
**Wyoming Water Development Commission/Select Water Committee
Joint Workshop
Hampton Inn, 85 US HWY 16 E., Buffalo, WY
August 14, 2019**

1. Chairman Larry Suchor called the workshop to order at 1:31 pm.

Roll Call

Commission attendance:

Larry Suchor, Chairman
Kellen Lancaster, Vice-Chairman
Mike Purcell, Secretary
Gerald Geis
Sheridan Little
Rodney Wagner
Mark Kot
Bill Yankee
Clinton Glick - Absent

Select Water Attendance:

Senator Larry Hicks
Senator Liisa Anselmi-Dalton
Senator Glenn Moniz
Senator Ogden Driskill
Senator Wyatt Agar
Representative Jerry Paxton

2. **Audience Introductions**

3. **Financial Information**

Interim Director Jason Mead presented the Agency 2021-2022 Biennium Budget Summary as well as financial projections for WDA I, II, III for the 2021-2022 biennium. Projected funds available to the Water Development Program for the next two years are:

WDA I:	\$57,118,838.00
WDA II:	\$15,661,746.00
WDA III:	\$63,209,051.00

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

- Transfer \$7,000,000.00 from the Buffalo Bill Dam account to WDA II.

Discussion followed, the Commission will take action on Friday, August 16, 2019 during the meeting.

4. **Fort Laramie Canal Tunnel Collapse – Future Emergency Fund Establishment Discussion**

Senator Cheri Steinmetz, Rob Posten, and Patrick Zimmerer, representing the Goshen Irrigation District (GID), presented information regarding the catastrophic collapse of Tunnel #2 of the Fort Laramie Canal that occurred on July 17, 2019. The

GID is pursuing a number of emergency grants and loans. They would look to the WWDC for possible funding in the near future for potential long-term solutions. Further discussion of the tunnel collapse followed. The Select Water Committee and Commission then discussed an Emergency Fund concept which lead to the Legislative Service Office (LSO) staff being tasked with drafting a Bill in consultation with WWDO staff for consideration at the November 2019 meeting.

5. 2020 Planning Projects – Consultant Selection

Barry Lawrence reviewed the statistics for the 2019 project year regarding the planning process. He presented the current Commission project assignments and informed them of the process to follow for the next couple of months leading up to the Consultant Selection Interviews to be held in Cheyenne on October 2-3, with the WWDC meeting on October 4, 2019.

6. Consultant Selection Process Schedule

The schedule for the Consultant Selection Process was presented and discussed. The process was modified in 2017. Discussion revolved around returning to the traditional schedule. Mike Purcell advocated for a return to this schedule. Further discussion and/or action will take place during the meeting on August 16, 2019.

7. Operating Criteria Changes

Based on action taken during the 2018 Legislative Session on SF0054, now SEA No. 0006, Water development project requirements, changes to our operating criteria are necessary. The bill requires the Water Development Commission to require each water project sponsor to demonstrate that the sponsor has the authority to adequately assess fees or collect funds to cover project operation and maintenance expenses. It also states under what conditions the Commission may require establishment of an operation and maintenance account. The proposed changes were presented to the Commission.

8. Overview of the August 15th tour

Interim Director Mead gave a brief description of the tour stops. Departure will be 8:00 am from the Hampton Inn parking lot. The tour is scheduled to conclude at approximately 5:00 pm.

The workshop adjourned at 4:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Purcell, Secretary

**Wyoming Water Development Commission/Select Water Committee
Joint Meeting
Hampton Inn, 85 US Hwy 16 E., Buffalo, WY
August 16, 2019**

1. Chairman Larry Suchor called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

2. Roll Call

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

Select Water Attendance:
Senator Larry Hicks
Senator Wyatt Agar
Senator Ogden Driskill
Senator Dan Dockstader
Senator Glenn Moniz
Representative Jerry Paxton

3. Audience Introductions

4. Approval of Minutes

Mike Purcell made a motion to approve the May 16, 2019 Workshop minutes, seconded by Rodney Wagner. The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Yankee made a motion to approve the May 17, 2019 Meeting minutes, seconded by Kellen Lancaster. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration of recommendations for Reservoir O&M Accounts

Interim Director Jason Mead presented information on the Reservoir O&M accounts during the August 14, 2019 workshop. Per W.S. 99-99-1001(c), it is recommended to transfer \$7,000,000.00 from the Buffalo Bill Dam account to WDA II (redirect from WDA I) in FY 2020. This transfer is subject to the approval of the full legislature.

