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**Wyoming Water Development Commission/Select Water Committee  
Joint Meeting  
November 5, 2020**

\* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Workshop was conducted remotely via Zoom.

1. Chairman Kellen Lancaster called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Roll Call** - Commissioner Ron Kailey led roll call of the Commission and Staff Attorney Kayla Spencer led roll call of the Select Water Committee to establish respective quorums.

Commission Attendance:  
Kellen Lancaster, Chairman  
Clinton Glick, Vice-Chairman  
Ron Kailey, Jr., Secretary  
Gerald Geis  
Mark Kot  
Sheridan Little  
Mike Purcell  
Larry Suchor – absent  
Rodney K. Wagner  
Bill Yankee

Select Water Attendance:  
Sen. Larry Hicks, Chairman  
Sen. Wyatt Agar – excused  
Sen. Lisa Anselmi-Dalton  
Sen. Dan Dockstader  
Sen. Ogden Driskill – excused  
Sen. Glenn Moniz  
Rep. Dan Laursen, Vice-Chairman  
Rep. Stan Blake  
Rep. John Eklund  
Rep. Hans Hunt – excused  
Rep. Jerry Paxton  
Rep. Evan Simpson

Advisor Attendance:  
Andrew Kuhlmann, Attorney General's Office  
Darren Cook, Attorney General's Office

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Sheridan Little made a motion to approve the October 9, 2020 WWDC Meeting minutes. Commissioner Kailey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

### 4. Closeout Memos

- Lander Test Well Study, Level II, Phase I  
Project Manager Kevin Boyce provided a brief summary of project findings. Commissioner Mike Purcell moved acceptance of the Lander Test Well, Level II, Phase I report as being complete and further, the WWDC makes the following findings relative to this project:
  1. That the Commission recommend:
    - Proceeding to Level III of Phase I project development upon the submittal of an appropriate funding application from the sponsor.

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- Continuing the Level II project at the current level of study.
  - 2. Based on the findings in the final report, the project is determined to be in the public interest.
  - 3. The project functions and services cannot realistically be provided by any person, association or corporation engaged in private enterprise.

Commissioner Little seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- Torrington Water Master Plan

Project Manager Kevin Boyce provided a brief summary of project findings. Commissioner Rodney Wagner moved acceptance of the Torrington Water Master Plan Level I project report 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.

Commissioner Bill Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- Salt Creek-Edgerton-Midwest Water Master Plan

Project Manager Chace Tavelli provided a brief summary of project findings. Commissioner Purcell moved acceptance of the Salt Creek-Edgerton-Midwest Water Master Plan, Level I project report 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.

Commissioner Kailey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

## 5. Operating Criteria

- Small Water Program

The application date for the Small Water Project Program was changed from January 1 to November 15 of each calendar year, starting in 2021. Language was added for the Commission to prioritize funding according to project priority in the case of limited funding.

- Water Development Program

A requirement for new Agricultural Water Projects, Municipal and Joint Powers Board Water Systems, and Rural Domestic Water Systems applicants to complete the current year "Wyoming Water Development Office Irrigation District/Canal

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Company Survey” or “Wyoming Water Development Office Public Water System Survey” was added. A deadline of June 1 was also added for all feasibility studies completed outside the program to be submitted for review ahead of the Level III application deadline.

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve the Operating Criteria of both programs. Commissioner Kailey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

## **6. Contingency Account II Request**

- *Piney and Cruse Canal Piping*

A request was made by the Piney and Cruse Creek Ditch Company Irrigation District for \$591,000 from the Water Development Account II Contingency Fund to cover construction budget shortfalls following the October 2020 project bid opening.

Commissioner Mark Kot made a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$591,000 as a 67 percent grant and 33 percent loan. Commissioner Little seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

## **7. 2021 Funding Recommendations – New Development**

Director Gebhart proposed that the Commission act on all funding recommendations according to Account and Level. With the Commission in agreement, he proceeded to briefly describe each of the following Account I recommendations:

### **Account I, Level III Projects:**

- *Cloud Seeding: Medicine Bow & Sierra Madre Mountain Ranges 2021-2022*

Director Gebhart recommended an appropriation in the amount of \$728,000.

- *Cloud Seeding: Wind River Mountain Range 2021-2022*

Director Gebhart recommended an appropriation in the amount of \$215,000.

- *Lander Well & Transmission Pipeline 2021*

Director Gebhart recommended a 67 percent grant in the amount of \$884,400.

- *Northwest Rural Water System Improvements 2021*

Director Gebhart recommended a 67 percent grant in the amount of \$1,413,700.

- *Torrington Well Connection 2021*

Director Gebhart recommended a 67 percent grant in the amount of \$389,270. This is a \$540,000 reduction from the requested amount which included ineligible expenses for electrical upgrades.

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**Account I, Level III Project Amendments:**

- Arapahoe Water Supply 2016

Director Gebhart recommended a three-year time extension.

- Ethete Water Supply

Director Gebhart recommended a two-year time extension.

- Small Water Project Program – New Development

Director Gebhart recommended a budget increase in the amount of \$1,000,000.

