
**Wyoming Water Development Commission
Meeting
Cheyenne, Wyoming
March 19, 2021**

1. Vice Chairman Clinton W. Glick called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. The pledge of allegiance was recited.
3. **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
Bill Yankee

Advisor Attendance:

Darren Cook, Attorney General’s Office

4. Election of Officers

Clinton W. Glick was elected Chairman; Bill Yankee, Vice Chairman; and Ron Kailey, Jr., Secretary.

5. Approval of Minutes

- December 9, 2020 – Workshop Minutes
- December 10, 2020 – WWDC Meeting Minutes
- December 18, 2020 – Special Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes; motion carried unanimously.

6. Closeout Memos

- *Evanston Water Master Plan, Level I Study*

Project Manager Kevin Boyce provided a brief summary of project findings. Commissioner Bill Yankee moved acceptance of the Evanston Water Master Plan, Level I Study project report as being complete and further, made the following finding relative to this project:

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- That the Commission recommend proceeding to the next Level of project development upon the submittal of an appropriate funding application.

Commissioner Mark Kot seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- *GVID Storage Enlargement, Level II Study*

Project Manager Jason Mead provided a brief summary of project findings. Commissioner Kot moved acceptance of the Greybull Valley Irrigation District Storage Enlargement project report as being complete and further, made the following finding relative to this project:

- That the Commission recommend discontinuing the project, due to the lack of economic feasibility expressed by the Sponsor, until such time in the future that the Sponsor can identify additional funding options to make the project economically feasible for the water user.

Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- *Middle Big Horn River Watershed, Level I Study*

Project Manager Mabel Jones provided a brief summary of project findings. Commissioner Ron Kailey moved acceptance of the Middle Big Horn River Watershed, Level I Study project report as being complete and further, made the following finding relative to this project:

- That the Commission recommend proceeding to the next Level of project development upon the submittal of an appropriate funding application.

Commissioner Bill Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

7. Planning Amendments

Director Gebhart reviewed each of the planning project amendments:

- *Alkali Creek Reservoir Project Third-Party NEPA Contractor Services, Amendment No. 2 (Time Extension)*
Time extension of the current contract.
- *Clear Creek Storage, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment No. 6 (Time Extension)*
Time extension of the current contract.
- *Douglas Test Well, Level II Study, Amendment No. 2 (Time Extension)*
Time extension of the current contract.

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- Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Final Design, Amendment No. 2
Movement of unobligated but appropriated funds to replenish the discretionary task.
 - Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Permitting Liaison, Amendment No. 1
Movement of unobligated but appropriated funds to continue to develop the adaptive management plan and address permitting issues as they arise.
 - Little Snake Supplemental Storage, Level II Study, Amendment No. 7 (Time Extension)
Time extension of the current contract.
 - Nowood River Storage, Level II Study, Amendment No. 7 (Time Extension)
Time extension of the current contract.
 - Silver Lake Dam Rehabilitation, Level II Study, Amendment No. 1 (Time Extension)
Time extension of current contract.

Commissioner Kot made a motion to approve all the discussed planning project amendments. Commissioner Bob Choma seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- LaPrele ID Rehabilitation, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment No. 3
Two options, one with a program management plan and one without, were brought to the Commission for consideration. Director Gebhart recommended amending the contract in the amount of \$194,400.

Commissioner Yankee motioned to approve the Director's recommendation to amend the contract in the amount of \$194,400. Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

8. Small Water Project Program Agreement Amendment

Director Gebhart reviewed the following amendment:

- South Creek Fish Passage & Channel Restoration Project (Time Extension)
One-year time extension of the current contract.

Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton moved to approve the agreement amendment. Commissioner Kailey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

9. 2021 Level I and II Planning Project Contracts

- Level I Projects – New Development
 - Hoback River Watershed Study
 - Lander Water Master Plan

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- Nordic Ranches Water Master Plan
 - Upton Water Master Plan
 - Wheatland Water Master Plan

Commissioner Kot made a motion to approve all Level I, Account I – New Development planning project contracts except the UW Water Research Program MOU. Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- Level II Projects – New Development
 - Big Horn Regional Transmission
 - Byron Rural Water Supply
 - Gillette Water System Improvements
 - Little Snake River Valley Water Supply, Phase II

Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton made a motion to approve all Level II, Account I – New Development planning project contracts. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously

- Level I Projects – Rehabilitation
 - Highland Irrigation District Master Plan

Commissioner Kot made a motion to approve the Level I, Account II – New Development planning project contract. Commissioner Bill Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

10. UW Water Research Program MOU

Director Gebhart reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Water Development Commission and the University of Wyoming. UW Office of Water Programs Director, Greg Kerr, discussed the Water Research Program and the two projects contained in the MOU. The two approved projects include:

- *“Improved Forecasting of Water Content Spatial Distribution and Aquifer Potential Assessment Using Geostatistical and Hydro-Geophysical Methods”*
- *“Improving Hydrologic Predictions in Wyoming’s Headwaters Through Detailed Quantification of Snowmelt”* projects.

