
**Wyoming Water Development Commission
Meeting
Wyoming Water Development Office
6920 Yellowtail Road Cheyenne, Wyoming
May 15, 2020**

**Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held by teleconference with two commissioners attending in person.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Suchor at 8:33 a.m.
2. **Roll Call – Recognition of Members present to establish a quorum**

Commission attendance:

Larry Suchor, Chairman, via phone
Kellen Lancaster, Vice-Chairman, via phone
Mike Purcell, Secretary
Gerry Geis, via phone
Clinton Glick, via phone
Ron Kailey
Mark Kot, via phone
Sheridan Little, via phone
Rodney Wagner, via phone
Bill Yankee, via phone

Advisors in Attendance:

Andrew Kuhlmann, Attorney General's Office, via phone

3. **Audience Introductions**

4. **Election of WWDC Officers**

Mike Purcell made a motion to nominate Kellen Lancaster as Chairman, Clinton Glick as Vice-Chairman, and Ron Kailey as Secretary. Gerry Geis seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Director Gebhart asked for Commission approval to designate Ron Kailey and Mike Purcell as signatories regarding documents approved at this meeting. Larry Suchor made the motion to approve Ron Kailey and Mike Purcell as signatories. Rod Wagner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

Ron Kailey made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2020 meeting. Bill Yankee seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

6. Planning Closeout Memo

- *Sheridan Municipal Watershed Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Assessment, Level I*

Ron Kailey moved acceptance of the Sheridan Municipal Watershed Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Assessment, Level I project report as being complete. Mike Purcell seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

7. Planning Amendments

Mike Purcell recommended approval of the following documents as a block:

- *Big Wind River Storage, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment One*
An interim amendment to the contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. was presented. The purpose of the Amendment was to extend the term of the Contract through May 31, 2022. The Contract amount was not changed by this amendment.
- *Little Wind River Storage, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment One*
An interim amendment to the contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. was presented. The purpose of the Amendment was to extend the term of the Contract through May 31, 2022. The Contract amount was not changed by this amendment.
- *Greybull Valley ID Storage Enlargement, Level II Study, Amendment Three*
An interim amendment to the contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. was presented. The purpose of the Amendment was to extend the term of the Contract through December 31, 2020.
- *Lake DeSmet/Healy Reservoir Utilization, Level II Study, Amendment One*
An interim amendment to the contract with Entech, Inc. was presented. The purpose of the Amendment was to acknowledge the purchase of Entech, Inc. by Engineering Associates and to amend the Consultant's name and address. The Contract amount and expiration date were not changed by this amendment.

- Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Permitting Liaison

There was an oversight regarding the expiration date of this contract and therefore an amendment was not completed prior to the expiration date. The purpose was to authorize a new contract with Wenck Associates, Inc. that extends the work the consultant is doing on that project with the remaining budget.

- Melody Ranch Ground Water Exploration Grant, Amendment One

The recommendation was to table this amendment until the August meeting.

Mike Purcell made a motion to accept the Director's recommendation for the approval of all planning documents with the exception of the Melody Ranch Ground Water Exploration Grant Amendment which was tabled until the August meeting. Gerry Geis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Reconsideration of Small Water Project Program Agreement

- Duck Well #22 – Little Snake River Conservation District (2018)

This project previously proposed to drill a new well and install a pipeline to provide supplemental water to the Doty Mountain Allotment. While the district was trying to obtain a permit from the BLM they discovered that a well permit would not be authorized by the BLM due to Coalbed Methane in the area. A new alternative was proposed due to the desperate need for water in this allotment, so the request is for the Commission to authorize a no cost change of project scope under the existing Small Water Project program agreement with the Little Snake River Conservation District for this project.

Sheridan Little made a motion to allow modification of the project scope. Gerry Geis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. UW Office of Water Programs MOU

The purpose of this MOU was to further the water resources objectives of the University, the WWDC and other agencies by providing funding each year (fiscal years 2021 and 2022) in the amount of \$87,500 to the UW Office of Water Programs.

Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the UW Office of Water Programs MOU. Larry Suchor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. UW Water Research Program

- Consideration of 2021 RFP for the UW Water Research Program
Greg Kerr, Director of the Office of Water Programs, summarized the FY2021 RFP for the Water Research Program.

Mike Purcell moved to approve the 2021 RFP for the UW Water Research Program. Ron Kailey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

11. 2021 Level I and II Planning Project Applications

Director Gebhart discussed each of the planning project applications and Director's recommendations for each of the projects.

