WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

WWDC/SWC Joint Meeting
Capitol Extension – Auditorium | 200 W. 24th Street | Cheyenne, WY
May 12, 2022

Meeting Minutes

1. Chairman Mark Kot 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 Liisa Anselmi-Dalton

Commission Attendance:	Select Water Attendance:
Mark Kot, Chairman	Sen. Larry Hicks, Vice-Chair - Virtual
Ron Kailey, Jr., Vice-Chairman	Sen. Brian Boner
Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, Secretary	Sen. Ogden Driskill
Robert Choma	Sen. Tim French
Leonard "Lee" Craig – Virtual	Sen. Mike Gierau - Virtual
Clinton Glick – Excused	Sen. Cheri Steinmetz
John Lawson	Rep. Evan Simpson, Chairman
Sheridan Little	Rep. Chad Banks
Larry Suchor	Rep. John Eklund
	Rep. Dan Laursen
Advisor Attendance:	Rep. Chip Neiman
Greg Kerr, University of Wyoming	Rep. Jerry Paxton

Amending of Agenda

Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to amend the agenda, adding Eden Valley Irrigation & Drainage District – Farson Lateral 2020 to Item 8: Construction Contingency Funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Choma; motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes (A)**
   - *March 15, 2022 Workshop & March 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes:*
     Commissioner Larry Suchor moved to approve the minutes for both the March 15 workshop and the March 16 meeting. Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded; motion carried unanimously.

5. Planning Project Closeout Memos (B)

- *City of Torrington #16 Well*

  Project Manager George Moser presented the City of Torrington #16 Well Groundwater Grant closeout memo. Discussion followed.

  Commissioner Sheridan Little moved acceptance of the Torrington Groundwater Well #16 Ground Water Exploration Grant project as being complete.

  Vice-Chairman Ron Kailey, Jr. seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- *Lower Shoshone Watershed, Level I Study*

  Project Manager Mike Robertson introduced the closeout memo for the Lower Shoshone Watershed, Level I Study. Discussion followed.

  Commissioner Larry Suchor moved acceptance of the Lower Shoshone Watershed, Level I Study report as being complete and further, the WWDC makes 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.

- *South End Water Users ISD Transmission, Level II Study*

  Project Manager Keith Clarey presented the closeout memo for the South End Water Users ISD Transmission, Level II Study. Discussion followed.

  Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved acceptance of the South End Water Users ISD Transmission, Level II Study report as being complete and further, the WWDC makes 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.
  2. Based on the findings in the final report, the project is determined to be in the public interest.
  3. The project functions and services cannot realistically be provided by any person, association or corporation engaged in private enterprise.

  Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

6. Planning Project Amendments (C)

- *Big Wind River Storage, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment No. 2*

  Interim Director Jason Mead provided an overview of the Big Wind River Storage, Level II, Phase II Study, and proposed to extend the existing contract expiration date to December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Sheridan Little moved to approve the Big Wind River Storage, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment Number Two. Vice-Chairman Ron Kailey, Jr. seconded the motion; Motion carried unanimously.

- *Little Wind River Storage, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment No. 2*
  Interim Director Jason Mead summarized the Little Wind River Storage, Level II, Phase II Study. He proposed that an additional $150,000 be added to the existing contract per the 2022 Omnibus Water Bill - Planning and that the existing contract expiration date be extended to December 31, 2023. Discussion followed.

  Vice-Chairman Ron Kailey Jr. moved to approve the Little Wind River Storage, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment Number Two with a $150,000 increase and time extension. Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

  A motion was made by the Select Water Committee to recommend approval of the Amendment. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- *Douglas Test Well, Level II Study, Amendment No. 3*
  Project Manager George Moser acknowledged the sponsors in attendance for comment. He then presented the Douglas Test Well, Level II Study and proposed a time extension to the existing contract, which would extend the contract expiration date to June 30, 2023.

  Commissioner Sheridan Little moved to approve the Douglas Test Well, Level II Study, Amendment Number Three time extension. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- *LaPrele ID Rehabilitation, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment No. 5*
  Pete Rausch, Project Manager/Engineer – RESPEC Company, LLC, provided a slideshow presentation for the LaPrele ID Rehabilitation, Level II, Phase II Study. Interim Director Jason Mead explained: the purpose of this amendment is to increase the total contract dollar amount by $2,395,600.00 and to extend the term of the contract through June 30, 2024. Discussion followed.