Commissioner Yankee made a motion to approve the UW Water Research Program MOU. Commissioner Kailey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

11. Small Water Project Program Operating Criteria

Director Gebhart reviewed the proposed changes to the operating criteria. Changes would remove the requirement for sponsors to provide a 41-day adverting 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 the sponsor.

Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Small Water Project Program Operating Criteria. Commissioner Choma seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

These changes could prompt a large number of amendments to existing Small Water Project Program agreements. In this instance, Director Gebhart requests the authorization of the Commission to approve agreement amendments for this purpose.

Commissioner Little made a motion to grant the Director of the Water Development Office the authority to enter into agreement amendments with existing sponsors related to Small Water Projects for the purpose of having existing contracts reflect that the Sponsor shall make the determination if the project meets the definitions of a “public work” as defined in Wyoming Statute 16-6-101(ix) and if publication under the statute is required. Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

12. Small Water Project Program – Funding Applications

Program Manager Jodie Pavlica reviewed each of the Account I and Account II 2021 Small Water Project Program Funding Applications submitted by the following Sponsors:

- Converse County Conservation District
- Hot Springs Conservation District
- Laramie County Conservation District
- Little Snake River Conservation District
- Medicine Bow Conservation District
- Niobara Conservation District
- Sheridan County Conservation District
- South Big Horn Conservation District
- Sublette County Conservation District
- Teton Conservation District
- Uinta County Conservation District
- Weston County Natural Resource District

Commissioner Kot made a motion to approve all Small Water Projects as presented. Commissioner Kailey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

13. 2021 Construction Project Agreements – Account I

Director Gebhart reviewed the Sponsor, appropriation amount, terms, and provided a brief description of each of the following projects:

- *Lander Well and Transmission Pipeline 2021*
- *Northwest Rural Water System Improvements 2021*
- *Torrington Well Connection 2021*
- *Sheridan Area Water Supply Transmission 2020*

Commissioner Craig declared a conflict of interest for the Northwest Rural Water System Improvements 2021 project and recused himself from voting on this project. Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton made a motion to approve the Lander Well and Transmission Pipeline 2021, Torrington Well Connection 2021, and Sheridan Area Water Supply Transmission 2020 projects. Commissioner Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

A separate motion was made by Commissioner Little to approve the Northwest Rural Water System Improvements 2021 project. Commissioner Suchor seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Craig recused.

14. 2021 Construction Project Agreements – Account II

Director Gebhart reviewed the Sponsor, appropriation amount, terms, and provided a brief description of each of the following projects:

- *Interstate Irrigation & Reservoir Irrigation District Improvements 2021*
- *Salt Creek Transmission Pipeline 2021*
- *Shoshone Irrigation District Improvements 2021*
- *Sidon Irrigation District Rehabilitation 2021*

Commissioner Craig declared a conflict of interest for the Shoshone Irrigation District Improvements 2021 project and recused himself from voting on this project. Commissioner Kailey made a motion to approve the Interstate Irrigation & Reservoir Irrigation District Improvements 2021, Salt Creek Transmission Pipeline 2021, and Sidon Irrigation District Rehabilitation 2021 projects. Commissioner Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

A separate motion was made by Commissioner Kot to approve the Shoshone Irrigation District Improvements 2021 project. Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Craig recused.

15. 2021 Construction Project Amendments

Director Gebhart provided a brief description of each of the following amendments:

- *Ethete Water Supply Project*
Two-year time extension of the current contract.

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- Arapahoe Water Supply 2016
Three-year time extension of the current contract.

Commissioner Suchor made a motion to approve the project amendments as presented. Commissioner Kot seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously,

16. Lance Creek Water and Sewer District Well Purchase

Director Gebhart proposed that the Commission agree to sell the Lance Creek Well to the Lance Creek Water and Sewer District for the construction cost of the well in the amount of \$33,000. The sale previously received legislative approval.

Commissioner Suchor made a motion to approve the sale of Lance Creek Well. Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

17. Palisades Lease Agreement Approval

Director Gebhart requested the Commission's authorization to sign an agreement with the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators for the lease of water out of the Commission's account in Palisades Reservoir.

Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton made a motion to authorize the Director to sign the agreement as presented. Commissioner Kot seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

18. Future Meetings Schedule

The Commission will be meeting jointly with the Select Water Committee in Cheyenne, Wyoming on May 13 and 14, 2021. An orientation will be provided for new Commissioners prior to the meeting.

19. Discussion

20. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Kailey, Jr., Secretary