



# State Engineer's Office

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**MATTHEW H. MEAD**  
GOVERNOR

**PATRICK T. TYRRELL**  
STATE ENGINEER

March 8, 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 March 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 April 5<sup>th</sup> in the State Engineer's Office Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

### WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2010-2011 1<sup>st</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

<b>DATE</b>	<b>INVITED GUEST</b>	<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bureau of Reclamation	Water Supply Forecast
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	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 April 5, 2011 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.

## WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2011

Pat Tyrrell called the three-hundredth 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)
Tom Annear	WY G&F	tom.annear@wgf.state.wy.us
Tim Bartos	USGS	ttbartos@usgs.gov
Matt Bilodeau	COE	matt.a.bilodeau@usace.army.mil
Jane Francis	WDEQ-WQD	jfranc@wyo.gov
Kevin Frederick	WDEQ-WQD	kfrede@wyo.gov
Lee Hackleman	NRCS	lee.hackleman@wy.usda.gov
Laura Hallberg	USGS	lhallber@usgs.gov
Ken Hamilton	WY FB	khamilton@wyfb.org
Rick Huber	WY G&F	rick.huber@wgf.state.wy.us
Harry LaBonde	SEO	hlabon@seo.wyo.gov
Jeremy Manley	SEO	jmanle@seo.wyo.gov
Cheryl Miller	USGS	cemiller@usgs.gov
Chris Moody	Wyoming Groundwater, LLC	cmoody@bresnan.net
David Mott	USGS	dmott@usgs.gov
Chris Nicholson	WRDS	cnichol5@uwyo.edu
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
Pat Tyrrell	SEO	ptyrre@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 Legislative session is wrapping up and out of the 9 bills the SEO was watching, no bills made it through. There will be a couple of bills that will possibly get referred to interim committees for additional work. The Water Development Office planning and construction bills all went through and the Governor signed the Gillette Madison Project bill.

The SEO has been busy with the oil and gas play in southeast Wyoming. The office has been reviewing and approving temporary water use agreements.

Harry LaBonde reported the following:

Under a supplemental budget, the SEO has been granted an enforcement position to help with the oil and gas play in southeast Wyoming.

Jodee Pring reported the following:

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee met in Denver at the DIA Crowne Plaza Hotel February 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. The majority of this meeting was a workshop focused on the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan and how to incorporate social, cultural and economic benefits into the plan. The meeting was well attended.

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".

The Technical Committee of the Yellowstone River Compact Commission will be holding a meeting April 12<sup>th</sup> in Worland, Wyoming.

Western Water Assessment is holding the second annual science symposium exploring the water-related impacts of mountain pine beetle infestations in the Rocky Mountain West. The Symposium is titled, "Impacts on the Hydrologic Cycle and Water Quality: What have we learned?" The symposium will be held Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00a – 4:30p at the NOAA David Skaggs Research Center in Boulder, CO. A copy of the poster for the symposium can be found [here](#).

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – WATER QUALITY DIVISION (WDEQ-WQD)

Jane Francis reported the following:

John Corra was re-appointed as the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality. Don McKenzie is no longer the administrator of the LQD and Alan Edwards has been appointed as Interim.

The WQD and USGS have been working on an ambient baseline groundwater model for Laramie, Goshen and Platte counties. Employees of both WQD and USGS have been taking groundwater samples for appropriators who are worried about the oil and gas play in southeast Wyoming and how it may affect their groundwater wells.

### WYOMING GAME AND FISH (WG&F)

Rick Huber reported the following:

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Westside Irrigation District Project is out on the streets along with the EIS for the TransWest Transmission Project.

Tom Annear reported the following:

Former WYG&F Director Steve Farrell has moved over to the Governor's Office and Scott Talbot has been appointed as the new Director of the WYG&F.

