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**Wyoming Water Development Commission/Select Water Committee  
Joint Workshop  
Cam-Plex, Frontier Hall, 1635 Reata Dr., Gillette, WY  
August 15, 2018**

1. Chairman David Evans called the workshop to order at 1:31pm.

**Roll Call**

Commission attendance:

David Evans, Chairman  
Larry Suchor, Vice-Chairman  
Kellen Lancaster, Secretary  
Gerald Geis  
Sheridan Little  
Rodney Wagner  
Nick Bettas  
Clinton Glick  
Jeanette Sekan  
Karen Budd-Falen

Select Water Attendance:

Representative Hans Hunt  
Senator Larry Hicks  
Senator Liisa Anselmi-Dalton  
Senator Dan Dockstader  
Senator Glenn Moniz  
Senator Ogden Driskill  
Representative John Eklund  
Representative Jerry Paxton  
Representative Dan Laursen

2. **Audience Introduction**

3. **Public Water System Survey Results (WRDS)**

Chris Nicholson, Director of the Water Resources Data Systems (WRDS) in Laramie, made a presentation of the results of the 2018 Public Water System Survey. Of the 192 Public Water Systems in the WRDS database, 100 Public Water System Entities responded.

4. **Gillette/Campbell County Water System Survey Results**

Bryan Clerkin, Deputy Director, Construction Division of WWDO presented information regarding the survey. Only 3 of 15 surveys were completed. Several questions were asked and discussion followed.

5. **Financial Information**

Director LaBonde presented the financial projections for WDA I, II, III for the 2019-2020 biennium. Projected funds available for the 2019 Water Development Program are:

WDA I: \$46,225,575.00

WDA II: \$ 9,073,276.00

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WDA III: \$56,798,275.00

Director LaBonde also provided financial summaries and projections of the Reservoir O&M accounts. He recommended the following:

- Transfer \$5,500,000.00 from the Buffalo Bill account to WDA I.
- Transfer \$75,000.00 from the Buffalo Bill account to the Miscellaneous Water Account

Discussion followed, the Commission and Select Water Committee will take action on Friday, August 17, 2018 during the joint meeting.

**6. New Planning Project Process**

Barry Lawrence, Deputy Director, Planning Division of the WWDO reviewed for the Commission the process, upcoming proposal distribution, and interviews to be held October 4, 2018 in Cheyenne.

**7. Update of Level III Construction Projects**

Bryan Clerkin presented, for information only, progress reports on the following projects:

Gillette Regional Extensions 2013  
Jeffrey City Water System Improvements  
Lusk Water System Improvements 2018  
Pine Haven Well and Tank  
Sweetwater Water Supply  
Wheatland No. 7 Well

**8. Report from State Forester regarding staffing required to complete Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Studies**

Jodee Pring relayed to the Commission and Select Water Committee information she received from Bill Crapser, State Forester. Mr. Crapser indicated if they had one additional employee available, they could complete one study per year. Jodee estimated the annual cost of the position, if requested and acquired by State Forestry, would cost approximately \$86,688.00 per year including benefits.

**9. Overview of the August 16<sup>th</sup> tour**

Bryan Clerkin gave a brief description of the tour stops.

The workshop adjourned at 4:18pm

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Respectfully submitted,



Kellen Lancaster, Secretary

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**Wyoming Water Development Commission/Select Water Committee  
Joint Meeting  
Cam-Plex, Frontier Hall, 1635 Reata Dr., Gillette, WY  
August 17, 2018**

1. Chairman David Evans called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

**2. Roll Call**

Commission attendance:  
David Evans, Chairman  
Larry Suchor, Vice-Chairman  
Kellen Lancaster, Secretary  
Gerald Geis  
Sheridan Little  
Rodney Wagner  
Nick Bettas  
Clinton Glick  
Jeanette Sekan  
Karen Budd-Falen

Select Water Attendance:  
Representative Hans Hunt  
Senator Larry Hicks  
Senator Liisa Anselmi-Dalton  
Senator Dan Dockstader  
Senator Glenn Moniz  
Senator Ogden Driskill  
Senator Curt Meier  
Representative Jerry Paxton  
Representative Dan Laursen  
Representative John Eklund

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Gerald Geis made a motion to approve the June 14, 2018 Joint Workshop and June 15, 2018 Joint Meeting minutes. Sheridan Little seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

In similar action, Select Water Committee approved their April 3, 2018 and June 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

**4. Audience Introductions**

**5. Closeout of Planning Projects**

*Basin Planning: Environmental and Recreational Use Study*

Jodee Pring gave a brief summary of the project. Gerry Geis made a motion to accept the Basin Planning: Environmental and Recreational Use Study reports as being complete and further, the WWDC makes the following findings relative to this project:

That the recommendations from this study be considered as part of the overall River Basin Planning strategy.

