**Wyoming Water Development Commission**
**Workshop**
**Cheyenne, Wyoming**
**March 18, 2021**

1. Vice Chairman Clinton W. Glick called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. **Roll Call** – Secretary Ron Kailey led roll call of the Commission.

   Commission Attendance:
   Robert Choma
   Leonard A. "Lee" Craig
   Liisa Anselmi-Dalton
   Clinton W. Glick
   Ron Kailey, Jr.
   Mark Kot
   Sheridan Little
   Larry Suchor – excused
   Bill Yankee

   Advisor Attendance:
   Darren Cook, Attorney General's Office

3. **Introductions**

4. **Legislative Update**
   Director Gebhart provided a brief update on the General Government Appropriations Bill, Planning and Construction Omnibus Water Bills, and other legislation pertinent to the Water Development Office [Office].

   State Engineer Greg Lanning discussed the impact of budget reductions on the State Engineer's Office, as well as other legislation pertinent to the State Engineer's Office.

5. **Project Updates**
   *Aladdin Well*
   Director Gebhart provided an update on the Aladdin Well. He announced that the Office is helping the Aladdin Water District to address deficiencies identified by EPA in 2018. The Aladdin Water District has expressed an interest in purchasing the well once all deficiencies have been resolved. A time extension of the existing Water Service Agreement may be necessary.

*LaPrele ID Rehabilitation, Level II, Phase II Study*
Director Gebhart briefly explained two, alternative amendments provided to the Commission. He recommended that the Commission approve the amendment for $194,400 which included a project management plan. He also updated the Commission on the Office's continuing effort to secure outside funding sources.

*Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Project*
Director Gebhart provided an update on the Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Project. The Project is nearing the 90 percent design submittal from the consultant. Construction management costs will likely be higher than the $3.3 million estimate, and could cost as much as 20 percent of the total construction appropriation.

Director Gebhart also provided a brief overview of the two amendments presented to the Commission. Both will designate unobligated funds from the planning appropriation to specific tasks.

*Little Snake Supplemental Storage, Level II Study*
Director Gebhart provided an update on the Little Snake Supplemental Storage project. He explained that a time extension was necessary to continue working with stakeholders in order to explore options related to a possible land transfer or special use permit, and to determine NEPA requirements for each alternative.

*Palisades Water Agreement*
Director Gebhart explained proposed changes to the Palisades Water Agreement with Idaho Groundwater Association. The new Water Service Agreement provides a water lease agreement of up to 10,000 acre-feet per year if the water is available. Director Gebhart requested the Commission's authorization to enter into this new agreement.

*Small Water Operating Criteria*
Proposed changes to the Small Water Operating Criteria would remove the requirement for sponsors to provide a 41-day advertising notice prior to receiving final payment from the Office if the project does not meet the definition of a "public work" as defined in W.S. 16-6-101(ix), as determined by sponsor.

*Staffing Update*
The Office has participated in voluntary reductions. The Office is currently down four staffing members, in part due to the statewide hiring freeze. The Office has been authorized to fill one of these four positions with a new project manager for the construction department.

6. **New Level I and II Project Applications**
   Deputy Director of Planning Barry Lawrence provided an overview of the new Level I and II Planning Applications received as part of the annual process. He announced that the Office had received a total of eight applications, and that project managers had been assigned. Project managers are currently conducting site visits in order to prepare recommendations. If approved, the consultant selection process for this set of projects will begin shortly after the May Commission meeting.

7. **Location of the 2021 Summer Tour/Meeting**
   Due to COVID-19, plans to meet in Wheatland and tour LaPrele Dam and the Wheatland Irrigation District were cancelled last year. Director Gebhart and the Commissioners agreed that this is still the preferred destination for the August meeting this year.

With no additional items to discuss, the Commission adjourned for the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Kailey, Jr., Secretary