Commissioner Kot made a motion to approve funding recommendations for all new Account I, Level III projects and project amendments. Commissioner Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**Account I, Level II Projects:**

Director Gebhart proceeded to read off the titles of the following Level II Planning project recommendations that had previously been discussed and approved by the Commission:

- Big Horn Regional Transmission
- Byron Rural Water Supply
- Gillette Water System Improvements
- Little Snake River Valley Water Supply, Phase II

Commissioner Purcell made a motion to approve funding recommendations for all Account I, Level II projects. He reminded the Commission that consultants for these projects have already been selected and that the requested amount was based upon the bids submitted by those consultants and approved by the Commission. Commissioner Kailey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**Account I, Level I Projects:**

Director Gebhart repeated the process, reading off the titles of the following Level I Planning project recommendations that had previously been discussed and approved by the Commission:

- Hoback River Watershed Study
- Lander Water Master Plan
- Nordic Ranches Water Master Plan
- Upton Water Master Plan
- Wheatland Water Master Plan
- Lake Hattie Reservoir Full Utilization Study (in an amount to be determined)

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Vice-Chairman Glick made a motion to approve funding recommendations for all Account I, Level I projects, excluding the unknown amount for the Lake Hattie Reservoir Full Utilization Study. Commissioner Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**Account I, General:**

Director Gebhart proposed that the Commission take separate action on the recommendation for the UW Water Research Program and separate action for the recommendation to transfer from Water Development Account I to Account II in the amount of \$7,500,000.

Commissioner Purcell made a motion to approve funding recommendations for the UW Water Research Program and the recommendation to transfer from Water Development Account I to Account II. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**8. 2021 Funding Recommendations – Dams and Reservoir Program**

Director Gebhart briefly described each of the Account III, Level II project amendments. Each of the amendments were for time extensions only. The requested time extensions are as follows:

- Clear Creek Storage  
Director Gebhart recommended to extend the reversion date by three years, from July 1, 2021 to July 1, 2024.
- Fontenelle Dam and Outworks Infrastructure Completion  
Director Gebhart recommended to extend the reversion date by three years, from July 1, 2021 to July 1, 2024.
- Glendo Reservoir Full Utilization Project  
Director Gebhart recommended to extend the reversion date by three years, from July 1, 2021 to July 1, 2024.
- Nowood River Storage – Alkali Creek  
Director Gebhart recommended to extend the reversion date by three years, from July 1, 2021 to July 1, 2024.

Vice-Chairman Glick made a motion to approve funding recommendations for all Account III, Level II project amendments. Commissioners Little and Yankee both seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

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## 9. 2021 Funding Recommendations – Rehabilitation Program

Director Gebhart briefly described each of the following Account II, Level I, II, and III projects and project amendments:

### **Account II, Level III Projects:**

- *Interstate Irrigation and Reservoir Irrigation District Improvements 2021*

Director Gebhart recommended a 67 percent grant in the amount of \$2,827,400.

- *Salt Creek Transmission Pipeline 2021*

Director Gebhart recommended a 67 percent grant in the amount of \$7,316,400. He noted that there are potential cost savings for this project which the WDO plans to explore.

- *Shoshone Irrigation District Improvements 2021*

Director Gebhart recommended a 100 percent materials-only grant in the amount of \$240,000.

- *Sidon Irrigation District Improvements 2021*

Director Gebhart recommended a 100 percent materials-only grant in the amount of \$576,000.

Vice-Chairman Glick expressed support for materials-only grants, noting that they help to localize operations. Chairman Lancaster also expressed his support for materials-only grants, acknowledging that there are many capable people to install the purchased materials.

Vice-Chairman Glick made a motion to approve funding recommendations for all Account II, Level III projects. Commissioner Purcell seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

### **Account II, Level III Project Amendments:**

- *Small Water Project Program – Rehabilitation*

Director Gebhart recommended a budget increase in the amount of \$500,000.

- *Sponsor's Contingency Fund – Rehabilitation*

Director Gebhart recommended a budget increase in the amount of \$1,500,000.

Commissioner Kot made a motion to approve funding recommendations for both Account II, Level II project amendments. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

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**Account II, Level II Project:**

- Lander Ditches Rehabilitation

Director Gebhart recommended that this project maintain its existing budget and pre-selected consultant, but be reclassified as a Level I project. He added language to his recommendation stating that contract execution will be contingent upon the City of Lander and the Dickinson Creek Ditch Company's concurrence on tasks as defined in the final scope.

Representatives from the City of Lander and the Dickinson Creek Ditch Company both expressed their support for changes made to the initial recommendation.

Commissioner Yankee made a motion to approve the Lander Ditches Rehabilitation funding recommendation as revised by Director Gebhart. Vice-Chairman Glick seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**Account II, Level II Project Amendment:**

- LaPrele Irrigation District Dam Rehabilitation, Phase II

Director Gebhart recommended that the project be approved with a budget to be determined at a later date.

**Account II, Level I Project:**

- Highland Irrigation District Master Plan

Director Gebhart recommended an appropriation in the amount of \$192,000 based upon the cost proposal submitted by the selected consultant.

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve funding recommendations for the LaPrele Irrigation District Dam Rehabilitation, Phase II and Highland Irrigation District Master Plan projects. Commissioner Purcell seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**10. Other Items Requiring Commission Action**

No additional items.

**11. Director's Comments**

Director Gebhart thanked Senator Anselmi-Dalton, Senator Moniz, and Representative Blake for their contributions to the Select Water Committee during the time of their service.

**12. Future Meeting Schedule**

The next WWDC workshop and meeting will take place December 9-10, 2020.

**13. Adjourn**

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Commissioner Purcell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kailey seconded the motion. Senator Hicks concurrently motioned that the Select Water Committee adjourn; all motions carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Kailey, Jr., Secretary