
**Wyoming Water Development Commission/Select Water Committee
Joint Meeting
Cheyenne, Wyoming
May 13, 2021**

1. 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:

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

Select Water Attendance:

Sen. Larry Hicks, Vice-Chairman
Sen. Brian Boner
Sen. Ogden Driskill
Sen. Tim French
Sen. Mike Gierau
Sen. Cheri Steinmetz
Rep. Evan Simpson, Chairman
Rep. Chad Banks
Rep. John Eklund
Rep. Dan Laursen
Rep. Chip Neiman
Rep. Jerry Paxton

Advisor Attendance:

Darren Cook, Attorney General’s Office
Greg Kerr, University of Wyoming
Steve Wolff, State Engineer’s Office

4. Commissioner and Committee Member Introductions

5. Audience Introductions

6. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton made a motion to approve the WWDC Workshop Minutes from March 18, 2021. Commissioner Ron Kailey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bill Yankee made a motion to approve the WWDC Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2021. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

7. Aquatic Invasive Species Update – Wyoming Game and Fish

Director Gebhart informed the Commission and Committee Members of the threat of Zebra Mussels to the state of Wyoming. He encouraged prompt removal and reporting if they are ever to be discovered.

8. Planning Closeout Memos

- *Bluff/Upper Bluff Irrigation Districts Master Plan, Level I Study*

Project Manager Jodie Pavlica provided a brief summary of project findings. Commissioner Ron Kailey moved acceptance of the Bluff/Upper Bluff Irrigation Districts Master Plan 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 Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- *Crook County Rural Water Supply Plan, Level I Study*

Project Manager Kevin Boyce provided a brief summary of project findings. Commissioner Sheridan Little moved acceptance of the Crook County Rural Water Supply Plan 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 Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

9. Aladdin Water District Water Service Contract Renewal

Director Gebhart proposed a two-year time extension to the Water Service Contract between the Commission and the Aladdin Water District. The time extension would allow the District to address violations identified by the EPA before purchasing the well from the Commission.

District Manager Randy Strader reconfirmed the District's continued desire to purchase the well once the violations are resolved.

Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton made a motion to approve the contract renewal. Commissioner Little seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

10. Mortgage Release

Director Gebhart announced that both loans to Park Reservoir Irrigation District for the Park Reservoir Dam Construction Project, in the amounts of \$1.2 million and \$570 thousand dollars issued on October 14, 1981 and April 5, 1982, respectively, have been paid in full.

Commissioner Yankee made a motion to release Park Reservoir Irrigation District of both mortgages. Commissioner Suchor seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

11. 2022 Level I Reconnaissance Study, Account I New Development Project Applications

- Clarks Fork/Upper Shoshone Watershed Study
- Dayton Water Master Plan
- Riverton Regional Water Master Plan

Commissioner Kailey made a motion to preliminarily approve all 2022 Level I Reconnaissance Study, Account I New Development Projects and allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Commissioner Lee Craig seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

12. 2022 Level II Feasibility Study, Account I New Development Project Applications

- LaGrange Groundwater Supply and Improvements
- Pavillion Groundwater Supply
- Pinedale Water System Improvements

Since the time of application, the Town of Pinedale determined that a Level II Study is not necessary and formally requested withdrawal of the Level II application.

Commissioner Kot made a motion to preliminarily approve all 2022 Level II Feasibility Study, Account I New Development Projects and allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Commissioner Little seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

13. 2022 Level I Reconnaissance Study, Account II Rehabilitation Project Applications

- West Afton/Nield String Master Plan

Director Gebhart announced that this is a joint application and that neither entity is currently an eligible entity for the Program, and independently, do not meet the minimum irrigated acreage criteria. Discussion ensued that West Afton is in the process of forming an entity. It was also discussed that the entities may evaluate formation of a single entity and that the proposed study would investigate this.

