



WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

JOINT MEETING: WWDC/Select Water Committee

Wyoming Oil & Gas Meeting Room

2211 King Boulevard | Casper, WY 82601

November 8-9, 2023

Joint Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

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** – Vice Chair, Liisa Anselmi-Dalton

<u>Commission Attendance:</u>	<u>Select Water Attendance:</u>
Ron Kailey, Jr, Chairman	Sen. Cheri Steinmetz, Chairman
Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, Vice-Chairman	Rep. Albert Sommers, Vice-Chairman
Leonard “Lee” Craig, Secretary -Excused	Sen. Affie Ellis
Robert “Bob” Choma	Sen. Mike Gierau
Clinton Glick	Sen. Larry Hicks
Todd Hoese	Sen. John Kolb
Mark Kot	Sen. Dan Laursen
John Lawson	Rep. Jon Conrad
Dennis Pince	Rep. Barry Crago
Larry Suchor -Excused	Rep. J.T. Larson
	Rep. Chip Nieman
	Rep. Mike Yin

<u>Advisor Attendance:</u>
Greg Kerr, University of Wyoming
Patrick Kent, Attorney General’s Office
4. **Approval of Minutes (B)**
October 5, 2023 WWDC Meeting Minutes:
Commissioner Choma moved approval of the minutes for the October 5, 2023 WWDC Meeting. Commissioner Dennis Pince seconded; motion carried unanimously.
5. **Planning Project Amendments (C)**
Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Final Design, Amendment No. 3
Director Mead presented a memo on the contract amendment for the Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Final Design project. This amendment is a time extension of three years to allow

the consultant to complete the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) after the construction of the reservoir is nearing its end. The new contract expiration is December 31st, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Kot to accept Amendment No. 3 for the Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Final Design time extension. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clinton Glick; motion carried unanimously.

6. Planning Project Contact Approval (D)

Green River\Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss, Level I Study

Director Mead introduced this project and its purpose. This project has gone through the Consultant Selection process and was ready to be approved.

A motion was made and seconded by the Select Water Committee (SWC) to recommend Approval of the Green River\Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss, Level I Study contract.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton to move acceptance of the Green River/Little Snake River Basins Conveyance Loss, Level I Study contract. Commissioner Todd Hoese seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

7. 2024 Funding Recommendations – New Development Program (See Attachment to the Agenda)

Director Mead presented the following for Water Development Account I:

Level III Projects

• Big Horn Regional JPB Lucerne Tank and Pump Station 2024 (A)

The Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO) recommended a budget in the amount of \$143,300 for Pre-Construction costs (including: design, bidding documents, access permits, easements, and title of opinion) of the Big Horn Regional JPB Lucerne Tank and Pump Station. John Joyce, a representative with Big Horn Regional JPB was present to further advocate for the project and answer questions that arose. The WWDO is not recommending Construction funds at this time, but it would be a good project for the SWC to consider for a supplemental water Bill.

Senator Hicks made a recommendation to each sponsor that is potentially receiving funding through the general fund to be in contact with legislative officials near the project area to get additional support for the potential bill to pass. A brief discussion ensued.

• Cloud Seeding: Medicine Bow & Sierra Madre Mountain Range 2025 (aerial) (B)

A budget in the amount of \$825,000 was recommended for the continuation of aerial cloud seeding operations targeting the Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre Mountain ranges, located in southeast Wyoming within the North Platte River Basin and Little Snake River Basin, for the 2024-2025 winter season.

• Cloud Seeding: Wind River & Sierra Madre Mountain Ranges 2025 (ground-based) (C)

The Office recommended \$298,651 for the continuation of cloud seeding operations over the Wind River Mountains and west slope of the Sierra Madre Mountains, for the 2024-2025 winter season. This project represents the continuation of snow augmentation efforts as part of a larger strategy for snow enhancements within Wyoming's drainages of the larger Colorado River Basin. A brief discussion ensued.

