



State Engineer's Office

HERSCHLER BUILDING, 4-E CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002
(307) 777-7354 FAX (307) 777-5451
seoleg@state.wy.us

DAVE FREUDENTHAL
GOVERNOR

PATRICK T. TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

October 30, 2009

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 6, 2009 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 3rd in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2009-2010 1st TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
November 3 rd	Barry Lawrence, Bruce Boe	Weather Modification
December 1 st	Cheryl Miller	Groundwater, Surface Water Interaction
January 5 th	TBD	
February 2 nd	TBD	
March 2 nd	TBD	
April 6 th	Bureau of Reclamation	Water Supply Forecast
May 4 th	Tim Bartos	High Plains Aquifer Study

SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be November 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from Barry Lawrence of the Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO). He will be giving us an update on the WWDO Weather Modification Program.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2009

Pat Tyrrell called the two hundred and eighty-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>
Brian Anderson	USBR	bjanderson@gp.usbr.gov
Beth Bear	WY G&F	beth.bear@wgf.state.wy.us
Matt Bilodeau	COE	matthew.a.bilodeau@usace.army.mil
Paul Dey	WY G&F	Paul.Dey@wgf.state.wy.us
Lee Hackleman	NRCS	lee.hackleman@wy.usda.gov
Harry LaBonde	SEO	hlabon@seo.wyo.gov
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Teresa Nealon	Trihydro	tnealon@trihydro.com
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
John shields	SEO	jshiel@seo.wyo.gov
Pat Tyrrell	SEO	ptyrre@seo.wyo.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)

Pat Tyrrell reported the following:

The SEO has been working on the budget. Pat will have his meeting with the Governor tomorrow morning.

The SEO electronic permitting system, E-Permit, will be rolled out to the public in January, 2010.

Streamgages are being installed across the state. There will be 147 installed in Divisions 1, 2, and 3 and 100 in Division 4. These gages will provide near real-time data that will be served to the public via a website hosted by the SEO.

Sue Lowry reported the following:

The Bear River Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held in Salt Lake City on September 14 and 15.

The Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) tour was held in Jackson this year from September 23-25. Don Barney, retired employee of the SEO, helped tremendously with the tour.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) requested the National Academy of Science (NAS) to review their organization. The report is now available online,

The Wyoming Water Association will be holding their annual meeting in Sheridan October 28 - 30. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the Upper Missouri Water Association.

Jodee Pring reported the following:

The update of the Green River Basin Water Plan continues to move forward. WWC Engineering is completing tech memos with the final report to be completed by December 2009.

MWH is progressing well on the update of the Wind/Bighorn Basin Water Plan. The next Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meeting will be held Nov. 12th in Worland.

The Water Planning team continues to work on the update of the Bear River Basin plan. We are working on updating tech memos and certain aspects of the report.

For information on any of the updates on the water plans, please go to:

<http://waterplan.state.wy.us/>

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) meeting will be held November 2-5 in Cheyenne at Little America. For a copy of the agenda, please go to www.mrric.org.

The annual meeting of the Yellowstone River Compact Commission will be held December 1 in Powell. For more info, go to: <http://yrcc.usgs.gov/>

A meeting was held September 16th with Erin Wilson of Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc. on the Green River Basin Decision Support System Feasibility Study. The group talked about wants, needs and desires for the system.

Harry LaBonde reported the following:

The SEO is working on a policy on sage grouse per the Governor's Executive Order. The policy is in internal review and should be completed before the end of the year. The SEO is coordinating with Mary Flanderka of the Game and Fish.

John Shields reported the following:

On August 19th, Secretary of the Interior Salazar announced that the Bureau of Reclamation will award grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) totaling more than \$11.1 million to irrigation companies in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming to fund salinity control projects within the Upper Colorado River Basin. These Recovery Act grants will leverage an additional \$4.8 million cost-share from the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basin Funds (requisite up-front cost-sharing pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act and specifically the 1995 amendments to the CRBSCAA) to reduce Colorado River salt-loading by nearly 12,000 tons. Included within these five grants is \$381,584 for the Eden Valley Irrigation and Drainage District that will allow the District to replace approximately 8,324 feet of existing earth lined lateral canal with a pressurized 8"-18" HDPE pipeline network system. In addition, 2,450 feet of an existing earth-lined lateral will be converted to a drainage lateral to drain the system each fall.

