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## WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**WWDO REGULAR MEETING:  
Water Development Office  
6920 Yellowtail Road | Cheyenne, WY  
Downstairs Conference Room  
Tuesday, December 6, 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  

<u>Commission Attendance:</u>	<u>Advisor Attendance:</u>
Mark Kot, Chairman	Greg Kerr, University of Wyoming
Ron Kailey, Jr., Vice-Chairman	
Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, Secretary	
Robert “Bob” Choma – Virtual	
Leonard “Lee” Craig – Virtual	
Clinton Glick	
John Lawson	
Sheridan Little	
Dennis Pince	
Larry Suchor	
4. **Approval of Minutes (A)**  
November 1, 2022 Workshop & November 2-3, 2022 Meeting Minutes:  
Vice-Chairman Ron Kailey, Jr. moved approval of the minutes of the November 1, 2022 workshop; Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chairman Ron Kailey, Jr. then moved approval of the minutes of the November 2-3, 2022 joint meeting; Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Review Public Hearings – Proposed LIII Projects (Handout)**  
Barry Lawrence, Deputy Director of Planning, provided a quick overview of the following Level III project hearings which took place on November 30, 2022:
  - Enterprise WID Calvert Lateral 2023
  - Lakeview ID Rock Creek Siphon 2023
  - Midvale ID Wyoming Canal Phase I 2023
  - Heart Mountain ID Lateral R4S 2023
  - CAID Lateral 256 Drop Structure 2023
  - Goshen ID 56.0 Pipeline Phase I 2023
  - Sheridan NE Transmission Main Extension 2023
  - Interstate I&R ID Canal Phase III 2023

All comments received as a result of the hearings reflected support of the Water Development projects, with slight concern of the impacts of inflation to the projects. Discussion ensued.

**6. Planning Closeout Memos (B)**

- Byron Rural Water Supply, LII Study

Project Manager Jay Smith briefly reviewed the Byron Rural Water Supply, Level II Study closeout memo.

A motion was made by Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton to move acceptance of the Byron Rural Water Supply, Level II Study as being complete and further, made the following findings relative to this project:

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

Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- Nordic Ranches Water Master Plan, LI Study

Project Manager Mabel Jones presented the closeout memo for the Nordic Ranches Water Master Plan, Level I Study. A brief discussion ensued.

Commissioner Clinton Glick moved to accept the Nordic Ranches Water Master Plan, Level I 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 an eligible sponsor.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Lawson; motion carried unanimously.

**7. Small Water Project Program (C)**

Program Manager Jodie Pavlica provided an overview of the following amendments:

Blue Spring Amendment No. 1: a one-year time extension to the original Contract due to delays in engineering and contractor scheduling.

Trough Springs Pond Amendment No. 2: a one-year time extension to the existing Contract due to a delay caused by NEPA permitting issues.

Upper Blue Spring Amendment No. 1: a one-year time extension to the original Contract as a result of engineering and contractor scheduling delays.

Vice-Chairman Ron Kailey, Jr. moved to approve all three amendments, extending each Contract date through December 31, 2023. A second was made by Commissioner Sheridan Little; motion carried unanimously.

**8. Sponsor's Contingency Fund Requests (D)**

Goshen Irrigation District 29.4 Pipeline

Deputy Director of Construction Bill Brewer presented the Goshen Irrigation District 29.4 Pipeline sponsor's contingency fund request, stressing the impacts of inflation. Discussion ensued with remarks from the Sponsor.

Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to accept the Water Development Office's recommendation to allow the Goshen Irrigation District to award the Contract and construct the pipeline before spring, using \$115,000 from the Sponsor's Contingency Fund Account, for a revised budget of \$405,000. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Clinton Glick; motion carried unanimously.

**9. Construction Closeout Memos (E)**

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

Big Horn Canal Irrigation District Wasteway/Check Replacement 2020  
Casper Alcova Irrigation Underdrain 2018  
Piney & Cruse Canal Piping Project

Commissioner Clinton Glick moved acceptance of the three closeout memos as being complete. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larry Suchor and carried unanimously.

**10. UW Water Research Proposals 2023 (F)**

Mr. Greg Kerr, Director of the UW Office of Water Programs who administers the Water Research Program on the UW campus, discussed the process for reviewing the research proposals received to include peer reviews and review by an Advisory Committee made up of federal and state agency representatives. He then walked through each of the four proposals received. Considerable discussion took place by the Commissioners who were asked to select the research projects for funding based on the Office's and Advisory Committee's recommendations. Out of the four projects studied, two projects were singled out and identified as high priority: a project evaluating toxicity of harmful cyanobacterial blooms in Wyoming lakes and reservoirs (Proposal A), and a project studying high resolution upland and riverbank erosion monitoring to inform best management practices that seek to reduce sediment accumulation at the Willwood Dam (Proposal B).

A motion was made by Sheridan Little to accept projects A and B for inclusion and funding through the Omnibus Water Bill - Planning at a total appropriation of \$442,820. Commissioner Lee Craig seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. It was noted that the projects selected for funding would be subject to Select Water Committee review the following day.

**11. Preparation for 2023 Legislature**

Omnibus Water Bill - Planning (G)

Interim Director Jason Mead provided a detailed overview of the draft Omnibus Water Bill - Planning. He identified the projects therein, the requested appropriation, and the remaining account balances. He also identified planning projects from previous legislation to be amended in this bill.

