



WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**WWDC/SWC Joint Meeting:
Water Development Office
6920 Yellowtail Road | Cheyenne, WY
Downstairs Conference Room
May 11, 2023**

Meeting Minutes

1. Chairman Ron Kailey 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 Lee Craig

Commission Attendance:

Ron Kailey, Chairman
Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, Vice-Chairman
Leonard “Lee” Craig, Secretary
Robert “Bob” Choma
Clinton Glick
Todd Hoese
Mark Kot
John Lawson
Dennis Pince
Larry Suchor

Advisor Attendance:

Patrick Kent, AG’s Office
Greg Kerr, University of Wyoming

Select Water Attendance:

Sen. Cheri Steinmetz, Chairman
Rep. John Eklund, Vice-Chairman
Rep. Jon Conrad
Sen. Affie Ellis
Sen. Mike Gierau-Excused
Sen. Larry Hicks
Sen. John Kolb
Rep. J.T. Larson
Sen. Dan Laursen
Rep. Chip Neiman
Rep. Albert Sommers
Rep. Mike Yin-Excused

4. **Approval of Minutes**

- March 14, 2023 Workshop & March 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton to approve the minutes for both the March 14 workshop and the March 15 meeting. Commissioner Todd Hoese seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

5. **New Level I and Level II Project Applications**

Director Jason Mead explained that the first block of projects in the New Level I Account I Reconnaissance Projects - New Development Account were mostly all Master Plans and provided a brief summary of what a Master Plan consists of. Sponsors were present to provide overviews and answer questions for each of the following projects:

Level I Reconnaissance Projects – New Development

- *Alpine Water Master Plan*
- *Bairoil Water Master Plan*
- *Chugwater Water Master Plan*
- *Douglas Water Master Plan*
- *GR/RS/SC Regional Water Master Plan*
- *Hudson Water Master Plan*
- *Laramie Water Master Plan*
- *Salt River Watershed Study*
- *Shoshone Municipal Pipeline Regional Water Master Plan*
- *Sinclair Water Master Plan*

Vice-Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to preliminarily approve all 2024 Level I Reconnaissance Study, Account I New Development Projects with the exception of the Sinclair Water Master Plan and the Laramie Water Master Plan, and to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection; motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton then moved to add the Sinclair Water Master Plan as a supplement to the Rawlins Water Master Plan. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded the motion; motion carried. It was noted that additional funds would be amended into the Rawlins Water Master Plan contract making consultant selection unnecessary.

Secretary Lee Craig moved to accept the Office’s recommendation to Do Not Fund the Laramie Water Master Plan. Commissioner Bob Choma seconded the motion; motion carried with Commissioner Mark Kot opposed.

A brief introduction was provided and Sponsors were present to provide overviews and answer questions for each of the following projects:

Level II Feasibility Projects – New Development

- *Burns Groundwater Supply*
- *Cody Areas Evaluation 2024*
- *Greybull Water System Improvements*
- *Hot Springs County Test Well*
- *Owl Creek Test Well*
- *Sheridan Lake DeSmet Water Supply*

Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to preliminarily accept the Director’s recommendations for Level II Feasibility projects - New Development with the exception of the Hot Springs County project to include an evaluation of surface water supplies and coordination with local ranchers. Commissioner Clinton Glick seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. The effect of this action was to not pursue the Owl Creek Test Well project nor the Sheridan Lake DeSmet Water Supply project. In the case of the Owl Creek Test Well, the Commission agreed with the Director’s recommendation that the Hot Springs County Test Well project could incorporate efforts for Owl Creek to avoid duplication. Regarding the Sheridan Lake DeSmet Water Supply project,

additional water supply is not needed for the City of Sheridan or the Sheridan Area Water System (SAWS) JPB systems until 2050 or later. Therefore, the regional interest in Lake DeSmet as a water source into the future should be discussed and understood between area municipal and domestic system managers before continuing forward.