The Instream Flow Council will be holding a conference in Nashville. The theme of the conference is "Valuing Instream Flow in Water Management". For more information on this conference, go to [instreamflowcouncil.org](http://instreamflowcouncil.org)

### CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE)

Matt Bilodeau reported the following:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a News Release on February 16, 2011 announcing that it was seeking comments on a proposal to renew and revise nationwide permits for work in wetlands and other waters subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

A copy of the news release can be found **here**, along with a copy of questions and answers on the Nationwide Permits issued by the Corps headquarters office.

Additional information on the administration of the Corps regulatory program in Wyoming can be obtained from our local website at:

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rwy/Wyoming.htm>

The District Engineer visited Wyoming February 7 to participate in flood assistance discussions with Elk Mountain and Saratoga residents worried about flooding this spring.

### WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEM (WRDS)

Chris Nicholson reported the following:

WRDS is currently in the process of gathering information for the Public Water System Survey that is requested by WWDO. The information gained in this survey will be available online when completed.

The surface water portion of the Green River Basin Plan is approximately 99% online. The balance of the plan should be online before the end of next week.

WRDS is looking at increasing their exposure through the internet. They are looking at using options such as Facebook and an RSS feed.

The USGS and WSGS are creating a website to house the groundwater portion of the Green River Basin Plan. This website would be housed at WSGS and currently a mock-up is being worked on. This website would be separate from the WWDO website.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

Tim Bartos reported the following:

The groundwater portion of the Wind/Bighorn Basin Plan will be on the WWDO website soon.

David Mott reported the following:

Congress has asked the EPA to conduct a nationwide fracing study. This study would be divided into two parts. The first part of the study would be a retrospective study looking at areas that have a history of fracing. The second part of the study would be a prospective study; before, during and after. The Niobrara play is one area on the list to be studied.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Lee Hackleman reported the following:

A copy of the Monday morning snow report was handed out to the group. A copy of that report can be found [here](#).

Last year at this time, the state average SWE was 73% with a low of 55% and a high of 90% of average. This year, the state average SWE is 114% with a low of 98% and a high of 136% of average.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

The following is a listing of reservoir conditions on February 28, 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	6344.90	793,917	78	161
Pathfinder	5841.87	845,902	83	145
Alcova	5488.33	156,786	85	101
Glendo	4627.69	434,288	84	123
Guernsey	4408.35	21,380	47	141

February 28, 2010 Reservoir Conditions:

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6337.40	676,796	493,200
Pathfinder	5835.91	735,901	582,400
Alcova	5488.13	156,335	155,800
Glendo	4615.60	319,455	353,900
Guernsey	4406.86	18,887	15,200

## February 2011 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminoe	35.7	131
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	1.1	17
Alcova to Glendo Gains	13.0	106
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	1.5	125

Kendrick ownership was 1,103,630 acre-feet (AF) on February 28, 2011 and approximately 128% of average (865,300 AF), which compares to the ownership of 1,005,119 AF last year at this date. The February 28, 2011, North Platte ownership was 914,690 AF, which was approximately 157% of average (582,600 AF), which compares to 753,551 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 173,685 AF on February 28, 2011, which was approximately 139% of average (126,400 AF), which compares to the 119,957 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortes Dam are approximately 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 500 cfs. The release from Guernsey Reservoir is 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

### February 28, 2011 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5775.89	71,250	47	94
Boysen	4717.03	597,850	81	109
Buffalo Bill	5365.74	438,145	68	105
Pilot Butte	5452.85	27,556	82	99

### February 28, 2010 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5779.85	80,986	76,100
Boysen	4716.59	590,717	546,500
Buffalo Bill	5364.92	432,311	416,000*
Pilot Butte	5454.59	29,005	28,000

\* 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.

## February 2011 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	1.0	63
Boysen	33.0	88
Buffalo Bill	12.0	92

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

Tim Bartos, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, was the special presenter at today's meeting. A copy of Mr. Bartos' presentation on the High Plains aquifer can be found **here**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.