



**Wyoming Water Development Commission Meeting
Cheyenne, Wyoming
January 26, 2022**

1. Chairman Clinton W. Glick called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. The pledge of allegiance was recited.
3. **Recognition of Members Present to Establish Quorum** – Secretary Ron Kailey

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
John Lawson - Virtual
Sheridan Little
Larry Suchor – Excused

Advisor Attendance:

Greg Kerr, UW Office of Water Programs

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved acceptance of the November 8, 2021 workshop minutes. Commissioner Ron Kailey, Jr. seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Ron Kailey, Jr. then moved to approve the November 9-10, 2021 Joint WWDC/Select Water Committee meeting minutes. Commissioner Lee Craig seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

5. **Planning Closeout Memos**

- *Cody Water Master Plan, Level I*
Project Manager Chace Tavelli briefly reviewed the Cody Water Master Plan, Level I project. Discussion of the project followed.

Commissioner Ron Kailey, Jr. moved acceptance of the Cody Water Master Plan, Level I Study project report as being complete and further, made the following findings relative to this project:

1. That the Commission recommend proceeding to the next Level of project development, upon the submittal of an appropriate funding application by the Sponsor.

Vice-Chairman Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- *Lander Test Well Study, Level II, Phase II*

Project Manager Keith Clarey briefly reviewed the Lander Test Well, Level II, Phase II project. Discussion of the project followed.

Vice-Chairman Bill Yankee moved acceptance of the Lander Test Well, Phase II Study project report as being complete and further, made the following findings relative to this project:

1. That the Commission recommend terminating further consideration of the project.

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

- *Pinedale Water Master Plan, Level I*

Project Manager Chace Tavelli briefly reviewed the Pinedale Water Master Plan, Level I project. Discussion of the project followed.

Commissioner Mark Kot moved acceptance of the Pinedale Water Master Plan, Level I Study project report as being complete and further, made the following findings relative to this project:

1. That the Commission recommend proceeding to the next Level of project development, upon the submittal of an appropriate funding application by the Sponsor.

Commissioner Robert Choma seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

6. Groundwater Exploration Grant Contracts

Happy Valley Water and Improvement District

Groundwater Grant Program Manager George Moser went through the groundwater grant application received from the Happy Valley Water and Improvement District and the WWDO's recommendation on the matter. Mark Erickson (sponsor) was present in support of this application.

Commissioner Mark Kot asked how this project would correlate with the Osmond system and if the well would produce enough water for both systems. Mr. Erickson elaborated that Happy Valley and Osmond are trying to become a district and work together to create a viable system. Director Gebhart mentioned that the objective seems to be a version of regionalization, which is a priority of the program. Additional discussion on the project ensued to include possible future rate increases and metering.

Commissioner Sheridan Little moved to approve the application for the Ground Water Exploratory Grant for the Happy Valley Water and Improvement District. Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Town of Cokeville

Groundwater Grant Program Manager George Moser went through the groundwater grant application received from the Town of Cokeville and the WWDO's recommendation on the matter. Demont Grandy, Councilman for the Town of Cokeville, and Ben Jordan, Weston Engineering, were both present in support of this application. This is the Town of Cokeville's second groundwater grant application, representing a restructuring of the original project. Considerable discussion on the project followed to include water quality and well depth issues, existing SLIB funding, disposition and reversion of the original groundwater grant appropriation, and the merits of doing a separate contract for the new restructured project as opposed to amending the existing agreement with the Town of Cokeville. Director Gebhart stated that due to difference between the two projects, such an amendment was not recommended. He further suggested approving this project first, then dissolving the original contract after approval.

