



WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**WWDO Workshop:
Water Development Office
6920 Yellowtail Road | Cheyenne, WY
Downstairs Conference Room
Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

Workshop Minutes

1. Chairman Mark Kot called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.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	Patrick Kent
Ron Kailey, Jr., Vice-Chairman	
Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, Secretary	
Robert “Bob” Choma – Virtual	
Leonard “Lee” Craig	
Clinton Glick	
Todd Hoese	
John Lawson	
Dennis Pince	
Larry Suchor	
4. **Legislative Update – Interim Director Jason Mead**
Interim Director Jason Mead provided a recap of the 2023 legislative session and discussed the following legislative bills:
 - HB0001/SF0001: General Government Appropriations
 - SF0096: Omnibus Water Bill – Planning & Administration
 - HB0093: Omnibus Water Bill – Construction
 - SF0082: Eligible Water and Sewer Projects Funding
 - HB0195: American Rescue Plan Act Appropriations - Amendments
5. **Project Updates**
 - Critical Aging Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment, Level I StudyProject Manager Chace Tavelli provided an overview regarding the Critical Aging Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment, Level I Study and what led to its inception. He stated that the collapse of the Goshen Irrigation District Tunnel and structural concerns with the LaPrele Dam caused concern as to the condition of all aging irrigation infrastructure throughout the state and ways to assess those that are poor and/or failing. A criticality workshop was held to help define variables to apply to such structures statewide to assist in developing a ranking system to help inform decision makers. Interim Director Jason Mead added that it's important to have

help from other entities identifying their critical infrastructure and its condition. He said having Federal Agencies attend each of the project's stakeholder outreach meetings is very beneficial in helping the local water users understand what funding opportunities are available to them. The study was funded through a \$500,000 appropriation from the 2022 Wyoming State Legislature

Interim Director Mead reminded the Commission about the discussion back in November regarding funds for the Board of Control coming out of the State of Wyoming Water Development Account I and that less and less funds were available to get such projects on the ground. He added, therefore the office was strongly promoting to water users the idea of funding partnerships with Federal Agencies in leveraging available limited state funding.

- LaPrele Irrigation District Rehabilitation

Project Manager Chace Tavelli provided details as to the progression of the various studies done on LaPrele Dam. He stated that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, invested \$100 million dollars towards rebuilding deteriorating infrastructure. The Water Development Office made application to receive \$5 million of this IIJA funding. Strict criteria had to be met in order to qualify. The latest cost analysis estimated \$118 Million is needed for the design and reconstruction of the new dam.

- Consultant Selection Process:

Barry Lawrence, Deputy Director of Planning reminded the Commission that at the December 7, 2022 Select Water Committee Meeting, Senator Larry Hicks proposed an amendment to the Omnibus Water Bill – Planning in the amount of \$500,000 for the Green River/Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss Study as well as \$250,000 for the City of Rawlins Water Master Plan. He further stated that because these two projects were amended into the Omnibus Water Bill – Planning, there wasn't time to go through the normal consultant selection timelines and an expedited process was initiated while the Bill was being considered by the 2023 legislature. The interviews for the Green River/Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss Study and the Rawlins Water Master Plan will be held on April 21, 2023.

- Green River/Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss, Level I Study

Jay Smith, Project Manager, provided information regarding the Green River/Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss Study. He said that the scope requests prospective consultants to identify sites, develop methods for measuring conveyance loss, consumptive use, and to characterize return flows. This data will be used in the development of a consumptive use and conveyance loss tool for both basins.

- Rawlins Water Master Plan, Level I Study

George Moser, Project Manager provided information regarding the Rawlins Water Master Plan, Level I Study. Water master plans are a high-level reconnaissance looks at a water system, identifying challenges and helping to plan for the future. The Rawlins Water Master Plan is proceeding at a quick speed. The WWDC Office had a site tour in early February and helped mold a scope of work to tailor it to

address some specific items that Rawlins would like to see addressed within the water master plan. A pre-proposal meeting has been held.

6. New Level I and II Project Applications (Received by March 1)

Barry Lawrence, Deputy Director of Planning provided a WWDC Planning Project Funding Approval and Consultant Selection Schedule to the Commission that shows the timeline for the thirteen-month funding and consultant selection process. March 1, 2023 was the deadline to receive applications. Twenty-two applications were received this year which definitely shows an upward trend. Planning staff will be meeting soon and project managers will be assigned to each of the project applications received. These project managers will then set up site visits and begin preparing preliminary funding recommendations. Two Commissioners will be assigned to each project and they will shadow these projects from inception to completion.

7. 2023 Summer Meeting/Tour

Barry Lawrence, Deputy Director of Planning, provided information regarding the Summer Meeting/Tour to be held in the Cody/Powell Area August 15-17, 2023. The new Game and Fish facility in Cody has been reserved for the meeting. Commissioner Lee Craig, the local Commissioner in the area, will be heavily involved with the logistics of planning tour stops etc., and those details are still being worked out at this time.

8. Discussion

George Moser, Project Manager reminded the commission that at the December Commission meeting, the Water Development Office in coordination with the Attorney General's Office was tasked with identifying options for acquisition and disposal of idle groundwater wells drilled under the Department of Economic Planning and Development (WWDC's predecessor) and the WWDC program. He stated that the Attorney General's Office recently hired Patrick Kent and that the two of them have coordinated on potential solutions for many of the wells. Mr. Moser conveyed that each well will have unique constraints and will require subsequently unique solutions. In particular, Mr. Kent will be working on streamlining some of the contracting challenges and the WWDC can expect more discussion on idle wells in the future.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Craig, Secretary