
Wyoming Water Development Commission Workshop
Water Development Office, 6920 Yellowtail Rd.
Cheyenne, Wyoming
March 15, 2018

1. Chairman Sheridan Little called the workshop to order at 1:35pm.

2. Roll Call

Commission attendance:

Sheridan Little, Chairman

Gerald Geis

Kellen Lancaster

Rodney Wagner

David Evans

Clinton Glick, Secretary

Jeanette Sekan

Larry Suchor

Karen Budd-Falen - absent

Nick Bettas, Vice-Chairman - absent

3. **Legislative Update**

Director LaBonde reviewed nine bills, directly or indirectly affecting the Water Development Program.

SF0053 – Small Water Projects – This bill sought to eliminate the \$135,000.00 maximum project cost limit on Small Water Projects eligible for \$35,000.00 in grant funding. The bill passed.

SF0054 – Water Development Project Requirements – This bill sought to establish requirements related to operations and maintenance of water projects. The bill passed.

SF0055 – Water Development Account III – This bill sought to revise funding criteria for Water Development Account III. This bill was postponed indefinitely.

SF0062 – Omnibus Water Bill – Planning – This is the standard funding bill for Level I and Level II studies, Office of Water Programs, and included the Platte Recovery and Implementation Program extension appropriation request. This bill passed.

SF0064 – Appropriation to state engineer – This bill sought to repeal an appropriation from water development account I to the state engineer's office. This bill died in the House.

HB0065 – Design-build construction – This modified the requirements for design-build projects. This bill died in the house.

HB0066 – Purchase of water rights and facilities – This bill provided for an appropriation to proceed with negotiations for the purchase of Lake DeSmet Water Assets and to establish an operations and maintenance account. This bill passed.

HB0077 – Instream flow consultant – This bill proposed to make the game and fish commission responsible for the costs related to WWDC feasibility studies on instream flows. This bill passed.

HB0078 – Omnibus water bill-construction – This is the standard funding bill for Level III projects within the water development program. This bill passed, with amendments to the West Fork project, Gillette Regional Extensions and the Weather Modification program.

4. Consultant Shortlists

Barry Lawrence, Planning Deputy Director, presented the Commission with the shortlist of consultants selected to provide proposals for the Level I and Level II projects.

5. Consultant Selection Schedule

Barry Lawrence reviewed the consultant selection schedule with the Commission.

6. New Level I and II Project Applications (Received March 1)

Barry Lawrence provided a brief overview of the applications received for Level I and Level II projects.

7. Weather Modification Program Update

Julie Gondzar, Project Manager, gave a power point presentation to the Commission reviewing the program and some of the basic science behind the program as well as future plans and direction for the program.

8. Small Water Story Map

Jodie Pavlica, Project Manager, demonstrated the online story map developed by WRDS for small water projects.

9. Discussion

Director LaBonde informed the commission the agency would be faced with a 4% budget cut for the 2019-2020 biennium as a result of Legislative action during the 2018 session.

10. Location of the 2018 Summer Tour/Meeting

The commission discussed and decided to meet and tour in and around the Gillette area to see first-hand some of the regional extension projects, the Gillette-Madison Pipeline project as well as the Pine Haven project.

Director LaBonde discussed the June 2018 meeting with the Commission. Senator Larry Hicks is interested in meeting in the Colorado River Basin to discuss basin specific issues. He would like to meet jointly with Joint Ag, Select Water and the WWDC. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Pinedale, rather than Cheyenne.

The workshop adjourned at 4:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Lancaster".

Clinton Glick, Secretary

Wyoming Water Development Commission Meeting
Water Development Office, 6920 Yellowtail Rd.
Cheyenne, Wyoming
March 16, 2018

1. Chairman Sheridan Little called the meeting to order at 8:37am.

2. Roll Call

Commission attendance:

Sheridan Little, Chairman

Rodney Wagner

David Evans

Clinton Glick

Gerald Geis

Kellen Lancaster

Jeanette Sekan

Larry Suchor

Nick Bettas, Vice-Chairman – absent

Karen Budd-Falen - absent

Select Water Committee:

Senator Larry Hicks

3. **Audience Introductions**

4. **Election of Officers**

Rodney Wagner made a motion to retain the current slate of officers. Larry Suchor seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Kellen Lancaster suggested waiting until Nick Bettas could be in attendance.