Commissioner Choma moved to approve the Cokeville groundwater grant and instructed the Wyoming Water Development Office to dissolve the original contract at a later time. Vice-Chairman Bill Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

7. Construction Project Contract Amendment

Middle Piney Dam Reconstruction Project

Director Gebhart and Interim Director Mead discussed the need for a contract amendment on the Middle Piney Dam Reconstruction Project with Stantec for an additional \$25,000. The Seepage Control System Improvements and Site Evaluation, an item anticipated during the August discussion, had been completed. The added seepage collection and drainage system required additional evaluation, coordination with the USFS, and design which led to the recommended amendment to Stantec's Contract. Discussion of the project followed.

Commissioner Mark Kot moved to approve the Middle Piney Dam Reconstruction Contract Amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheridan Little; motion carried unanimously.

8. Preparation for 2022 Legislature

Omnibus Water Bill – Planning

Director Gebhart walked through the draft Omnibus Water Bill – Planning, discussing each project, the appropriation requested, and the remaining account balances. Considerable discussion took place concerning the University of Wyoming Water Research Program where Commissioners were asked to select the research projects for funding. Three projects were singled out and discussed in more depth, to include a project dealing with Curtailment and Demand Management in the Colorado River Basin (Proposal D), a project dealing with the Willwood Dam (Proposal B), and a project on Lithium (Proposal E).

Commissioner Ron Kailey moved to accept projects D, B, and E for inclusion and funding through the Omnibus Water Bill - Planning at a total appropriation of \$507,819. Commissioner Mark Kot seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. It was noted that the projects selected for funding were subject to Select Water Committee review the following day.

Director Gebhart finished walking through the Omnibus Water Bill - Planning at which time Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton motioned to accept the Planning Bill as amended. Vice-Chairman Bill Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Omnibus Water Bill – Construction

Director Gebhart then walked through the draft Omnibus Water Bill – Construction, discussing each project, the appropriation requested, and the remaining account

balances. Also discussed were some reversion date changes from previous legislation.

Commissioner Sheridan Little moved to approve the construction bill amending in an additional \$10 million to the Account III Sponsor's Contingency Fund for a total of \$20 million. Vice-Chairman Bill Yankee seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

9. Other Items Requiring Commission Action

Director Brandon Gebhart introduced a sponsor's contingency request for a current Big Horn Regional water project. Bill Brewer, WWDO Deputy Director of Construction explained the project which ties in the Town of Burlington to the Big Horn Regional water system. Last Fall when the engineers were finishing the design and doing their cost estimate based on current prices for piping, they estimated that the project would possibly be over budget. The office requested that they set a bid date that corresponded with the next Joint meeting in case additional funds were needed. When they received bids (7) the lowest bid was slightly under the engineer's estimate. However, as estimated, they are still short on funding, and are requesting a grant from the Sponsors Contingency Fund to make up for the shortfall. Additional funding has also been requested from Rural Development to cover the project.

Water Development staff recommended the Commission authorize the expenditure of \$750,000 from the Water Development Account I Sponsors' Contingency Fund for the Big Horn Regional Transmission 2020 project and to approve the amendment to the project agreement to match. Commissioner Mark Kot moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Ron Kailey, Jr. seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion

Barry Lawrence, Deputy Director of Planning, discussed the two state-sponsored projects (Cloud Seeding Hydrologic Assessment and Aging Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment) found in the Omnibus Water Bill – Planning. Consultant selection for these two projects will start in February under an abbreviated schedule. Requests for Proposals will be issued in March after the Legislative Session. Proposals will be due in April, interviews held in May, and Notice to Proceed issued in June.

11. Future Meetings Schedule

The future meetings schedule was reviewed with the Commission and discussion ensued as to the location of the summer tour. A meeting/tour in the Afton area was suggested by Commissioners Mark Kot and Robert Choma with mention of avoiding dates conflicting with the Lincoln County Fair. WWDO staff will begin planning the event with the week of August 15th-19th being targeted as the most likely timeframe.

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Ron Kailey, Jr. made a motion to adjourn at 11:02 a.m. Commissioner Sheridan Little seconded the motion; The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Kailey, Jr., Secretary