



State Engineer's Office

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GOVERNOR

PATRICK T. TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

January 5, 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 January 4, 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 February 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
February 1 st	Dr. Ron Surdam – UW – Director – Carbon Management Research Center – School of Energy Resources	Carbon Sequestration
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 February 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from Dr. Ron Surdam, Director of the Carbon Management Research Center – School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming. Dr. Surdam's presentation will be on Carbon Sequestration.

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2011

Pat Tyrrell called the two hundred and ninety-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>
Brian Anderson	USBR	bjanderson@usbr.gov (phone)
Matt Bilodeau	COE	matthew.a.bilodeau@usace.army.mil
Liberty Blain	LCCD	liberty@lccdnet.org
Kevin Boyce	WWDO	kboyce@state.wy.us
Lee Hackleman	NRCS	lee.hackleman@wy.usda.gov
Mike Hand	SEO	mhand@seo.wyo.gov
Matt Hoobler	SEO	mhoobl@seo.wyo.gov
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
Harry LaBonde	SEO	hlabon@seo.wyo.gov
Barry Lawrence	WWDO	blawre@state.wy.us
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
David Mott	USGS	dmott@usgs.gov
Kathy Muller Ogle	WDEQ-LQD	kmogle@wyo.gov
Chris Nicholson	WRDS	cnichol5@uwyo.edu
Phil Ogle	WWDO	pogle@state.wy.us
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
Pat Tyrrell	SEO	ptyrre@seo.wyo.gov
Tom Wilkinson	Lowham Walsh	twilkinson@lowhamwalsh.com (phone)
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 upcoming Legislative Session has many bills which the SEO is tracking. A few of the bills are:

HB12 – Irrigation Districts – Change of Place of Use

HB63 – Subdivisions – Water Study

SF46 – Stock Water Permits

SF 78 – Temporary Instream Flow

Oil and gas development in Laramie County has been ramping up. Water is needed for drilling, producing and fracing these wells. Each well requires between 13 and 15 acre-feet of water. The SEO has seen an increase in temporary use agreements coming through the office.

Jodee Pring reported the following:

A Belle Fourche River Compact meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 6th in Sundance.

Pete Michael, Attorney General's Office, is in Washington, DC preparing for his appearance before the Supreme Court which will be on January 10th in the MT v. WY case.

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.

Matt Hoobler reported the following:

The North Platte Decree Committee (NPDC) reporting requirements are completed. Mr. Hoobler is currently working on depletion reporting and will be using the new census data.

Mike Hand reported the following:

The Safety of Dams section of the SEO will be conducting a dam owner workshop in February. Work continues on the inundation map project.

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.

LARAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (LCCD)

Liberty Blain reported the following:

This year, the Conservation District was awarded \$535,000 for the agriculture water enhancement program. This program asks irrigators to retire irrigation rights and move to dry land farming. Last year, \$500,000 was awarded and all those funds were obligated. This year, oil and gas development is having an impact on the program. Those who were thinking of

retiring their water rights are now considering selling their water to oil and gas companies for drilling, producing and fracing wells.

The Conservation District has been working with quite a few constituents on oil and gas development by directing them to those to whom they need to speak about their concerns.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – LAND QUALITY DIVISION (WDEQ – LQD)

Kathy Muller-Ogle reported the following:

The LQD has seen twice as many coal amendments coming through their office compared to this time last year.

Black Thunder Mine has requested to expand and LQD has received an application for a new mine on Young's Creek.

The LQD has also received applications for in-situ uranium operations. They expect to permit 3-4 this year.

The LQD is investigating how the oil and gas development in Laramie County might impact sand and gravel operations in the area.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH – (WGF)

Rick Huber reported the following:

A brochure on aquatic invasive species is being developed to inform water haulers about moving water related to oil and gas development and water rules and regulations they need to be aware of from the Game and Fish.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) –

Lee Hackleman reported the following:

Mr. Hackleman handed out a copy of the Monday morning snow report. A copy of that handout can be found [here](#). As of yesterday morning, overall the state is looking good for snowpack.