Phase One of Eden Valley District Rehabilitation Project was completed this past May. Jeff Lewis, the NRCS District Conservationist wrote up a nice column that appeared in the 7/18/09 edition of *The Wyoming Livestock Roundup*. The Wyoming Legislature provided \$1,508,000 for this project and that was matched with \$1,688,000 of Basin States Parallel Program discretionary funding. The Parallel Program funds provided a 50% cost-share as well as funding the construction of two fish and wildlife mitigation ponds. The project put the District's E-19 and E-25 laterals into a 36-inch diameter, ten mile long pipeline.

Phase Two of Eden Valley District Rehabilitation Project Underway: The second phase of the project, being funded with \$6,580,000 of Bureau of Reclamation Basinwide Salinity Control Program funding and Wyoming Legislature (2009 Session) funding of \$6,580,000 will replace four existing earth lined laterals (E-7, E-8, E-13 and West Side Laterals) with approximately 95,000 lineal feet of pipe ranging in size from 6" to 60." The project will also include new turnout structures, lateral diversion structures with trash cleaning capabilities and a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to control and monitor flows at the diversion headgates.

Colorado River Basin States Augmentation Work Group – The Basin Study proposal was submitted by the Basin States to Reclamation's Denver Office on June 25th after much coordination and many conference calls among all the parties jointly developing the proposal and scope of work for this effort. Two or three of the five submitted proposals will be selected and share the \$4,000,000 of fiscal year 2010 funding included in the President's budget for these studies. Placeholder dates for program study development, anticipating selection of the Colorado River Basin proposal to proceed as a Basin Study, have been set for September 9th and October 8th in Las Vegas, Nevada.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE)

Matt Bilodeau reported the following:

The application for the Flaming Gorge Pipeline is in the Denver Office. Currently Cooperating Agency (CA) status is being sought from local, state, and federal agencies.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT (WY G&F)

Paul Dey reported the following:

The Game and Fish offices located on Bishop Blvd. are undergoing a major remodel and renovation. Part of the office has been relocated to the old Safeway building on South Greeley Highway with the rest of the office still located on Bishop Blvd.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

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

September 30, 2009 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6337.94	684,730	67	110
Pathfinder	5833.83	700,306	69	146
Alcova	5497.99	179,473	97	100

Glendo	4586.09	125,179	24	113
Guernsey	4393.61	4,480	10	59

September 30, 2008 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6326.73	534,527	625,100
Pathfinder	5805.92	348,178	480,100
Alcova	5498.67	181,134	179,200
Glendo	4584.94	119,888	110,700
Guernsey	4395.39	5,632	7,600

September 2009 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminoe	22.3	110
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	-4.3	N/A
Alcova to Glendo Gains	6.6	72
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	2.1	48

Kendrick ownership was 1,014,703 acre-feet (AF) on September 30, 2009 and approximately 116% of average (874,800 AF), which compares to the ownership of 530,800 AF last year at this date. The September 30, 2009, North Platte ownership was 555,423 AF, which was approximately 139% of average (398,400 AF), which compares to 572,700 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 121,723 AF on September 30, 2009, which was approximately 98% of average (124,100 AF), which compares to the 85,400 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortez Dam are approximately 550 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 500 cfs. The level of Alcova Reservoir is at the normal summer operating range of 5498± one foot and will lower approximately 10 feet to its normal winter operating range of 5488± one foot during the month of October.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

September 30, 2009 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5779.36	79,758	52	105
Boysen	4720.63	659,577	89	110
Buffalo Bill	5372.51	486,016	75	111
Pilot Butte	5441.73	19,101	57	106

September 30 2008 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5781.25	84,533	75,700
Boysen	4718.88	628,830	599,200
Buffalo Bill	5372.30	484,411	437,600*
Pilot Butte	5429.54	11,565	18,000

* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2008. 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 2009 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	10.0	106
Boysen	38.6	72
Buffalo Bill	20.9	80

The release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river and the springs is approximately 1,000 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is approximately 900 cfs.

SPECIAL REPORT

Beth Bear, with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Laramie, gave a presentation on the aquatic invasive species present in Wyoming and what the Game and Fish is doing to help eradicate and/or control these species. Ms. Bear also presented the "Don't Move a Mussel Program", a program in which the Game and Fish Department is actively involved. For more information on this program, please visit: <http://gf.state.wy.us/fish/AIS/index.asp>

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.