



State Engineer's Office

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MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR

PATRICK T. TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

February 11, 2011

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 1, 2011 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 1st in the State Engineer's Office Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2010-2011 1st TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
March 1 st	Tim Bartos – USGS	High Plains Aquifer
April 5 th	Bureau of Reclamation	Water Supply Forecast
May 3 rd	Cheryl Miller – USGS	Evaluation of the Use of Coupled Streambank Piezometers and Active Gaging Stations to Aid in Streamflow Interpretation and Water Exchanges

SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be March 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from Tim Bartos, with the U.S. Geological Survey. Mr. Bartos' presentation will be on the High Plains Aquifer.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2011

Pat Tyrrell called the two hundred and ninety-ninth 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@usbr.gov (phone)
Kevin Boyce	WWDO	kboyce@state.wy.us
Rick Huber	WY G&F	rick.huber@wgf.state.wy.us
Kim Johnson	WOHS	kjohns6@wyo.gov
Greg Kerr	UW – Office of Water Programs	rrek@uwyo.edu
Andrew Kuhlmann	AG	akuhlm@state.wy.us
Barry Lawrence	WWDO	blawre@state.wy.us
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Pete Michael	AG	pmicha@state.wy.us
David Mott	USGS	dmott@usgs.gov
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
Ron Surdam	UW	rsurdam@uwyo.edu
Jeremiah Williamson	AG	jwilli@state.wy.us

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 Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee will be meeting in Denver at the DIA Crowne Plaza Hotel February 14th – 17th. The majority of this meeting will be a workshop focusing on the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan and how to incorporate social, cultural and economic benefits into the plan.

In March, the Missouri River Natural Resources Committee (MRNRC) will hold their 2011 Conference and BiOp Forum at the Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City, NE. The theme of the conference this year is, "The Missouri River: On the Road to Recovery".

Sue Lowry reported the following:

A Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST) meeting will be held March 8th and 9th in Nebraska City, NE. The MoRAST is currently seeking an Executive Director as David Pope, current Executive Director, has decided to retire. The position announcement can be found at: <http://www.mo-rast.org/INFO.htm> and closes February 4th.

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee is looking for a new Chairman. Chairman John Thorsen has decided to step down to pursue other interests. If you are interested in the position, please contact Sue or Jodee.

The State Engineer's Office submitted a comment letter to the Bureau of Reclamation on the Draft Bighorn Lake Operating Criteria Evaluation Study and Report.

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (WWDO)

Barry Lawrence reported the following:

In the Weather Modification Program, seeding continues. There have been 98 cases so far this season. The technical team has been watching the snowpack due to the suspension criteria written into the program. Cloud seeding must be suspended if the SWE reaches 120% of normal.

An aircraft will be on the ground in Cheyenne to deploy flights in the plume when the generators are seeding. The data will help develop a model of plume dispersion.

The state of Nevada has received a FONSI for their weather modification project in the Walker River Basin. Funding for this project is being provided by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Bart Geerts was granted \$870,000 through the National Science Foundation to use radar and lidar to look at seeding in the Sierra Madres. The program will begin next winter and cannot compete with the existing Weather Modification Program.

Kevin Boyce reported the following:

The omnibus construction and planning bills are rolling through the Senate and the House for funding approval.

The WWDO is funding a groundwater project in Yoder. A test well has been drilled that has good production as well as water quality.

The WWDO has also drilled a new well for the town of Riverside.

The Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities has a WWDO project to drill a test well in the Belvoir Ranch area. The well will determine if the possibility exists to develop a well filed in the area for the city of Cheyenne.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY – (USGS)

David Mott reported the following:

The USGS will be working under a Continuing Resolution for funding until March 4th.

Tim Bartos has been working on a project to map, identify and describe the aquifers in Laramie County. Mr. Bartos will be making a presentation on this project to the Water Forum in March.

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE – (AG)

Pete Michael reported the following:

The Natural Resources Division of the Attorney General’s Office, Water Law Section has had some new hires. Andrew Kuhlman was hired last year and is working with the Water Development Commission, the State Engineer’s Office and the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Jeremiah Williamson was hired last month and will be working with the Department of Environmental Quality – Water Quality Division. Marion Yoder has taken over the Board of Control and State Engineer’s Office responsibilities with the transfer of Jane Caton.

The AG’s Office has been watching House Bill 163 – Jeb Steward’s bill dealing with carbon sequestration.

In the Montana v. Wyoming suit, Mr. Michael has been interviewed by Headwaters a couple of times and the article should appear in an upcoming issue.

Montana and Wyoming appeared before the Supreme Court and argued the sprinkler system issue. Montana asked the Full Court to reverse the Special Master’s opinion. Montana has stated that if they don’t win this one, they might be interested in settling.

WYOMING OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY – (WOHS)

Kim Johnson reported the following:

The WOHS has been moving forward with flood mapping. Right now, work is being done in Teton County creating digital maps and locating all of the Corps of Engineers levees as well as the changes to Lake Creek and Fish Creek.

Emergency management meetings have been held in Saratoga and Riverside preparing for runoff season.

Larry Majeras has been appointed the Interim Director of WOHS until further notice.

The Corps of Engineers is talking about conducting a levee inventory. The WOHS is trying to understand the implication of irrigation canals being included in this inventory.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

The following is a listing of reservoir conditions on January 31, 2011:

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

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminoe	6348.11	848,942	83	163
Pathfinder	5838.63	784,634	77	140
Alcova	5488.30	156,718	85	101
Glendo	4624.48	401,336	78	128
Guernsey	4404.05	14,649	32	128

January 31, 2010 Reservoir Conditions:

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6337.69	681,048	520,800
Pathfinder	5835.68	731,894	559,000
Alcova	5487.98	155,998	155,100
Glendo	4611.09	282,300	312,500
Guernsey	4405.55	16,835	11,400

January 2011 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminoe	35.5	140
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	3.8	66
Alcova to Glendo Gains	13.3	128
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	2.2	147

Kendrick ownership was 1,104,446 acre-feet (AF) on January 31, 2011 and approximately 128% of average (865,300 AF), which compares to the ownership of 1,006,660 AF last year at this date. The January 31, 2011, North Platte ownership was 867,662 AF, which was approximately 160% of average (543,600 AF), which compares to 713,435 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 173,859 AF on January 31, 2011, which was approximately 141% of average (123,000 AF), which compares to the 120,054 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 has reached the winter operating range of 5488± one foot.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

January 31, 2011 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5775.94	71,369	47	94
Boysen	4717.70	608,893	82	109
Buffalo Bill	5366.88	446,081	69	106
Pilot Butte	5452.88	27,580	82	99

January 31, 2010 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5779.93	81,186	76,100
Boysen	4717.71	609,056	556,600
Buffalo Bill	5366.14	440,800	419,800*
Pilot Butte	5454.63	29,039	27,800

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

January 2011 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	1.6	76
Boysen	39.3	107
Buffalo Bill	15.7	107

The release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is approximately 410 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is approximately 800 cfs.

SPECIAL REPORT

Dr. Ron Surdam, Director of the Carbon Management Research Center at the School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming, was the special presenter at today's meeting. A copy of Dr. Surdam's presentation can be found **here**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.