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## WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

JOINT MEETING: WWDC/Select Water Committee

Wyoming Game & Fish – Cody Regional Office

2 Tilden Trail | Cody, WY

Meeting Room

Thursday, August 17th, 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 -Excused  
Clinton Glick -Excused  
Todd Hoese  
Mark Kot  
John Lawson -Virtual  
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-Chair -Excused  
Rep. Jon Conrad  
Sen. Affie Ellis  
Sen. Mike Gierau  
Sen. Larry Hicks  
Sen. John Kolb  
Rep. J.T. Larson  
Sen. Dan Laursen  
Rep. Chip Neiman  
Rep. Albert Sommers  
Rep. Mike Yin

4. **Approval of Minutes (E)**

May 11, 2023 WWDC/SWC Joint Meeting Minutes:

Vice-Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023 Joint WWDC/SWC Meeting minutes. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded; motion carried unanimously.

5. **Operating Criteria (F)**

Upper Colorado River Basin Fund MOA:

Director Jason Mead briefly summarized the criteria changes and updates for the Upper Colorado River Basin MOA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Todd Hoese to accept the criteria changes for the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund MOA. Secretary Lee Craig seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**6. Upper Colorado River Basin Find MOA Project Modification (G)**

Flaming Gorge Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention - WGFD:

Bill Brewer, Deputy Director of Construction gave an overview of the original 2016 project and previously approved MOA funds. Joshua Leonard with Wyoming Game & Fish explained the WGFD's request for modification of their original request. The modification removes the construction of the new check station facility, mobile offices and signage, and utilizes the funding for personnel to operate the Flaming Gorge (Anvil and Firehole) and Evanston Port of Entry watercraft check stations for calendar years 2024-2026. A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton to approve the Flaming Gorge Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Modification. Commissioner Todd Hoese seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**7. Planning Project Closeout Memos (H)**

Town of Cokeville Groundwater Exploration Grant:

Project Manager George Moser reviewed the Town of Cokeville Groundwater Exploration Grant closeout memo.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Kot to move acceptance of the Town of Cokeville Groundwater Exploration Grant as being complete. Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**8. Planning Project Amendments (I)**

USGS WY Streamstats Joint Funding Agreement, Amendment No. 1:

Director Mead briefly reviewed the USGS Streamstats agreement and the modification to funding that was requested. The USGS was previously contributing 40%, \$420,600 to the Streamstats program, but now will be contributing an additional \$210,280, equating to 50%, \$630,880 for a combined total of \$1,261,760. The WWDC's contribution did not change.

A motion was made and seconded by the Select Water Committee to recommend approval of the USGS Streamstats joint funding Agreement, Amendment No. 1.

Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to approve the USGS Streamstats joint funding Agreement, Amendment No. 1. Commissioner Mark Kot seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

West Fork Reservoir Project Third-Party-NEPA Contractor Services, Amendment No. 1:

Director Mead gave a brief explanation for Amendment 1 of the West Fork Reservoir Project Third-Party-NEPA Contractor Services project. This amendment serves to extend the contract expiration date, add scope, and add funding which will allow for the NEPA process to continue for the preparation of the West Fork Reservoir Watershed Plan-EIS. Discussion ensued from the Select Water Committee and Director Mead on budgeting.

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A motion was made and seconded by the Select Water Committee to recommend approval of the West Fork Reservoir Project Third Party-NEPA Contractor Services, Amendment No.

1. Motion carried

Commissioner Mark Kot moved to approve the West Fork Reservoir Project Third Party-NEPA Contractor Services, Amendment No. 1. Commissioner Lee Craig seconded, the motion carried.

### **9. Small Water Project Program Amendments (J)**

Prairie Dog – Wildcat Creek Stock Water Development – Sheridan County CD

Project Manager Jodie Pavlica gave an overview of the change of project type for the Prairie Dog Wildcat Creek Stock Water Development Small Water Project (SWP). A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made and seconded by the Select Water Committee to recommend approval of the change of project type for the Prairie Dog Wildcat Creek Stock Water SWP.

Commissioner Lee Craig moved to approve the change of project type for the Prairie Dog Wildcat Creek Stock Water Development SWP. Commissioner Larry Suchor seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Considered as a block for approval:

Putney Ditch Pipeline Termination – Cottonwood Grass Creek WID

Putney Ditch Pipeline Agreement – Hot Springs CD

Spring Gulch Well Rehabilitation Termination – Cottonwood Grass Creek WID

Spring Gulch Well Rehabilitation Agreement – Hot Springs CD

Program Manager Jodie Pavlica briefly described the termination and new agreement for each of the above SWP's. These changes are being made because Cottonwood Grass Creek WID dissolved and the Hot Springs CD is taking over the contracts. A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made and seconded by the Select Water Committee to recommend approval of the terminations and new agreements of the Putney Ditch Pipeline and Spring Gulch Well Rehabilitation.

Commissioner Larry Suchor moved to approve the terminations and new agreements of the Putney Ditch Pipeline and Spring Gulch Well Rehabilitation. Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### **10. Ground Water Exploration Grant Application/Contract (K)**

Northern Arapahoe Tribe:

Program Manager George Moser provided a description of the Ground Water Grant (GWG) program and specifically the Northern Arapahoe Tribe application for a GWG. The WWDO recommended that the Commission do not fund the Northern Arapahoe Tribe Ground Water Exploration Grant because there wasn't an apparent and immediate need for the water. Discussion ensued to provide clarification on the application to the Commission and Select Water Committee. The sponsor of the application did not attend the meeting.

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A motion was made and seconded by the Select Water Committee to recommend acceptance of the WWDO's recommendation of do not fund.

Commissioner Larry Suchor moved to accept the WWDO's recommendation of do not fund. Commissioner Dennis Pince seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### **11. Sponsor Contingency Account Requests**

There were no sponsor contingency account requests requiring discussion.

### **12. Discussion**

#### Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Project:

Commissioner Todd Hoese made a motion expressing support of the Shell Valley Watershed Improvement District in awarding 3 out of 4 contracts on the Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Project. Commissioner Mark Kot seconded. A brief discussion ensued. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Select Water Committee Future Meeting Schedule:

Chairman Cheri Steinmetz announced the upcoming joint SWC/Agriculture Committee meeting in Pinedale, WY from September 11-12, 2023.

#### General:

Commissioner Larry Suchor expressed his thoughts on sponsors following through with planning recommendations and instances where projects could be simple and low cost enough where it may be appropriate to go straight to construction, rather than using what could be an equivalent amount of funds for planning. Discussion ensued.

### **13. Future Meetings Schedule (L)**

Director Mead discussed the dates of October 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> for the Consultant Selection Interview and WWDC Meeting. The interviews and meeting will be held in Cheyenne, WY.

### **14. Adjourn**

Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton motioned to adjourn the meeting for the Water Development Commission. Commissioner Todd Hoese seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Craig, Secretary