
**Wyoming Water Development Commission
Commissioner Orientation
Cheyenne, Wyoming
May 12, 2021**

1. Chairman Clinton W. Glick called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
2. **Commissioner Introductions**
3. **Water Development Staff Introductions**
4. **Roll Call** – Secretary Ron Kailey led roll call of the Commission.

Commission Attendance:

Liisa Anselmi-Dalton
Robert Choma
Leonard A. “Lee” Craig
Clinton W. Glick
Ron Kailey, Jr.
Mark Kot
Sheridan Little – Excused
Larry Suchor
Bill Yankee

Advisor Attendance:

Darren Cook, Attorney General’s Office

5. **Water Development Program Overview**

Director Brandon Gebhart provided a brief overview of the Water Development Program, including its origins, relationship to the Select Water Committee, and staffing of the Commission and Water Development Office. He also explained the general funding process/timeline and informed the Commission of Wyoming’s current water investments.

6. **Financial Overview**

Fiscal Manager David Ray provided a financial overview of the organization. He explained the significance of the Mineral Severance Tax and purpose of each of the three Water Development Accounts.

Accountant Janet Belmonte explained the compensation and reimbursement processes. She informed the Commission of which expenses were eligible for reimbursement.

7. Planning Division

Deputy Director Barry Lawrence provided an overview of the Planning Division. He explained the application, recommendation, funding, and consultant selection processes for Level I and II Planning Projects. He also differentiated between the three levels of projects and the expected progression from Level I, to Level II, to Level III Construction.

8. Weather Modification

Program Manager Julie Gondzar provided an overview of the Cloud Seeding/Weather Modification Program. She briefly explained how cloud seeding works to boost snowfall, the benefits and limitations of the program, and funding processes.

9. Small Water Project Program

Program Manager Jodie Pavlica provided an overview of the Small Water Project Program. She explained the types of projects served by the program, eligibility requirements, and methods for prioritizing and selecting which projects to fund.

10. Instream Flow Program

Program Manager Chace Tavelli provided an overview of the Instream Flow Program. He gave a brief history of the instream flow law and explained the three coordinating agencies and their roles. He also explained the key tasks associated with instream flow studies, including an inventory of water rights, hydrology analysis, flow measurements, storage analysis, and more.

11. Groundwater Exploration Grants

Program Manager Kevin Boyce provided an overview of the Groundwater Exploration Grant Program. He elaborated on the concept of test wells, and the eligibility criteria, application process, and funding process.

12. Construction Division

Project Managers Bill Brewer and Wade Verplancke provided a brief overview of the Construction Division. They outlined the application process, eligibility requirements, and match funding responsibility of Sponsors.

13. Dams and Reservoirs

Deputy Director Jason Mead briefly explained the Dam and Reservoir construction process, beginning with early planning phases and progressing through permitting and design phases. He elaborated upon the complex funding process associated with these projects.

14. State Revolving Fund

Program Manager Wade Verplancke provided an overview of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). He explained eligibility requirements and how projects are prioritized.

15. MOA/Basin States

Program Manager Bill Brewer briefly explained the MOA/Basin States Programs. He explained the primary users and objectives of the Basin States Program, which is centered around irrigators in the Colorado River Basin States with the goal of reducing salt load in the Colorado River. He also discussed the MOA program which focuses on Colorado River Storage Project Act (CRSPA) facilities.

16. Discussion

17. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Kailey, Jr., Secretary