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**Wyoming Water Development Commission Workshop**  
**Water Development Office, 6920 Yellowtail Rd.**  
**Cheyenne, Wyoming**  
**March 2, 2017**

Chairman Sheridan Little called the workshop to order at 1:37pm.

Roll Call

Commission attendance:

Sheridan Little, Chairman

Nick Bettas, Vice-Chairman

Gerald Geis

Kellen Lancaster

Rodney Wagner

David Evans

Karen Budd-Falen

Clinton Glick

Jeanette Sekan – via phone

Larry Suchor - absent

**1. Legislative Update**

Director LaBonde began by announcing and introducing new Commissioners Gerald Geis – Division III, Kellen Lancaster – Division IV and Larry Suchor from Water Division II who was unable to attend the meeting.

Director LaBonde reviewed a memo he provided to the Commission outlining the Legislative bills he followed during the 2017 session. In a typical year there are 2 water development bills; this year there were 4 bills brought by the WWDC and an additional 6 brought by the legislators for a total of 10 bills to follow during the session. He outlined the issues in each bill and reported HB24 – WWDC Duties, HB86 – Omnibus Water Bill - Construction, SF3 – SWC review/oversight of projects, SF51 – Transfer of water funds to have JAC review, and SF56 – Omnibus Water Bill - Planning all passed and have been signed by the Governor. The Planning bill was amended to cut \$1,087,500 from the Watershed study program. The supplemental budget bill, HB1/SF1, was currently on the Governor's desk. It includes provisions to provide funding to the the State Engineer's Office Board of Control by diverting \$6.2 million from WDAI and a proposed cut to the agency budget of approximately \$402,871.00.

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## **2. State Engineer's Office Update**

State Engineer Pat Tyrrell addressed the Commission and reviewed the bills he followed through the session. He also reported the state was in good condition regarding snow pack so far this year. Mr. Tyrrell also summarized the current status of the Laramie County Control Area and a public hearing was held in LaGrange to discuss his Horse Creek order. For the last several years there was a significant amount of rainfall and runoff in the Horse Creek area and the order has not been fully "tested".

## **3. Discussion regarding prioritization of Watershed Studies**

Due to funding cuts imposed and direction given by the 2017 Legislature, fewer watershed studies will be funded. There were 7 applications approved in November 2016. The Water Development Office hopes to move 4 of the 7 watershed studies forward with a maximum budget of \$271,000.00 each. The Middle Big Horn River Watershed Study was withdrawn at the Sponsor's request in lieu of favorable support for the Greybull River Watershed Study. The Commission requested the Office and project managers submit a prioritized list to the Commission during its meeting on Friday, March 3, 2017.

\*\*\*The Commission chose to hear item #6, Cheyenne East High FFA, at this point\*\*\*

## **4. Cheyenne East High School FFA – Ag Issues presentation**

- Wild Horse and Burro Act

The FFA students gave their Ag Issues presentation to the Commission and audience. A question/answer period followed. This was in preparation for the State FFA Convention and contest to be held in Cheyenne in April.

## **5. Review of Consultants Shortlists**

Barry Lawrence explained to the commission the process of shortlisting and gave them information regarding submittals of SOI/SOQs and presented the shortlist for RFPs, due to be distributed to consultants on Monday, March 6, 2017.

## **6. Consultant Selection Schedule**

Barry Lawrence informed the Commission of the interview schedule. They will be here, in Cheyenne, May 3 and 4, 2017, ending with a Commission meeting on Friday May 5, to approve the consultant selections.

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**7. WWDC Level II Program Wells, 2007-2017**

A spreadsheet of WWDC Level II Program Wells for 2007-2017 was provided to the Commission. 26 wells were drilled during this period and the spreadsheet showed quantity, quality and costs for the drilled wells.

**8. Dams & Reservoirs Story Map**

Jason Mead demonstrated the Dam & Reservoirs Story Map to the Commission, which is now available and accessible via the WWDC website.

**9. Types of Special Districts utilizing the Water Development Program**

Director LaBonde provided a memo to the Commission with a list of 17 types of special districts that could potentially pursue water development funding as water is included in their authorities.

**10. Location of the 2017 Summer Tour**

The commission discussed potential locations for the August 2017 tour. The commission will decide the location at the business meeting tomorrow.

**11. Discussion**

- Update on Rules and Operating Criteria Revisions – Director LaBonde indicated he hoped to have the comment period open fairly soon, an extensive checklist needs to be completed prior to comment.
- Karen Budd-Falen requested a spreadsheet totaling the amount of funding provided to each sponsor or conservation district in the last 5 years.