A brief introduction was provided and Sponsors were present to provide overviews and answer questions for each of the following projects:

Level I Reconnaissance Projects – Rehabilitation

- *Big Horn Canal ID Master Plan*
- *Elk Canal Master Plan*
- *Horse Creek Conservation District Master Plan*
- *Midvale ID Master Plan*
- *Powder River ID Master Plan*
- *Strawberry Canal Master Plan*

A motion was made by Commissioner Clinton Glick to preliminarily approve all Level I Reconnaissance Projects – Rehabilitation, waiving the public entity requirement of the Sponsors for both the Elk Canal Master Plan Project and the Strawberry Canal Master Plan Project, at Level I only, per the Operating Criteria of the Water Development Program and to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. The motion was seconded by Secretary Lee Craig; motion carried with Commissioner Larry Suchor opposed.

6. Planning Project Amendments

- *Douglas Test Well, Level II Study, Amendment No. 4*
Project Manager George Moser presented a memo and proposed a contract amendment for the Douglas Test Well, Level II project to accommodate additional budget and time extension.
- *LaPrele ID Rehabilitation, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment No. 6*
Chace Tavelli, Project Manager provided a brief update and timeline of the project and proposed contract Amendment No. 6 for the LaPrele ID Rehabilitation, Level II, Phase II Study. Amendment No. 6 added additional scope to complete NEPA and advance the dam design to 30% increasing the contract amount by \$4.454 million. Amendment No. 6 is completely funded by Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act dollars through the Bureau of Reclamation.

Select Water Committee Member, Senator Dan Laursen, motioned to recommend approval of both project amendments, seconded by Representative Eklund; motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Lee Craig moved to approve the Douglas Test Well, Level II Study, Amendment No. 4, and the LaPrele ID Rehabilitation, Level II, Phase II Study, Amendment No. 6; seconded by Commissioner John Lawson and carried unanimously.

7. Small Water Program Project Amendment

- Lower Snake River Ranch Bank Stabilization & Fish Habitat, Amendment No. 3 (Time Only)

Jodie Pavlica, Small Water Project Program Manager, presented information explaining the additional one-year time extension.

Commissioner Clinton Glick made a motion to approve the Lower Snake River Ranch Bank Stabilization & Fish Habitat Amendment No. 3, seconded by Commissioner Larry Suchor; motion carried unanimously.

8. Groundwater Exploration Grant Application/Contract

- Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities

George Moser, Project Manager presented information and a brief summary regarding the project. Much discussion ensued.

Select Water Committee Member Representative John Eklund, moved to recommend approval of the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities Groundwater Exploration Grant Contract. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mark Kot moved to accept the Select Water Committee's recommendation to approve the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities Groundwater Grant Application. Commissioner John Lawson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

9. Planning Projects Consultant Selection & Contract Approval

- Green River/Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss Study

Jay Smith, Project Manager provided a brief summary of the project and reasons detailing the recommendation of Do Not Fund.

Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved that the Director not award a contract on the Green River/Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss, Level I Study project at this time, and also moved that the Office reopen the consultant selection process in tandem with the 2024 Level I & Level II Planning projects. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Kot; motion carried unanimously.

- Rawlins Water Master Plan

George Moser, Project Manager provided an overview of the project.

The selection Committee for the Rawlins Water Master Plan, Level I Project ranked the consulting firms interviewed in the following order:

1. WWC Engineering
2. Forsgren Associates, Inc
3. Y2 Consultants, LLC

Commissioner Larry Suchor moved the Director be instructed to contract with WWC Engineering for consulting services on the Rawlins Water Master Plan, Level I Project.

Further, the Selection Committee offered the following suggestions to the Director with respect to the contract:

1. Include Revised Scope Alteration No. 2 to use vacuum excavation methods to explore leakage occurring in the vicinity of Sage Creek Springs Junction Vault, at no cost. Additionally, excavate the Beaver Creek pipeline to verify the pipeline material and extent of replaced pipeline to the south of the junction box, at no cost.

Commissioner Clinton Glick seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Select Water Committee Members moved to recommend approval of the contract with a budget amount of \$248,100. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Secretary Lee Craig moved approval of the contract with WWC Engineering for consulting services on the Rawlins Water Master Plan, Level I Project with a budget of \$248,100. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Bob Choma; motion carried unanimously.