Commissioner Kot made a motion to waive the minimum acreage and public entity requirements, preliminarily approve the 2022 Level I Reconnaissance Study, Account II New Rehabilitation Project, and allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

14. 2022 Level II Feasibility Study, Account II Rehabilitation Project Applications

- *Dowlin Diversion Rehabilitation*

Commissioner Kailey made a motion to preliminarily approve the 2022 Level II Feasibility Study, Account II Rehabilitation Development Project and allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Commissioner Bob Choma seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

15. Planning Contract Amendments

- *Lake DeSmet/Healy Reservoir Utilization, Level II Study, Amendment No. 2*

An amendment to extend the contract time with Engineering Associates from June 30, 2021 through June 30, 2022 to provide additional time to account for unforeseen delays caused by additional investigation of possible contract water from other sources.

Commissioner Suchor made a motion to approve the amendment to the Lake DeSmet/Healy Reservoir Utilization, Level II Study planning contract. Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- *LaPrele ID Rehabilitation, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment No. 4*

An amendment to the budget in the amount of \$1.71 million dollars and to the scope to include increasing the Project Management Task, addition of new tasks of site characterization, surveying, design advancement, replenishing the discretionary task and a 10% design task.

Commissioner Yankee made a motion to approve the amendment to the LaPrele ID Rehabilitation, Level II, Phase II Study planning contract. Commissioner Little seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Senator Mike Geirau made a motion to approve the approval. Committee member seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

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- *UW Water Research Program MOU (2018), Amendment No. 1*
An amendment to extend the contract with the University of Wyoming Water Research Program from June 30, 2021 through December 31, 2021 to account for time lost due to closed and restricted access to campus laboratories due to the COVID pandemic.

Commissioner Choma made a motion to approve the amendment to the UW Water Research Program MOU (2018) planning contract. Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

16. UW Water Research Program

- *2022 RFP for the Water Research Program*
Greg Kerr, Director of the Office of Water Research at the University of Wyoming, briefly explained the Water Research Program and project selection process. He provided a short statement on each of the following topics proposed by the advisory committee:
 - Protecting Public Health
 - Dam Operation and Sediment Management and Transport
 - Investigating the Hydrologic and Physical Effects of Voluntary Fallowing of Fields
 - Understanding and Responding to Future Change in Hydrologic Variability

Senator Hicks recommended removing the topic of Understanding and Responding to Future Change in Hydrologic Variability and adding a topic pertaining to the economic and technological needs for the production and treatment of groundwater in the Rock Springs uplift for the purpose of mining lithium and other available constituents.

Commissioner Anselmi-Dalton made a motion to approve all topics as presented in the RFP, including a new topic regarding Rock Springs uplift, membrane technology, and water extraction to access lithium and other minerals. Commissioner Kot seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Senator Hicks stated that he would provide a write-up to the Commission and Select Water Committee and invited others to weigh-in.

Representative John Ecklund made a motion to concur with the recommendation of the Commission. Representative Chip Neiman seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

17. Construction Project Amendment

- Middle Piney Dam Reconstruction Project

An amendment to increase the total Contract dollar amount by \$681,000 to \$2,680,217 million dollars, amend the responsibilities of the consultant, and to change the consultant's name from Wenck Associates, Inc. to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Director Gebhart explained that the project had been slowed by an unanticipated amount of groundwater and expanded grouting program. The increase in Contract amount is expected to cover more construction management, additional travel and per diem, replenishing the discretionary task and additional grouting design and oversight. Discussion ensued.

Representative Simpson suggested that the \$200,000 replenishment of discretionary task funds be eliminated and award the remainder of the request.

Commissioner Kot made a motion to approve the amendment without Discretionary Task No. 7, reducing the increase in total Contract dollar amount by \$200,000 for a new total increase of \$481,000 dollars. Commissioner Kailey seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Senator Hicks made a motion to recommend the approval and was the motion was seconded; motion carried with opposition from Senator Tim French.

18. Public Comment for Joint WWDC/SWC Items

Paul Dey, Aquatic Habitat Program Manager with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, expressed his support for the Dowlin Diversion Rehabilitation project.

19. Future Meeting's Schedule and Director's Comments

20. WWDC Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Kailey, Jr., Secretary