Omnibus Water Bill – Construction (H)

Interim Director Jason Mead walked through the draft Omnibus Water Bill - Construction. He noted each project in the bill, the appropriation requested, and the remaining account balances. It was noted that the appropriation of funds for several projects was contingent upon the transfer of funds into Water Development Account II. Also identified were additional funding, reversion date changes, and syntax corrections from previous legislation.

Commissioner Clinton Glick moved to accept the 2023 Omnibus Water Bill – Planning as presented, amending in an additional \$442,820 for the two 2023 UW Water Research Project Proposals selected earlier for funding. The motion was seconded by Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheridan Little to accept the Omnibus Water Bill – Construction as presented. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**12. Legislative Process Discussion**

The legislative session will begin on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Interim Director Jason Mead informed the Commission of expectations as they move into the legislative session. He will be available on behalf of the Office and the Commission for external questions should there be any.

**13. Green River/Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss Study - State Sponsored Project Consultant Selection Process**

Interim Director Jason Mead detailed the consultant selection process anticipated for the Green River/Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss Study, assuming that \$500,000 of general funds will be transferred to Account I to fund the study. Advertisement for consultant selection will begin in January of 2023. The RFP should be available for the project near the end of the session to ensure funding is available. Interviews will be held in April, so that contracts can be ready for execution at the May 2023 meeting. It was mentioned that a Project Manager from the Water Development Office and a technical advisor from the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, both of whom are familiar with Colorado River issues, will sit in on the interviews along with two Water Development Commissioners and a sponsor representative. Discussion ensued.

**14. Other Items Requiring Commission Action**

There were no other items requiring Commission action.

**15. Discussion**

At the December 7, 2022 Select Water Committee Meeting, Senator Hicks will propose an amendment to the Omnibus Water Bill – Planning in the amount of \$250,000 for a City of Rawlins Water Master Plan project. Rawlins was subject to a catastrophic failure of their main water line, causing the city to shut down for five days. In a normal circumstance, the City would have submitted an application to the Commission to update their 2010 Water Master Plan, but given the event and other key factors, the City was unable to do so. Senator Hicks noted that at this time, the action is beyond the purview of the Commission due to the lack of an application. As such, the Select Water Committee will take up the matter during their meeting tomorrow.

Senator Hicks then informed the Commission of another proposed amendment to the Omnibus Water Bill – Planning. The Governor’s Colorado River Workgroup has identified the need for additional state positions to coordinate and assist with the implementation of programs that focus on the Colorado River. The Select Water Committee will amend the existing budget to include \$500,000 which will be used to create a full-time position in the Water Development Office to serve as a project coordinator for the Green River Basin and an additional \$500,000 for support services. The position would facilitate applications for federal funding for conservation throughout the Basin; and help to establish water infrastructure for agriculture within the Basin. It is also proposed that another full-time position be created at the State Engineer’s Office along with a similar support services budget to compliment the Water Development Office’s position.

WWDO Project Manager George Moser introduced a discussion concerning idle groundwater wells drilled under the Department of Economic Planning and Development and the WWDC programs. Referring to a table identifying the wells, he provided a broad overview, explained project funding sources, and described the overall status for each well. His summary excluded Groundwater Exploration Grant Program wells due to the structure of the program and the cost-match by the Sponsor, who owns the success or failure of those wells. Senator Hicks suggested engaging project Sponsors and landowners to determine interest in developing idle wells. The Commission identified a need to develop a strategy for each of the wells. Considerable discussion ensued.

Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton made a motion instructing the Office to consult with the Attorney General’s Office to identify options for acquisition and disposal of the wells and provide direction regarding future plans for the wells. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larry Suchor and carried unanimously.

Chairman Mark Kot expressed that there may be some benefit in having a report from each of the UW Water Research Program studies as they are completed. Director Greg Kerr informed the Commission that the projects typically have presentations in a variety of venues following the research. The Water Development Office will begin to advertise such presentation announcements to the Commission and the Committee as they become available. Key projects might be presented at upcoming Commission meetings.

A request for an overall assessment of the Gillette regional water system was made by Commissioner Larry Suchor with a focus on the economic return on the State’s investment.

Chairman Kot then reminded the Commission of the request from Select Water regarding support from Senators and Representatives for applications to the Water Development Program. In the past, the Select Water Committee proposed that Sponsors should submit support letters with their applications for project approval consideration.

As his service to the Select Water Committee comes to an end, Chairman Mark Kot commended Representative Evan Simpson for his seamless leadership, courtesy, and kindness as he directed meetings. Chairman Kot also recognized Commissioner Sheridan Little for the 10 years he

served on the Commission. He thanked him for his thoughtful comments, his ideas, and his leadership.

**16. Future Meetings Schedule (I)**

Interim Director Jason Mead welcomed discussion regarding the August 2023 tour location. Prior venues were presented in the E-Notebook for the Commission to use in consideration of the upcoming tour location. It was decided that the August 2023 tour will take place between August 15-17, 2023 in the Cody/Powell area. Senator Larry Hicks then asked that the Commission plan for a joint meeting between the Wyoming Water Development Commission, the Select Water Committee, and the Standing Joint Agriculture Committee.

**17. Adjourn**

Vice-Chairman Ron Kailey, Jr. motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Water Development Commission at 12:05 a.m. Secretary Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, Secretary