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## WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**WWDO Workshop:**  
**Wyoming Game & Fish – Cody Regional Office**  
**2 Tilden Trail | Cody, WY**  
**Meeting Room**  
**Tuesday, August 15th, 2023**

### Workshop Minutes

1. Chairman Ron Kailey called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.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 – Excused  
Clinton Glick - Excused  
Todd Hoese  
Mark Kot  
John Lawson - Virtual  
Dennis Pince -Excused  
Larry Suchor

Advisor Attendance:

Patrick Kent, Attorney General’s Office  
Greg Kerr, University of Wyoming

4. **Financial Status Update (A)**

Water Development Accounts I, II, and III:

Fiscal Manager David Ray provided an overview of Water Development Accounts I, II, and III. A question arose as to why the balance in Account I is lower than previous years. Non-Project administrative costs relative to market pay increases of state personnel, the funding of State Engineer’s Office Board of Control, and overall inflation were explained. Further discussion about budgets available for projects and the Board of Control budget ensued.

Reservoir Operation and Maintenance Accounts:

Director Jason Mead presented a memo to the Commission on behalf of the Water Development Office regarding the 9 Reservoir Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Accounts created under W.S. 99-99-1001(c); conversation ensued. All accounts were either determined to be stable, with no excess funds available or having no statutory provision to move excess funds, thus no action recommended.

**5. Planning Projects Consultant Selection Process Update (B)**

Deputy Director of Planning Barry Lawrence summarized the 13-month Water Development Project Funding and Consultant Selection process. Short listing was finalized on July 7, 2023 and firms have submitted their proposals for the 2024 planning projects which are pending review by the Commission and other selection team members. After the teams complete their reviews, firms will be ranked for a competitive interview process for each of the following projects:

Level I Projects – New Development

Alpine Water Master Plan  
Bairoil Water Master Plan  
Chugwater Water Master Plan  
Douglas Water Master Plan  
GR/RS/SC JPWB Regional Water Master Plan  
Green River/Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss Study  
Hudson Water Master Plan  
Salt River Watershed Study  
Shoshone Municipal Pipeline Regional Water Master Plan

Level II Projects – New Development

Burns Groundwater Supply  
Cody Area Evaluations 2024  
Greybull Water System Improvements  
Hot Springs County Supply Evaluation

Level I 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

Consultant Selection interviews will take place from October 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with the Consultant Selection Approval WWDC meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Discussion followed concerning the lack of submissions from different engineering firms since the Wyoming State Statue on professional services procurement, 9-23-105 changed in 2020. The 2020 statute change resulted in nonresident firm consideration only if no qualified resident firms apply.

**6. Operating Criteria**

Upper Colorado River Basin Fund MOA:

Director Mead summarized the Office's requested changes in Operating Criteria for the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund Memorandum of Agreement. The changes include references to MOA2 funding and associated effective dates, as well as application deadlines, consideration timelines, and other minor grammatical edits.

**7. Project Updates (C)**

Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Project:

Deputy Director of Construction Bill Brewer provided an overview of the construction funding history on the Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Project. The Project was originally bid in late 2021, but no award was made because of the lack of Project appropriated funds and the reluctance to use such a large portion of the Account III Sponsor's Contingency fund to cover the shortfall. Since that time value engineering has taken place and bidding documents were split into a number of smaller bid packages to encourage local contractor participation. The Project was recently re-let with bids coming in higher than 2021 and once again exceeding the Project appropriation and available Account III Sponsor Contingency funds. Kevin Mininger with RJH Consultants, the Project design engineer, spoke on behalf of the Shell Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID) to present a plan of awarding three of the four big packages, allowing negotiations to occur under those contracts and beginning construction in Fall 2023. The SVWID would then have a better understanding of the appropriation needed for the fourth bid package and would apply for the remaining funding through the WWDC and the 2024 Legislature, with the intent to re-let the fourth bid package in the spring of 2024. Director Mead and individuals from the SVWID answered questions and spoke on the merits of the Project. No opposition to the District's plan was expressed.

**8. USGS WY StreamStats Release Presentation (D)**

Barry Lawrence, Deputy Director of Planning gave an update on development of the USGS StreamStats program for the State of Wyoming. StreamStats is a map-based online analytical tool that can delineate watersheds, calculate basin characteristics, and provide streamflow information for streams in Wyoming. StreamStats is a national application that is being customized to meet the needs of Wyoming state agencies, engineers, water users, recreationists, and others. The WWDO has a contract with the USGS that began in October 2019 and goes through September, 2027 to further develop the tool. The first modules of the toolkit went live in June. Jason Alexander, Surface Water Section Chief, USGS Cheyenne, provided a presentation on the development of the program for Wyoming and demonstrated many of the features available now to end users.

**9. Sponsor Contingency Account Requests**

There were no sponsor contingency account requests requiring discussion.

**10. Discussion**

Director Mead spoke on the Commission's, Select Water Committee's and WWDO's recognition at the 2023 May meeting of the need for further project prioritization consideration in the future as the Program navigates inflation, increased demand, and less buying power with stagnant funding levels being affected by increasing non-project administrative costs. The Office has been contemplating a number of metrics that could be utilized to help with prioritization. However, it will be a learning process, starting with this year's applications, with more discussion with and feedback from the Commission and SWC needed. Discussion ensued.

Director Mead introduced Brian Duyck who is on the Heart Mountain Irrigation Board and owner of Beartooth Seed Cleaning Plant in Powell, WY. Brian announced the newly formed

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Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts (WAID). Two main goals of the Association are to protect water rights and save farmland. Their hope in coming together is to have a united voice within the state.

Secretary Lee Craig voiced his opinion on when the August WWDC/SWC workshop, tour, and meeting have been scheduled in recent years, causing conflicts with individuals who have obligations at the State Fair. The Office will work to find a week in August that has the least amount of conflicts for everyone attending.

### **11. Adjournment**

Secretary Lee Craig motioned to adjourn the workshop, Commissioner Todd Hoese seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Craig, Secretary