Level I Projects – New Development

- Hoback River Watershed Study
- Lake Hattie Full Utilization Study
- Lander Water Master Plan
- Nordic Ranches Water Master Plan
- Upton Water Master Plan
- Wheatland Water Master Plan

The Director's recommendation was to approve all of these projects with the exception of the Lake Hattie Full Utilization Study, the consideration of which should be postponed until November.

Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the Director's recommendations for the Level I Planning Projects in a block. The motion was seconded by Sheridan Little; motion carried unanimously.

Level II Projects – New Development

- Big Horn Regional Transmission
- Byron Rural Water Supply
- Gillette Water System Improvements

-
- Lander Municipal Storage
 - Little Snake River Valley Water Supply, Phase II

The Director's recommendation was to approve all of these projects with the exception of the Lander Municipal Storage Project. The Director's recommendation on that project was "Do Not Fund." It is recommended that the Level I Water Master Plan Update that the City of Lander is also requesting this year, quantify the potential service area and need for regional expansion of the current Lander municipal water system, determine appropriate water demand projections, evaluate the existing water supplies and their ability to meet the demand, and then explore alternative reservoir operations, if appropriate. Without the updated Water Master Plan and a clear vision of the future water demands and needs for the City of Lander, a study to analyze the expansion of Worthen Reservoir would be premature and inefficient.

Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the Director's recommendations for the Level II Planning Projects in a block. Mike Purcell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Level I Projects – Rehabilitation

- Highland Irrigation District Master Plan

Mike Purcell made a motion to approve the Director's recommendation for this Level I Rehabilitation Project. Ron Kailey seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Level II Projects – Rehabilitation

- Lander Ditches Rehabilitation

Gerry Geis made a motion to approve the Director's recommendation for this Level II Rehabilitation Project. Mark Kot seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Construction Amendments

- Casper CY Booster Station Replacement 2017

An amendment to the Project Agreement with the City of Casper was presented. The purpose of the Amendment was to supplement the Project with funding from

the Sponsor's Contingency Fund and to change the conditions for disbursing funds.

Larry Suchor made a motion to approve the Casper CY Booster Station Replacement 2017 Amendment. Gerry Geis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Construction Project Progress Reports

Bryan Clerkin provided an update to the following Level III Construction Projects as information only.

- Design Phase
 - GR/RS/SC JPWB Pump Station 2019
- Construction Phase
 - Casper CY Booster Station Replacement 2017
 - Cody Tank 2017
 - Pioneer Transmission Pipeline 2017
 - Riverton Water Supply
- Closeout Phase
 - Casper Zone 3 Improvements
 - Deaver Irrigation District Rehabilitation 2019
 - Sheridan North Side Transmission Pipeline 2018
 - Thayne Tank 2017

14. Colorado River Basin MOA Applications Update

Director Gebhart stated that the Colorado River Basin MOA applications update was provided for information only and that no action was required from the Commission. The existing MOA funding is essentially exhausted and no new applications have been received. Negotiations for a new MOA2 funding agreement have been verbally agreed upon and the goal is to have a fully executed MOA2 agreement by July 2020.

15. Intended Use Plan (IUP) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)-SWC

Director Gebhart said that this item regarding the Intended Use Plan (IUP) for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund was provided for information only and that no action was required from the Commission. The DWSRF is jointly administered by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI), and the Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO).

16. Discussion

- Interim Topics for Select Water Committee
 - Statutory Responsibilities
 - Small Water Program Criteria
 - Application Fees for Level I & Level II Studies
 - Orphan Water Rights
 - Hydrologically Connected Surface and Groundwater

Director Gebhart stated that he was asked by the Select Water Committee to evaluate the Small Water Program Criteria and the need to possibly take a look at placing caps on the amount funded for Small Water Program projects.

Director Gebhart added that he was asked by the Joint Agriculture Committee to consider increasing application fees for Level I and Level II projects.

Greg Lanning, State Engineer then discussed the Select Water interim topics of orphaned water rights and hydrologically connected surface and ground water.

17. Future Meetings Schedule

Director Gebhart requested a special Commission meeting to be held on June 11, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. to address agency rules in regard to the Emergency Fund Account. He stated this would most likely be a teleconference meeting. Details will be provided once that information becomes available.

- August 12-14, 2020 - Director Gebhart said the meeting would need to be held in Wheatland because it coincides with the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas.

Mike Purcell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m. Larry Suchor seconded the motion; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Kailey, Secretary