Rodney Wagner seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

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**6. Small Water Project – Revision of Project Description**

An email request was received from the Little Snake River Conservancy District requesting a contract modification for the Muddy Mountain Deep Creek Pasture Stock Ponds small water project. The request involved changing the project from stock ponds to a stock well.

Larry Suchor made a motion to permit the amendment to the agreement. Kellen Lancaster seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**7. USGS/WWDC Joint Funding Agreement for StreamStats**

Jodee Pring presented the funding agreement between the USGS and the WWDC for Water Resource Investigations pertaining to the StreamStats project. The funding agreement is: \$48,648.00 to be contributed by the USGS and \$90,347.00 to be contributed by the WWDC.

Gerry Geis moved to approve the agreement, Sheridan Little seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

In similar action, the Select Water Committee approved the funding agreement between the USGS and the WWDC.

**8. Item Number 8 was stricken from the agenda prior to the meeting.**

**9. Consideration of recommendations for Reservoir O&M Accounts**

Per W.S. 99-99-1001(c) Director LaBonde recommended transferring \$5,500,000.00 from the Buffalo Bill Dam Account to WDA I in FY 2019. This transfer to WDA I is subject to the approval of the full legislature. In addition, per W.S. 99-99-1001(e) Director LaBonde recommended transferring \$75,000.00 in FY 2019 from the Buffalo Bill Dam Account to the Miscellaneous Water Investment Account to meet the annual obligations for OM&R of Seminoe Dam.

Larry Suchor made a motion to accept the Director's recommendations regarding the fund transfers. Kellen Lancaster seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

In similar action, the Select Water Committee voted to concur with the fund transfer recommendations.

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#### **10. Proposed Revisions to the Wyoming Water Development Program – Operating Criteria**

Based on a new statute approved by the 2018 Legislature, changes were made to the Small Water Project Program. Director LaBonde sought the approval for the corresponding changes to the Water Development Program Operating Criteria as well as the Small Water Project Program Operating Criteria. The primary change was to remove the \$135,000.00 cap in defining a small water project.

Karen Budd-Falen made a motion to approve the changes to each criteria. Gerry Geis seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

#### **11. Gillette Madison Pipeline Project – Private Well Issues**

The City of Gillette provided an in depth presentation to the WWDC and SWC. In the presentation they outlined the background of the project, issues with the project and what the City of Gillette saw as options to move forward. Discussion followed. Staff from the State Engineer's Office were on hand to handle questions relating to permitting and water rights. Landowners addressed the Commission and Committee with their individual concerns.

Karen Budd-Falen encouraged a resolution, agreement and time line to get water to landowners immediately. A conference call will be initiated the week following the meeting to address the issues.

#### **12. Discussion on Draft Legislation – Water Banking**

Josh Anderson, staff attorney for the Legislative Services Office and Select Water Committee presented the draft legislation titled 'Water Banking' proposed by Senator Larry Hicks. Discussion followed. Several members of the Committee as well as the State Engineer's Office and Director LaBonde of the WWDO volunteered to edit the draft legislation.

#### **13. Discussion on the LaVA project in the Medicine Bow National Forest**

The Forest Service is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) on its proposed treatment of 150,000 acres of insect-infested areas of the Medicine Bow National Forest (MBNF). The Forest Service believes this treatment is necessary to ensure the future health of the MBNF. Senator Larry Hicks led the discussion regarding the LaVa project and comments he prepared on behalf of the Select Water Committee. Representative Jerry Paxton moved to submit the comments on behalf of the SWC, Representative Dan Laursen seconded the motion; motion carried.

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#### 14. Discussion

- Director LaBonde provided an update on the current Weather Modification programs.
- Director LaBonde provided an update on the purchase of Healy Reservoir and ongoing discussions with Johnson County.
- Director LaBonde briefed the Commission and Committee on the Middle Piney Groundbreaking ceremony held on July 18, 2018.

#### 15. Future Meeting Schedule

- The WWDC will meet in Cheyenne on October 4-5, 2018 to conduct planning project interviews on Thursday, October 4 and will meet on October 5, 2018 for consultant selection approval.
- The WWDC/SWC will meet November 7-9, 2018 in Casper, WY at the Wyoming Contractors Association Regional Training Center.
- The WWDC will meet December 12-13, 2018 in Cheyenne to consider the Omnibus Water Bills.
- The SWC will meet December 14, 2018 in Cheyenne to consider the Omnibus Water Bills.

Motion to adjourn at 1:07pm

Respectfully submitted,



Kellen Lancaster, Secretary