Jeanette Sekan made a motion to table the election until the May 2018 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

David Evans made a motion to approve all provided minutes:

- January 10, 2018 Workshop
- January 11, 2018 Meeting
- January 11, 2018 Executive Session

Jeanette Sekan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Planning Amendments**

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- Powder Tongue & NE River Basin Plan Update, Level I Study, Amend No. 2
An interim amendment to the engineering contract with RESPEC, Inc., was presented. The amendment serves to extend the term of the Contract from March 31, 2018 to December 31, 2018. The Contract amount is not changed by this amendment.

Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the Powder Tongue & NE River Basin Plan Update, Amendment No. 2. Larry Suchor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Planning Closeout Memos

- Bear River Data Model Pilot Study
Peter Gill, Project Manager, provided a brief summary of project findings and final project costs. Discussion followed. Gerry Geis moved acceptance of the Bear River Data Model Pilot Study project report as being complete and further, the WWDC makes the following findings relative to this project:
 1. That the Commission recommend proceeding to the next Level of project development upon the submittal of an appropriate funding application by the sponsor. Larry Suchor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- Owl Creek Watershed Study
Peter Gill, Project Manager, provided a brief summary of project findings and final project costs. Gerry Geis moved acceptance of the Owl Creek Watershed Study, Level I project report as being complete and further, the WWDC makes the following findings relative to this project: That the Commission recommends proceeding to the next Level of project development upon the submittal of an appropriate funding application by the sponsor. Rodney Wagner seconded the motion. David Evans expressed his appreciation for the addition of the construction reports and closeout memos presented to the Commission. The motion carried unanimously.
- Weather Modification – Bighorn Range Siting and Design Study
Julie Gondzar, Project Manager, provided a brief summary of project findings and an explanation of the project costs which were split between three weather modification projects. The final project cost for the Bighorn Range was \$649,844.71. Larry Suchor moved acceptance of the Weather Modification – Bighorn Range Siting and Design Study as being complete and further, the WWDC makes the following findings relative to this project:
 1. That the recommendations from the study be considered as part of the Wyoming Weather Modification statewide strategy.

2. The project functions and services cannot realistically be provided by any person, association or corporation engaged in private enterprise.

3. At this time, the WWDC will not pursue an operational weather modification program in the Big Horn Mountains. Discussion followed, Julie indicated there was not enough interest to continue the program in the area.

- Weather Modification – Medicine Bow / Sierra Madre Ranges Final Design/Permitting Study, Level III

Julie Gondzar, Project Manager, provided a brief summary of project findings and an explanation of the project costs which were split between three weather modification projects. The final project cost for the Medicine Bow / Sierra Madre Ranges Final Design/Permitting study was \$649,844.71. Julie proceeded to propose an operational aircraft program begin with the unappropriated funds. David Evans moved acceptance of the Weather Modification – Medicine Bow / Sierra Madre Ranges Final Design/Permitting Study as complete and further, the WWDC makes the following findings relative to this project:

1. That the recommendations from the study support a future operational program in the Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre Mountains.

2. That the recommendations from the study endorse an operational aircraft program for the 2018-2019 winter season, with the remaining appropriated, but unobligated funds, estimated to be \$438,000.00.

3. That the WWDO withdraw the Special Use Permit application with the Medicine Bow National Forest for ground-based generators.

4. Based on the findings in the final report, the project is determined to be in the public interest.

5. The project functions and services cannot realistically be provided by any person, association or corporation engaged in private enterprise.

Jeanette Sekan seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

8. UW Water Research Program MOU

The Commission considered the UW WRP MOU. The MOU provides partial funding in the amount of \$285,150.00 for two projects voted on by the Commission and Select Water in November, 2017. David Evans made a motion to approve the MOU, Jeanette Sekan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Small Water Project Program – Funding Applications

Jodie Pavlica, Project Manager presented and briefly summarized the small water project program applications. Sheridan Little recused himself from voting on the Little Ranch Irrigation Drainage Rehabilitation project sponsored by the

Sheridan County Conservation District. Discussion followed. Three projects exceeded the current \$135,000.00 project cost cap. Based on legislation introduced and passed during the 2018 Legislative session, SF0053 – Small Water Projects, the cap has been removed, but does not take effect until July 1, 2018. Those three projects were considered separately as well as the Little Ranch project.