Kellen Lancaster made a motion to approve the funds transfer. Rodney Wagner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

6. Construction Amendments

Cokeville Tri-Diversion Structure, Project Agreement Amendment No. 1

Interim Director Jason Mead explained the need and purpose of the amendment

was to correct an inaccurate statute reference cited in the original agreement. The statute reference has been corrected in Amendment No. 1.

Kellen Lancaster made a motion to approve the amendment, seconded by Bill Yankee; motion carried unanimously.

7. Update of Level III Construction Projects

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

- Heart Mountain Irrig. District Rattlesnake Liner Replacement – Design Phase
- Newcastle Well 2018 – Design Phase
- Northwest Rural Water System Improvements 2019 – Design Phase
- Casper Zone II 2015 – Construction Phase
- Cowley Tank 2017 – Construction Phase
- Midvale Pilot 27.0 A Lateral 2017 – Closeout Phase
- Newcastle 2015 – Closeout Phase
- Pine Bluffs North Well Field – Closeout Phase
- Sidon Irrigation District Rehabilitation 2016 – Closeout Phase
- Sidon Irrigation District Rehabilitation 2018 – Closeout Phase
- Sheridan 4 MG WTP Tank – Closeout Phase
- Shoshone Transmission Pipeline 2016 – Closeout Phase
- Thermopolis Pipeline Replacement 2017 – Closeout Phase

The updates are provided for information only.

8. Consultant Selection Process Schedule

Mike Purcell declined to make a motion to adjust the consultant selection schedule. He expressed concerns regarding the selection process taking place prior to legislative approval of funding which could possibly curtail consultant interest in our program. He feels it's important to continue to monitor potential improvements to the process and postpone the debate until a new director is named.

9. Operating Criteria Changes

The Commission was provided with the necessary changes to the Operating Criteria as discussed at the Workshop on August 14, 2019. Gerry Geis made a motion to accept the proposed changes necessitated by legislation enacted during the 2018 Wyoming Legislative session on SF0054, now SEA No. 0006, Water development project requirements, which clarified when an operation and maintenance account would be required of a sponsor for a Level III project. Mike Purcell seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion

The Commission and Select Water Committee chose to discuss options available to the Goshen Irrigation District in light of the Fort Laramie Tunnel #2 Collapse. Gerry Geis made a motion to authorize the Director to work with the Governor to come up with a solution, and if we don't receive an application prior to August 31, 2019, we can extend the deadline under this particular circumstance. Kellen Lancaster seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mike Purcell amended the motion to encourage Goshen Irrigation District to apply for a Level II study for the permanent fix on the tunnel and would like to see that before the November 2019 meeting. Rodney Wagner seconded the amended motion. Both the original motion and amended motion carried unanimously.

A request was made for a status update on the Gillette Madison project during the October 2019 meeting, as well as to provide information to the Select Water Committee in the future for potential Legislative action on funds reversion.

Senators Larry Hicks and Ogden Driskill discussed a letter received from the Mayor of Sundance asking for assistance in repaying FEMA funds used in the Sundance Tank Project. The request is for \$288,750.00. The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security initially provided the funds, but is requiring reimbursement of the funds as FEMA has withdrawn due to the City not meeting requirements. Interim Director Mead pointed out the Commission had already provided the maximum allowable grant to the Project, per statute. Senator Driskill indicated it could be amended in to one of the Omnibus Bills to provide reimbursement to Homeland Security on behalf of the Town of Sundance. Interim Director Mead suggested the Town submit an application by September 1st to be considered at the November 2019 meeting.

11. Future Meeting Schedule

- The WWDC will meet in Cheyenne to conduct planning project interviews on Wednesday and Thursday, October 2-3 and will meet on Friday, October 4, 2019 for consultant selection approval.
- The WWDC/SWC will meet November 13-15, 2019 in Casper, WY at the Goodstein Foundation Library, Rm 215, on the Casper College Campus.

Motion to adjourn at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Purcell, Secretary