10. UW Water Research Program

- *Consideration of 2024 RFP for the UW Water Research Program*

UW Office of Water Programs and Administrator of the Water Research Program, Mr. Greg Kerr, provided information regarding topics for the UW Water Research Program 2024 RFP.

A motion from Select Water was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the UW Water Research Program 2024 RFP.

Commissioner Clinton Glick moved to approve the UW Water Research Program 2024 RFP. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton; motion carried unanimously.

11. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: Intended Use Plan

Bill Brewer, Construction Deputy Director, provided details regarding the Draft Intended Use Plan (IUP).

Select Water Committee moved to approve the Draft Intended Use Plan (IUP), motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

12. Fontenelle Reservoir – 3rd Party Contract Consideration

Director Jason Mead provided background information surrounding Fontenelle Reservoir 3rd Party Contracts. American Soda LLC approached the State of Wyoming for replacement water in case of a curtailment on the Colorado River. This contract is for 4,000 AF with an expiration date of December 31, 2052 with options to extend.

Commissioner Mark Kot moved that the contract between the State of Wyoming, Water Development Commission and American Soda LLC for the Fontenelle Reservoir 3rd Party

Contract be approved. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Bob Choma; motion carried unanimously.

13. Aladdin Water District – Water Service Contract Extension

Director Jason Mead provided an overview regarding the Aladdin Water District well. The Aladdin Water District would like to purchase the well, but hasn't been able to successfully acquire the funds necessary to do so thus far. The existing water contract expires July 16, 2023. The contract renewal provides a two-year extension, affording additional time for the District to continue to pursue funding options for purchasing the well.

Commissioner Lee Craig moved to approve the Aladdin Water District Water Service Contract Extension; seconded by Commissioner Todd Hoese; motion carried unanimously.

14. Construction Project Updates

- *Gillette Madison and Regional Extensions*
- *Leavitt Reservoir Expansion – Rebid*

Updates were provided regarding the Gillette Madison and Regional Extensions as well as Leavitt Reservoir Expansion – Rebid. This was for information only and did not require Commission action.

15. Idle Well – State No. 1 Test Well #1 Final Disposition

George Moser, Project Manager, provided a memo he prepared regarding Idle Well – State No. 1 Test Well #1 Final Disposition. Idle Wells (wells that remain outstanding and are not placed to any beneficial use) have been a discussion topic over the last few meetings and something the Water Development Office, in coordination with the Attorney General's Office, has been working on. State No. 1 Test Well #1 was drilled in 2011 as part of a Level II Feasibility Study for the Lance Creek Water and Sewer District. The Sponsor acquired one of the wells resulting from the study, but decided against acquisition of the State No. 1 Test Well #1 because the water contains dissolved arsenic. The grazing lessee associated with the State Land parcel on which the well is located has filed an application with the State Engineer's Office to use the State No.1 Test Well #1 for stock watering use.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton that the Water Development Commission direct the Water Development Office to prepare and send correspondence to the grazing lessee, the Office of State Land and Investments, and the State Engineer's Office informing them that the Commission supports efforts to place water to beneficial use within Wyoming, and that the Commission has no further project related interest in the State No. 1 Test Well #1, and to include information regarding the arsenic levels. Secretary Lee Craig seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

16. Future Meetings Schedule

The Joint WWDC\SWC Summer Workshop, Tour, and Meeting will be August 15-17 in the Cody\Powell area.

17. Discussion

Director Jason Mead provided an update as to the status of Middle Piney Reservoir. He said it is likely that another amendment to the project Special Use Permit with the US Forest Service will be needed and asked that he receive permission from the Water Development Commission to sign any such amendment to keep construction moving along.

Secretary Lee Craig made a motion to allow Director Jason Mead to sign the Special Use Permit Amendment when it becomes available. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clinton Glick; motion carried unanimously.

Director Jason Mead also informed the Commission about Jackson Lake releases being proposed by Reclamation and the potential implications to Wyoming's Palisades Reservoir Account. This discussion was informational only and required no Commission action.

18. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wyoming Water Development Commission was made by Secretary Lee Craig, and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Craig, Secretary