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## WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### WWDC WORKSHOP

Wyoming Oil & Gas Meeting Room  
2211 King Boulevard | Casper, WY 82601  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023

#### Workshop Minutes

1. Chairman Ron Kailey called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.
2. **Recognition of Members Present to Establish Quorum** – Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton

Commission Attendance:

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

Advisor Attendance:

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

3. **High Savery Reservoir Lands Grazing**

Director Mead reintroduced a discussion that was briefly mentioned at the October WWDC meeting. Adjacent landowners are interested in potentially grazing lands that are owned by the WWDC for the operation of High Savery Reservoir and the mitigation that was required in the original permitting of the Project. Director Mead presented maps of High Savery to further explain the mitigation process of High Savery. Based on the stipulations outlined in the 404 Permit and MOU with the Bureau of Land Management, Director Mead concluded that the WWDO will continue to work with Senator Hicks and potential interested land owners, as well as the Corps of Engineers to consider a grazing management plan for the future scenario. Patrick Kent with the Attorney General’s Office spoke briefly about the legalities and authorities associated with the grazing lands that the WWDC owns. A brief discussion ensued.

4. **Critical Aging Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment, Level I Study**

Director Mead introduced Jay Schug and Jill Pehl with Trihydro Corporation. Mr. Schug presented the draft results of the Critical Aging Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment, Level I Study to the Commission. He covered the following study topics as part of his presentation: critical structures, definition of criticality, Rehabilitation Priority Index (RPI), the master Critical Aging Irrigation Infrastructure (CAII) Database, Infrastructure

Assessment Plan (IAP), Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plan (IRP), and conceptual level costs for priority structures. Mr. Schug also went over the recommendations from this study, including maintaining the database for ongoing prioritization efforts. A brief discussion ensued regarding how to optimize state dollars with respect to aging irrigation infrastructure in the State. It was recommended that the WWDO notify the owners of the top 31 structures assessed as to the results of the study with respect to their specific structures.

**5. State of Wyoming Cloud Seeding Program**

Program Manager Julie Gondzar provided a brief overview of Wyoming's Cloud Seeding Program to include ground based operations targeting the Sierra Madre and Wind River Ranges; and aerial operations targeting the Sierra Madre and Medicine Bow Ranges. The former is part of a flow augmentation program for the Upper Colorado River Basin partially funded by Lower Colorado River Basin entities. Ms. Gondzar then introduced Dr. Sarah Tessendorf, Project Scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) who presented the draft results of the Operations Hydrological Assessment, Medicine Bow & Sierra Madre Mountain Ranges, Level II Study.

Dr. Tessendorf provided an extensive presentation on the results of evaluating the precipitation changes and subsequent streamflow impacts due to cloud seeding operations in the Medicine Bow & Sierra Madre Ranges with actual seeding data collected during one operational season (2019-2020) in the target areas. The overall project goal was to quantify the impacts of aerial cloud seeding over the mountain ranges as well as subsequent impacts on streamflow in the North Platte and Little Snake River Basins. Throughout this presentation Dr. Tessendorf and her team outlined the cloud seeding process, the domain study area, the WRF-WxMod model, calibration efforts, the WRF-Hydro model and the results from the study to include additional yield to the system. A cost benefit analysis from the seeding effect and initial operational recommendations were also shared by Dr. Tessendorf as were unique ancillary seeding signatures observed by the Cheyenne National Weather Service Office radar during project operations. A robust discussion followed Dr. Tessendorf's presentation to include recent advances in the science along with several commissioners and legislators asking that the presentation be made available online.

**6. New Funding Applications and Amendments – Preliminary Review (A)**

Director Mead discussed the existing funding available through the Water Development Accounts and the number of applications received for new projects. He then explained the demand for projects this year and the inability to fund all project requests. Previously, the WWDO has been able to provide for 67% grant on construction projects, however, this year the office offered 50% grant on such projects that were recommended to fund. It was stressed that the WWDO recommended that Sponsors also work to pursue federal grants to help fund the difference in eligible projects. Director Mead also briefly reviewed the planning projects that were introduced at the May meeting. The WWDO is working diligently at distributing funding equally to potential projects. A brief discussion ensued regarding the consultant selection process for planning projects.

**7. Adjourn**

Vice-Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoese. The motion was then approved unanimously and the Workshop was adjourned.