The NRCS has finished up 6 new site installations. Those sites are located in the Little Goose Creek drainage, Soldier Creek drainage, Larson Creek drainage, Pocket Creek drainage, Battle Mountain and Castle Creek drainage.

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (WWDO)

Barry Lawrence reported the following:

In the Weather Modification Program, 5 cases have been conducted in the Wind River Range totaling 434 generator hours; 5 cases have been conducted in the Medicine Bow Range totaling 106 generator hours; and 5 cases have been conducted in the Sierra Madres for a total of 143 generator hours. To be scientifically significant, 200 cases are needed and currently the program is at 94 cases total.

The National American Atmospheric Society meeting will be held in Seattle this year. There will be 5 presentations given at the conference related to Wyoming's Weather Modification Program. For more information on this conference, please contact Mr. Lawrence.

Kevin Boyce reported the following:

The omnibus construction and planning bills will be presented to the legislature this session for funding approval.

The WWDO is funding a study of the Pavilion area. Gores and Associates out of Riverton will be looking at alternatives for drinking water users outside of Pavilion's municipal supply. A scoping meeting for this project will be held before the end of the month.

Phil Ogle reported the following:

The WWDO is proposing to the Legislature a new account to be called Account 4. This account would be created to help fund large projects such as the Gillette pipeline.

WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEM – (WRDS)

Chris Nicholson reported the following:

Mr. Nicholson handed out a sheet showing the precipitation departures from normal. A copy of that handout can be found [**here**](#).

The Water Planning team continues to work on the update of the Bear River Basin Plan. The team anticipates the plan to be completed by the middle of this year.

Funding has been requested in this year's Omnibus Planning bill to update the Snake/Salt River Basin Plan.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY – (USGS)

David Mott reported the following:

The USGS has been working with the DEQ-WQD on water sampling in southeast Wyoming, trying to stay ahead of the oil and gas development. Land owners can contact the USGS if they would like their wells sampled. The USGS will conduct the sample as long as a well in their area has not yet been sampled.

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.

OFFICE OF WATER PROGRAMS – UW (OWP)

Greg Kerr reported the following:

The Water Research program funded 8 projects for FY2011. Six projects were ongoing projects and 2 projects were new projects. A handout describing the projects and abstracts on the two new projects can be found [**here**](#).

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

The following is a listing of reservoir conditions on December 31, 2010:

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	6348.01	848,414	83	153
Pathfinder	5838.30	778,589	77	145
Alcova	5488.34	156,809	85	101
Glendo	4620.17	360,010	70	136
Guernsey	4402.03	12,002	26	130

December 31, 2009 Reservoir Conditions:

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6337.97	685,173	553,700
Pathfinder	5835.48	728,425	536,100
Alcova	5487.94	155,908	154,900
Glendo	4605.54	240,337	265,600
Guernsey	4403.89	14,427	9,200

December 2010 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminoe	41.3	157
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	6.5	148
Alcova to Glendo Gains	13.8	197
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	1.9	127

Kendrick ownership was 1,105,226 acre-feet (AF) on December 31, 2010 and approximately 128% of average (866,500 AF), which compares to the ownership of 1,007,380 AF last year at this date. The December 31, 2010, North Platte ownership was 815,889 AF, which was approximately 161% of average (505,300 AF), which compares to 669,087 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 174,052 AF on December 31, 2010, which was approximately 143% of average (121,600 AF), which compares to the 120,308 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

December 31, 2010 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5775.78	70,986	47	94
Boysen	4718.28	618,608	83	108
Buffalo Bill	5367.77	452,334	70	108
Pilot Butte	5453.02	27,696	82	100

December 31, 2009 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5780.07	81,538	75,900
Boysen	4719.18	634,008	572,400
Buffalo Bill	5367.20	448,252	419,800*
Pilot Butte	5454.72	29,115	27,700

* 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.

December 2010 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	2.6	104
Boysen	45.6	121
Buffalo Bill	18.6	118

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

Kim Johnson, with the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, was the special presenter at today's meeting. A copy of Mr. Johnson's presentation, The Wyoming Flood Map Modernization Program, can be found **here**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.