Respectfully submitted,



Clinton Glick

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**Wyoming Water Development Commission Meeting**  
**Water Development Office, 6920 Yellowtail Rd.**  
**Cheyenne, Wyoming**  
**March 3, 2017**

1. Chairman Sheridan Little called the meeting to order at 8:03am.

2. Roll Call

Commission attendance:

Sheridan Little, Chairman

Nick Bettas, Vice-Chairman

Rodney Wagner

David Evans

Karen Budd-Falen

Clinton Glick

Gerald Geis

Kellen Lancaster

Jeanette Sekan, via phone

Larry Suchor - absent

3. **Selection of 2017 Watershed Studies**

The Commission reviewed the memo from Jodee Pring – River Basin Planning Supervisor and Project Manager. The staff recommendation included Horse Creek Watershed Study, Beaver Creek Watershed Study, Greybull River Watershed Study, and Bitter Creek/E. Flaming Gorge Watershed Study.

Discussion followed. Senator Meier indicated there have been multiple studies in the Horse Creek Watershed and no need to be studied again for the purposes of the program. The commission chose to vote on the studies separately.

Gerry Geis moved the approval of the Horse Creek Watershed Study, David Evans seconded the motion. The motion failed 6-3, with David Evans, Rod Wagner, and Clinton Glick in favor.

Gerry Geis moved the approval of the Beaver Creek Watershed Study, David Evans seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-2 with Karen Budd-Falen and Jeanette Sekan opposed.

Gerry Geis moved the approval of the Greybull River Watershed Study, Rod Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-2 with Karen Budd-Falen and Jeanette Sekan opposed.

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Gerry Geis moved the Bitter Creek/E. Flaming Gorge Watershed Study, Rod Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-2 with Karen Budd-Falen and Jeanette Sekan opposed, Nick Bettas abstained from the vote, noting a conflict of interest.

The amount of funding approved allowed for the approval of one more watershed study.

Gerry Geis moved to approve the Niobrara/Lower North Platte Rivers Watershed Study, David Evans seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-3 with Karen Budd-Falen, Jeanette Sekan and Nick Bettas opposed.

#### **4. Small Water Project Program – Funding Applications**

Jodee Pring presented and briefly summarized the small water project program applications. Discussion followed. Gerry Geis moved the approval of all small water projects, Rod Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. Planning Amendments**

- *Greybull Valley Irrigation District Storage Enlargement, LII, PhII, Amendment No. 1*

An interim amendment to the engineering contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. was presented. The amendment serves to: a) add Phase II tasks to assist the Commission in further analyzing the storage enlargement for the Greybull Valley Irrigation District; b) increase the total Contract dollar amount by four hundred ninety-eight thousand dollars (\$498,000.00) to seven hundred ninety-six thousand dollars (\$796,000.00); and c) extend the term of the Contract from June 30, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

- *Heart Mountain Canal Rehabilitation, Level II, Amendment No. 1*

An interim amendment to the engineering contract with Engineering Associates was presented. The amendment serves to: a) increase the total Contract dollar amount by eighteen thousand eight hundred dollars (\$18,800.00) to one hundred eight thousand eight hundred dollars (\$108,800.00); b) extend the terms of the Contract from June 30, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and c) change the responsibilities of the Consultant by expanding the scope of the investigation.

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- Middle Piney Reservoir, Amendment No. 10  
An interim amendment to the engineering contract with Wenck Associates, Inc., was presented. The amendment serves to: a) add Level III bidding, construction management, field inspection, project closeout, and office support responsibilities for the consultant; b) increase the total Contract dollar amount by eight hundred twenty-four thousand, five hundred dollars (\$824,500.00) to one million, eight hundred sixteen thousand, two hundred seventeen dollars (\$1,816,217.00); and c) extend the term of the Contract from March 31, 2017 to December 31, 2021.
  - New Fork Lake Enlargement Study, Amendment No. 1  
An interim amendment to the engineering contract with RJH Consultants, Inc., was presented. The amendment serves to: a) add Phase II tasks to assist the Commission in further analyzing the enlargement of New Fork Lake Dam; b) increase the total Contract dollar amount by four hundred forty-eight thousand dollars (\$448,000.00) to seven hundred forty-four thousand dollars (\$744,000.00); and c) extend the term of the contract from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2020.

Nick Bettas made a motion to approve the Planning Amendments as presented with the exception of Middle Piney Reservoir. Rod Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the Middle Piney Reservoir, Amendment No. 10. Rod Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried with Karen Budd-Falen recusing herself for conflict of interest.

#### **6. UW Water Research Program MOU**

Two projects were previously approved, the MOU outlines the funding in the amount of \$384,529.00 to be provided for the projects. Rod Wagner made a motion to approve the MOU, David Evans seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **7. Construction Project Agreements - Leiter Ditch Rehabilitation 2016**

Chairman Little recused himself from the discussion for conflict of interest. He handed control of the meeting to Vice-Chairman Bettas. Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the Construction Project Agreement between the WWDC and Lower Clear Creek Irrigation District. Kellen Lancaster seconded the motion. The motion carried with Sheridan Little recused.

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## 8. Election of Officers

Gerry Geis made a motion to retain Sheridan Little as Chairman of the Commission. Kellen Lancaster seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rod Wagner made a motion to elect Nick Bettas as Vice-Chairman of the Commission. Gerry Geis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Nick Bettas made a motion to elect Clinton Glick as Secretary of the Commission. Rod Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director LaBonde suggested appointing a Deputy-Secretary.

