will be held at the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne. This is the first time this type of conferencing has been attempted with this group. It is a pilot to see if this type of meeting format is an option for future meetings.

A Missouri River Association of State and Tribes (MoRAST) meeting will be held March 16<sup>th</sup> in Nebraska City, NE. Following this meeting, the Missouri River Natural Resources Committee (MRNRC) conference will be held starting March 17<sup>th</sup> and going through the 19<sup>th</sup>.

During the weeks of May 17<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Water Planning team will be holding Basin Advisory Group meetings around the state. Postcards with dates and agenda items will be sent out prior to these meetings.

#### WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEM

Chris Nicholson reported the following:

Chris passed two handouts: one on Wyoming Precipitation: Departures from Normal and the other showing the March temperature average max, record max, average min and record min in Casper from 1948 – 2009 and the March temperature average max, record max, average min and record min in Cheyenne from 1915 – 2009. A copy of these handouts can be found **here**.

Chris announced that an Energy Resources and Produced Water Conference: Water Quality, Management, Treatment and Use will be held May 25-26 in Laramie at the Hilton Garden Inn. For more information, please see the website at:

<http://www.uwyo.edu/enr/ienr/info.asp?p=14814>

The Groundwater report for the update of the Green River Basin Plan is now online. A copy of that report can be found at:

[http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/green/2010/finalrept/gw\\_toc.html](http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/green/2010/finalrept/gw_toc.html)

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

A copy of the Monday Morning Snow Report can be found **here**.

#### LARAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (LCCD)

A copy of a newsletter for the Crow Creek Watershed, “The Crow Creek Connection” can be found **here**. This newsletter provides information on upcoming projects in and around the Crow Creek watershed.

#### WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (WWDO)

Barry Lawrence reported the following:

Mr. Lawrence reported that the Select Water Committee and the Water Development Commission will be meeting later this week. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, a workshop will be held. The commissioners and legislators will be given an update on the MT v. WY lawsuit as well as an update on the Lower Colorado tour in which many SEO and WWDO employees participated. A review of the shortlist and RFPs for upcoming projects will also be conducted. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, approval of the shortlist and RFPs will take place.

The summer tour, conducted by the WWDO, will be in August this year in the Cody area.

House Bill 46 – Omnibus Water Bill - Planning and Senate File 47 – Omnibus Water Bill – Construction both passed the Legislature. These bills are on the Governor’s desk waiting to be signed into law.

The Legislature extended the Wyoming Weather Modification Program for 2 additional years and appropriated an additional \$2.85 million to the program.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

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

February 28, 2010 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6337.40	676,796	67	139
Pathfinder	5835.91	735,901	72	126
Alcova	5488.13	156,335	85	100
Glendo	4615.60	319,455	62	89
Guernsey	4406.86	18,887	41	127

February 28, 2009 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6324.39	506,732	486,300
Pathfinder	5811.43	401,515	582,900
Alcova	5488.19	156,470	155,800
Glendo	4612.83	296,298	358,000
Guernsey	4406.15	17,759	14,900

February 2010 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	27.2	100
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	2.9	45
Alcova to Glendo Gains	9.8	75
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	1.6	133

Kendrick ownership was 1,005,119 acre-feet (AF) on February 28, 2010 and approximately 116% of average (865,100 AF), which compares to the ownership of 522,353 AF last year at this date. The February 28, 2010, North Platte ownership was 753,551 AF, which was approximately 132% of average (579,500 AF), which compares to 763,386 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 119,957 AF on February 28, 2010, which was approximately 95% of average (126,400 AF), which compares to the 83,572 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortez Dam are approximately 530 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 500 cfs. The level of Alcova Reservoir is approaching the winter operating range of 5488± one foot.

## 2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

### February 28, 2010 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5779.85	80,986	53	107
Boysen	4716.59	590,717	80	108
Buffalo Bill	5364.92	432,311	67	104
Pilot Butte	5454.59	29,005	86	106

### February 28, 2009 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5783.60	90,604	76,000
Boysen	4717.01	597,524	545,600
Buffalo Bill	5365.57	436,676	415,000*
Pilot Butte	5453.34	27,960	27,400

\* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2009. 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 2010 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	1.5	94
Boysen	29.1	78
Buffalo Bill	11.1	85

The release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river and the springs is approximately 410 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is approximately 700 cfs.

## SPECIAL REPORT

Blane Christopherson, who is a Professional Engineer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, gave a presentation on the Allison Draw Project, located in Cheyenne. A copy of Mr. Christopherson's PowerPoint presentation can be found [here](#).

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.