  Commissioner John Lawson recused himself from the vote. Commissioner Sheridan Little moved to approve Amendment Five to the LaPrele ID Rehabilitation, Level II, Phase II Study. Commissioner Robert Choma seconded; motion carried unanimously with one abstention.

  A motion was made by the Select Water Committee to recommend approval of the Amendment. Motion was seconded; motion carried 9:1.

7. Middle Piney Reservoir SUP Amendment (D)

Interim Director Jason Mead walked through the Middle Piney Reservoir Special Use Permit, Amendment One, proposing to extend the timeline for completing construction and providing campground stipulations for the Contractor's use. Discussion followed.

Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to approve Amendment One to the Middle Piney Reservoir Special-Use Permit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larry Suchor; motion carried unanimously.

8. Construction Contingency Funds (E)

- *Middle Piney Reservoir*

  Interim Director Jason Mead explained the Middle Piney Reservoir Account III construction contingency funds request. Discussion followed.

  Commissioner Larry Suchor moved acceptance of the Water Development Office's recommendation, that $1.8 million from the Account III Contingency Fund be allocated to the Middle Piney Dam Reconstruction project. Motion seconded by Commissioner John Lawson; motion carried unanimously.

  The Select Water Committee moved to recommend approval of the Middle Piney Reservoir Amendment. Motion was seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- *Eden Valley Irrigation & Drainage District – Farson Lateral 2020 (Amended to the Agenda)*

  Deputy Director Bill Brewer provided an overview of the project. Discussion followed.

  Commissioner Sheridan Little moved to accept the Water Development Office's recommendation to allow the Eden Valley Irrigation and Drainage District to award the length of the Farson Lateral 2020 project that can be built within the appropriated budget. Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

9. Fontenelle Reservoir Contributed Funds Agreement (F)

Interim Director Jason Mead provided a review of the Agreement.

A motion was made by the Select Water Committee to recommend approval of the Agreement. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to approve the Contributed Funds Agreement in the amount of $1.629 million dollars with the Interim Director's ability to sign proceeding task orders. Seconded by Commissioner Larry Suchor; motion carried unanimously.

10. Planning Projects Consultant Selection & Contract Approval (G)

- *Cloud Seeding: Operations Hydrological Assessment, Medicine Bow & Sierra Madre Mountain Ranges, Level II Study*

  The selection committee for the Cloud Seeding: Operations Hydrological Assessment, Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre Mountain Ranges, Level II project ranked the consulting firms interviewed in the following order:

  1. National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)

Vice Chairman Ron Kailey Jr. moved approval of a contract with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) for consulting services on the Cloud Seeding: Operations

Hydrological Assessment, Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre Mountain Ranges, Level II project with a budget of $300,000, subject to the Attorney General's Office review and approval. Motion seconded by Commissioner Larry Suchor; motion carried unanimously.

The Select Water Committee will take up the matter of recommending approval of the contract either via email or at a subsequent meeting.

- *Critical Aging Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment, Level I Study*

The selection committee for the Critical Aging Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment, Level I project ranked the consulting firms interviewed in the following order:

1. TriHydro Corporation
2. Sunrise Engineering
3. HDR Engineering, Inc.

Commissioner Sheridan Little moved approval of a contract with TriHydro Corporation for consulting services on the Critical Aging Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment, Level I project with a budget of $495,000 subject to the Attorney General's Office review and approval. Commissioner John Lawson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

The Select Water Committee will take up the matter of recommending approval of the contract either via email or at a subsequent meeting.

11. New Level I and Level II Project Applications

Interim Director Jason Mead provided a brief explanation of the recommendations for the new Level I and Level II project applications. Sponsors were present to provide overviews and answer questions for each of the following projects:

Level I Reconnaissance Projects – New Development (H)

- *Glendo Water Master Plan*
- *Newcastle Water Master Plan*
- *Orchard Valley Water Master Plan*
- *Ranchester Water Master Plan*
- *Wardwell Water Master Plan*

A motion was made by Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton to preliminarily approve the Orchard Valley Water Master Plan separately from the other Level I Reconnaissance Study Account I New Development Projects; to waive the public entity requirements of the Sponsor at Level I per the operating criteria of the Water Development Program; and to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Vice Chairman Ron Kailey Jr. seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sheridan Little moved to preliminarily approve the remaining block of Reconnaissance Projects for New Development. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Level II Feasibility Projects – New Development (I)

