
**Wyoming Water Development Commission
Workshop
Wyoming Water Development Office
6920 Yellowtail Rd, Cheyenne, WY
January 8, 2020**

1. Chairman Larry Suchor called the workshop to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission attendance:
Larry Suchor, Chairman
Kellen Lancaster, Vice-Chairman via-phone
Mike Purcell, Secretary
Gerald Geis
Ron Kailey
Mark Kot
Sheridan Little
Rodney Wagner
Bill Yankee
Clinton Glick – Absent

Select Water Attendance:
Senator Glenn Moniz
Senator Liisa Anselmi-Dalton
Representative Dan Laursen
Representative John Eklund

Advisors in Attendance:
Andrew Kuhlmann, Assistant Attorney General
Greg Kerr, University of Wyoming

2. **Audience Introduction**

3. **Financial Status Report**

Director Gebhart provided an overview of the preliminary fiscal projections as of October 2019 for Water Development Accounts I, II, III previously provided to the Commission.

4. **Review Public Hearings – Proposed Level III Projects**

Director Gebhart provided feedback regarding the Public Hearing tour. Hearing Officers attended 16 public hearings throughout the state and all comments received were positive. Many of the comments were in thanks to the Commissioners for support of their projects.

5. **Project Application Updates**

- Cloud Seeding – Medicine Bow/Sierra Madre/Laramie Ranges and Wind River Range Cost Analyses – Barry Lawrence provided a summary of the Cloud Seeding Recommendations that were approved at the November meeting. Furthermore, as requested at the November meeting, he discussed a cloud seeding cost analysis prepared by Julie Gondzar, Weather Modification Project Manager. Jason Mead then provided cost/AF analyses for existing Fontenelle Reservoir contracts water and the potential future Fontenelle Reservoir Riprap Project. This was part of the original November request to provide a comparison to the cloud seeding cost analysis.

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- LaPrele Irrigation District Rehabilitation, LII, Phase II – Director Gebhart stated that in November there was an amendment to the existing LaPrele Irrigation District Rehabilitation, LII, project. The purpose of the amendment was to change the scope of work to provide analysis on the dam structure itself. The amendment changed the scope language but kept the dollar amount the same. Chace Tavelli, Project Manager, provided a summary of the structural analysis that was done in early December. The findings show this is a global issue rather than a local one and indicate that major stability enhancements are needed. The Director’s recommendation was to approve additional funding in the amount of \$650,000 to cover work set aside in the November amendment, continue the project into Phase II, and to evaluate alternatives for a long term fix for LaPrele.
 - UW Water Research Program – Director Gebhart provided information regarding the UW Water Research Program and stated at the November meeting this was presented as a “to be determined” request because proposals were still being evaluated. Greg Kerr, Director of the Water Research Program, reminded the Commission that at the November meeting they were presented with 7 research proposals from faculty members at UW to deal with water related issues throughout the state of Wyoming. The proposals went through a peer review process and when that was complete, the advisory committee held a meeting to discuss the peer reviews and evaluate the projects. The advisory committee then ranked the projects and Proposals C and D were recommended for funding.
 - Project Sponsor’s Contingency Fund – Account III – Director Gebhart stated this request was generated as a suggestion from the Select Water Committee at the November meeting. Account III did not have a Sponsor’s Contingency fund whereas Accounts I and II already had that contingency in place. Director Gebhart’s recommendation is \$10,000,000.00 to create Account III Contingency Funding.
 - Wind River Irrigation Rehabilitation 2015 – Director Gebhart stated this is an amendment to an existing contract and is for a time extension only. The project was bid in November and the prices came in above the engineer’s estimate. The desire is to rebid the project. Director Gebhart’s recommendation is to extend the reversion date by another 2 years.
 - Director Gebhart provided information on the Small Water Project Program applications. When recommendations were presented at the November meeting, the office projected it could receive approximately 90 applications but in fact, 119 were received. Concerning the evident shortfalls in Account I and Account II to provide funding for all the applications, Chairman Suchor asked if the Director had a recommendation. Director Gebhart provided two options:
 1. Increase recommended funding to cover all projects or
 2. Limit project funding as per our priority system

Jodie Pavlica, Small Water Project Program Manager, provided an overview of the Small Water Project Program process and explained the program's priority system.

- Chairman Suchor requested an update regarding the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP). Director Gebhart said that former director Harry LaBonde was contracted to serve as the state's liaison on the Governance Committee for the PRRIP Program and that the first increment of the PRRIP program was extended another 13 years. Director Gebhart will schedule Harry to attend a future meeting with the Commission to provide additional information.

6. Legislative Process and Meeting Requests Discussion

Director Gebhart asked that in light of the upcoming legislative session, that he be informed and included regarding all matters, conversations and requests for information concerning the Water Development Program. He emphasized the importance in order to maintain a collective voice and provide appropriate responses.

On a separate matter, Mike Purcell presented a draft letter in response to a previous request from the Select Water Committee regarding the impacts of historical diversions from the various Water Development Program Accounts.

7. Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice

At 3:17 p.m., Rod Wagner made a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice. Sheridan Little seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

The Commission then took a short break before commencing the executive session.

The executive session began at 3:30 p.m. and ended at 4:15 p.m.

The Commission briefly went back into open session and adjourned the workshop at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Purcell, Secretary