*(*Power outage at 10:10am, recording and streaming no longer available*)*

Jeanette Sekan made a motion to approve funding the balance of the projects with the exception of the three projects over \$135,000 and the Little Ranch project. Gerry Geis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- WDA I – 50 Projects, Total Grant Amount - \$1,295,654.00
- WDA II – 15 Projects, Total Grant Amount - \$389,000.00

Jeanette Sekan made a motion to approve funding for the Little Ranch Irrigation Drainage Rehabilitation project with a WDA II grant amount of \$35,000.00. Gerry Geis seconded the motion, the motion passed with Sheridan Little recused.

Jeanette Sekan made a motion to approve the projects over \$135,000.00 and authorized the Chairman to sign the three agreements with a total WDA II grant amount of \$105,000.00 after the July 1, 2018 effective date of the legislation. David Evans seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Sponsor's Contingency Funds

- Pine Haven Well & Tank Project

Larry Suchor recused himself from the discussion and subsequent vote. Bill Brewer, Project Manager, provided an overview of the project for the Commission. Discussion followed regarding the significantly higher bids received for the project. Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the request for \$392,000 from the WDA I Sponsor's Contingency Fund. Rodney Wagner seconded the motion, motion carried with Larry Suchor recused from the vote.

11. 2018 Construction Project & Well Purchase Agreements – Account I

Bryan Clerkin, Deputy Construction Director, presented and summarized eight Level III, Account I project and well purchase agreements:

- Newcastle Well 2018
- Gillette Regional Extensions Phase IV 2018
- Glenrock Transmission Pipeline 2018

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- Lusk Water System Improvements 2018
 - Melody Ranch Water System Improvements 2018
 - Northwest Rural Water System Improvements 2018
 - Sheridan North Side Transmission Pipeline 2018
 - Sundance Tank 2018

Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the Level III, Account I project and well purchase agreements. Rodney Wagner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12. 2018 Construction Project Agreements – Account II

Bryan Clerkin presented and summarized nine Level III, Account II project agreements:

- Casper Alcova Irrigation District Underdrain 2018
- Goshen Irrigation District Check Structure 2018
- Riverton Valley ID Rehabilitation 2018
- Cottonwood ID Pipeline Replacement 2018
- Hanover ID Cottonwood Spill/Check Replacement 2018
- Heart Mountain ID Rattlesnake Liner Replacement
- Deaver Irrigation District Rehabilitation 2018
- Midvale Irrigation District Rehabilitation 2018
- Sidon Irrigation District Rehabilitation 2018

Rodney Wagner made a motion to approve the Level III, Account II project agreements. Larry Suchor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

13. 2018 Construction Project Amendments

Bryan Clerkin presented and summarized eight Level III, Account II and III project amendments:

- Douglas Box Elder Spring – time extension
- Dull Knife Reservoir Spillway Rehabilitation – Acct II
- Ethete Water Supply – time extension
- Evansville Emergency Connection – time extension
- Gillette Regional Extensions 2017 – Account I
- GR/RS//SC Raw Water Reservoir – time extension
- Mountain View Acres Connection – time extension
- Savery Creek Diversions Phase II – time extension

Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the Level III, Account I & II project amendments. Rodney Wagner seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

14. Update of Level III Construction Projects

Bryan Clerkin provided an update on the following Level III Construction projects:

- Gillette Regional Extensions – Phase II (DOWL)
- Gillette Regional Extensions – Phase II (HDR)
- LeClair Irrigation District Rehabilitation 2017

This was for the Commission's information only.

15. Discussion

- 404 Permit Compliance for High Savery Reservoir – Director LaBonde informed the Commission the mitigation obligations have been met fully and monitoring is no longer required.
- 2018 Basin States Salinity Control Project Applications – no applications were received this year.
- Report from the January 23, 2018 Management Audit Committee – This was the two year follow-up. With the exception of Chapter 8 of the Rules, all tasks have been completed. The audit committee extended their gratitude to the Commission for being responsive.
- Update on PRRIP public meetings – Three public meetings were held in the Platte River basin (Torrington, Saratoga, and Casper).
- Gillette-Madison Well issue – HB0078, Omnibus Water Bill-Construction was amended due to the current issues in question in Gillette.

16. Future Meetings Schedule –

The June 14-15, 2018 joint WWDC/SWC meeting, typically held in Cheyenne, will be tentatively held in Pinedale. Senator Hicks requested a joint discussion take place in the Colorado River Basin regarding basin specific issues. He would like Joint Ag, SWC and WWDC to discuss various items. The SWC and WWDC will consider the joint discussion at their workshop on June 14, and will have their regular meeting on June 15, 2018 with SWC and WWDC.

David Evans moved for adjournment, Kellen Lancaster seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Clinton Glick, Secretary