- *CWRWS Well Field Study*
- *GR/RS/SC JPWB Eastside Zone Study*

Commissioner Larry Suchor moved to preliminarily approve all Level II Feasibility Projects for New Development. Commissioner Sheridan Little seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Level I Reconnaissance Projects – Rehabilitation (J)

- *Casper Alcova ID Master Plan*
- *Goshen ID Master Plan*
- *Sidon ID Master Plan*
- *Tillard Canal Master Plan*

Commissioner Sheridan Little made a motion to preliminarily approve the Casper Alcova ID, Goshen ID, and Sidon ID Master Plans for the Level I Reconnaissance Projects – Rehabilitation. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded; motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheridan Little to preliminarily approve the Tillard Canal Master Plan, waiving the public entity requirements of the Sponsor at Level I per the operating criteria of the Water Development Program. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Choma; motion carried unanimously.

Level II Feasibility Projects – Rehabilitation (K)

- *Cody Canal Rehabilitation*
- *Highland ID Rehabilitation - Withdrawn*
- *Lakeview ID Rehabilitation*
- *Shoshoni GW Supply & Transmission*
- *Upper Sunshine Outlet Works Rehabilitation*
- *Willwood ID Rehabilitation*

Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to preliminarily approve all Level II Account II Feasibility Projects for Rehabilitation. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded; motion carried unanimously.

A member of the Select Water Committee asked that the name of the Upper Sunshine Outlet Works Rehabilitation project be renamed to include the sponsor's name. [WWDO note: the project has since been renamed the Greybull Valley Irrigation District Upper Sunshine Outlet Works Rehabilitation project.]

12. UW Office of Water Programs FY23-24 MOU (L)

Interim Director Jason Mead presented the UW Office of Water Programs FY23-24 MOU. Greg Kerr, Director of the UW Office of Water Programs, introduced himself; discussion followed.

A motion was made by the Select Water Committee to recommend approval of the UW Office of Water Programs FY23-24 MOU. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheridan Little to approve the UW Office of Water Programs FY23-24 MOU. Commissioner John Lawson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

13. UW Water Research Program (M)

- *UW Water Research Program MOU*

Greg Kerr provided a brief overview of the projects being funded by this year's UW Water Research Program MOU.

A motion was made by the Select Water Committee to recommend approval of the UW Water Research Program MOU. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sheridan Little moved acceptance of the UW Water Research Program MOU. Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded; motion carried unanimously.

- *Consideration of 2023 RFP for the UW Water Research Program*

There was discussion of the RFP for the UW Research Program and the topics included within. The Committee and Commission recommended considering ground and surface water interaction as a potential research topic in a future RFP. Greg Kerr asked the Committee and Commission to identify a specific need within the State of Wyoming to encourage new research surrounding this topic.

The Select Water Committee moved to recommend approval of the 2023 RFP for the UW Water Research Program; motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to approve the 2023 RFP for the UW Water Research Program. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

14. Construction Project Closeout Memos (N)

Bill Brewer, Deputy Director of Construction, provided an informative closeout for each of the following Level III Construction Projects:

- Hanover Cottonwood Spill 2018
- Wheatland ID Tunnel Dam Rehabilitation
- Heart Mountain ID Rehabilitation 2017
- Midvale Irrigation District Rehabilitation 2019
- Pioneer Transmission Pipeline 2017

15. Construction Project Amendments (O)

Amendment Nine to the Gillette Madison Pipeline Project Agreement

Bill Brewer presented this amendment as a time extension request.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ron Kailey, Jr. to approve Amendment Nine to the Gillette Madison Pipeline Project Agreement, extending the contract term to July 1, 2024. Commissioner Sheridan Little seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

16. Future Meetings Schedule

Conversation of the Afton tour and meetings in August ensued. The tour is confirmed to take place in conjunction with the August 17-19, 2022 WWDC/SWC joint meeting.

17. Discussion

Interim Director Jason Mead briefly discussed the Water Development Commissioner Orientation which was held on May 11, 2022. During the orientation, he recommended that the Commission consider the sole use of E-Notebooks due to the considerable amount of money and time spent preparing 300-500 page hard copy notebooks. The Commission agreed; therefore, he proposed that Select Water do the same – there were no objections to the matter. The Water Development Office will be working toward an easy transition to E-Notebook implementation for the Commission and Committee.

18. Adjourn

Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton motioned to remove the State Engineer's Update from the Water Development Commission's agenda, and to adjourn the meeting for the Water Development Commission at 12:50pm. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, Secretary