Rod Wagner made a motion to elect David Evans as deputy secretary of the commission. Karen Budd-Falen seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

## 9. Audience Introductions

## 10. Approval of Minutes

- December 14, 2016 Workshop Minutes
- December 14, 2016 Executive Session minutes – confidential
- December 15, 2016 Meeting minutes

Rod Wagner made a motion to approve all 3 sets of minutes. David Evans seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## 11. Closeout Memos

- Bear River Watershed Study, Level I

Jodee Pring, Project Manager, provided a brief summary of the project findings. Discussion followed. The Commission moved to accept the 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.

- Bighorn Mountains Instream Flow Study

Dave Myer, Project Manager, provided a brief summary of the project findings. The Commission moved to accept the Bighorn Mountains Instream Flows, Level I Study project report as being complete.

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- Platte River Basin Plan, Level I

Peter Gill, Project Manager, provided a brief summary of the project findings. The Commission moved acceptance of the Platte River Basin Plan Update as being complete.

- Upper Snake River Watershed Study

Jodee Pring, Project Manager, provided a brief summary of the project findings. The Commission moved acceptance of the Upper Snake River Watershed Study project as being complete and further, the WWDC makes the following findings relative to this project:

That the Commission recommend proceeding to the next Level of project development upon the submittal of an appropriate funding application by the sponsor.

Gerry Geis made a motion to accept the Closeout memos and motions. Kellen Lancaster seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **12. Planning Amendments**

- Clear Creek Storage, Amendment No. 4

An interim amendment to the engineering contract with Wenck Associates, Inc., was presented. The amendment serves to extend the term of the Contract from March 31, 2017 to June 30, 2019.

Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the amendment, Karen Budd-Falen seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

- Glendo Reservoir Full Utilization, Level II Study, Amendment No. 1

An interim amendment to the engineering contract with RTI International, Inc., was presented. The amendment serves to: acknowledge the acquisition of specific assets of Riverside Technology, Inc. by Research Triangle Institute dba RTI International. The Contract amount and expiration date are not changed by this Amendment.

Karen Budd-Falen made a motion to approve the amendment, Gerry Geis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **13. 1981 Split Rock Wells – Handcart/Deseret Ranches Request**

Karen Budd-Falen made a motion for the Director to write a letter to the Handcart Ranches letting them know we do not hold water rights, nor did we drill the wells, so there's no reason for the Water Development Office to be involved at all.

Gerry Geis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **14. Update of Level III Construction Projects**

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

- Cambria Tank



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- Deaver Transmission Pipeline
  - Ethete Water Supply
  - Greybull Transmission Pipeline
  - Indian Paintbrush Water Supply
  - Kemmerer Diamondville Transmission Pipeline 2016
  - Lovell Tank/Zone 2 Improvements
  - Manville Well Connection
  - Newcastle 2015
  - Wheatland No. 7 Well

This was for the Commission's information only.

#### **15. UW Irrigation Well MOU**

Gerry Geis made a motion authorizing Director LaBonde to sign the UW Irrigation Well MOU. Rod Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **16. Basin States Salinity Program – Funding Applications**

Director LaBonde outlined a memo provided to the Commission indicating the WWDO had not received any funding applications and updated them on ongoing funding projects.

#### **17. Colorado River Basin MOA – Approved Projects for FY 2018**

Director LaBonde reviewed information received from the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the approval of the Stateline Dam Spillway Rehabilitation and the Big Sandy Reservoir Improvement as well as conditional approval of the Flaming Gorge AIS Prevention.

#### **18. Release of Mortgages**

Karen Budd-Falen made a motion to approve the release of mortgages on:

- Alpine Water Supply
- Shoshone Municipal Pipeline, and;
- Shoshone Municipal Water Treatment Plant

David Evans seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **19. Authorization for the Director to file Instream Flow water right application with the State Engineer's Office**

Director LaBonde informed the Commission of the three Instream Flow

Applications: Crandall Creek  
Dead Indian Creek; and  
Muddy Creek.

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Gerry Geis made a motion to grant authority to the Director to proceed with filing the Instream Flow Applications. Nick Bettas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**20. Discussion**

Director LaBonde outlined the events of the Lake DeSmet project and ultimately the defeat of HB118 in the Wyoming Legislature. He recommended the Commission table the study. Nick Bettas made a motion to table the study until further direction is gained from the Legislature and/or Governor. Rod Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Future Meetings Schedule: The next WWDC meeting will be Friday, May 5, 2017. Consultant Selection interviews will be May 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>, here in Cheyenne.

The Commission offered their suggestions and requested to tour the Green River/Rock Springs area for the annual summer tour and meeting to be held August 23-25, 2017.

Gerry Geis moved for adjournment, Kellen Lancaster seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Clinton Glick, Secretary