• Skyline ISD Well Connection 2024 (D)

The Office recommended a budget of \$448,000 to replace pumps in the existing system, to modernize operations. Bob Norton, a sponsor representative was present at the meeting to answer any questions about the project. A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton to move acceptance of the WWDO recommendations to approve all New Development, Level III, Account I projects in the amount of \$1,714,951. Commissioner Bob Choma seconded; motion carried unanimously.

After the Level III 2024 Funding Recommendations – New Development Program review, a discussion broke out related to Sponsor's ability to pay their share of project costs. The discussion focused on reserve funds and customer's abilities to pay increase assessments. Director Mead explained that these items were reviewed as part of the planning projects. Senator Hicks also stated that the Commission could go as high as 75% grant funds and that the Legislature could go to 100% in special circumstances if needed. The discussion then moved on to the Level III amendments.

Level III Projects – Amendments

• Arapahoe Water Supply 2016 (E)

The Office recommended a two-year time extension only to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2026. This project consists of the installation of three separate transmission main sections. Because of delays in the acquisition of easements, the Project schedule has been delayed. Jola Wallowingbull attended the meeting to answer questions.

• Buffalo Wells and Transmission 2019 (F)

The Office recommended a two-year time extension only to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2026. The current phase for this project is for design and construction of the transmission piping and appurtenances to connect the wells to the existing treatment plant. The City is requesting a time extension for this project due to COVID- related delays. Kevin Silbernagel was present at the meeting to answer any questions. A brief discussion ensued.

• Clearmont Well Connection 2019 (G)

The Office recommended a two-year time extension only to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2026. The Town of Clearmont requested this extension due to unexpected water quality issues. The previously approved budget will remain the same. Mayor Chris Schock and Levi Hime with Weston Engineering attended the meeting virtually to answer any questions.

*There were technical difficulties with the audio of those attending remotely, everyone at the meeting could not hear those online.

• *Gillette Madison Pipeline (H)*

The Office recommended a two-year time extension only to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2026. This project is a regional water supply that will service 42 districts. The time extension was requested to ensure that components with long-lead times for delivery can be obtained and installed prior to the funds reverting. Joe Schoen with the City of Gillette spoke a brief overview of the project and stood to answer questions.

• *Happy Valley Water Transmission and Storage 2023 (I)*

It was recommended by the Office to not make any changes to the current contract for this project. The Sponsor requested \$3,000,000 to begin construction, but the progress of design is less than 30% complete. The WWDO recommends that the sponsor reapply for funding after the design has reached at least 50% and all easements have been obtained. Mark Erickson with Happy Valley Water Improvement and Service District and Jason Linford with Sunrise Engineering attended the meeting to answer any questions. A brief discussion ensued. Again, it was explained that the WWDO is not recommending Construction funds at this time, but that the SWC could consider this project in a supplemental water Bill.

• *Lander Storage Tanks and Pump Station 2019 (J)*

The Office recommended a one-year time extension only to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2025. This project is to replace three existing water tanks and the hospital pumping station that are near failure, construction is currently underway but will not be completed by July 1, 2024. Lance Hopkin with the City of Lander attended the meeting to answer any questions.

• *Lander Well and Transmission Pipeline 2021 (K)*

The Sponsor requested a budget increase in the amount of \$2,397,930 to complete and connect four new wells to the City's storage tank. The WWDO recommended that the Commission do not fund the project at this time. The Office also recommends that the sponsor seek alternative funding for this project, and if funding is not obtained in full, that the Sponsor request Sponsor's Contingency Funds after bids are received and actual funding need can be determined. Lance Hopkin with the City of Lander gave a brief overview of the project and stood to answer any questions. A brief discussion ensued.

• *Laramie North Side Tank (L)*

The Office recommended a one-year time extension only to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2025. This project consists of a pump station, transmission pipelines, pressure reducing stations and 1.0MG water storage tank, construction is currently underway but will not be completed by July 1, 2024. William Winkler and Eric Jaap with the City of Laramie were present at the meeting to advocate for the project's time extension.

• *Sheridan Area Water Supply Transmission 2020 (M)*

The Sponsor requested a budget increase in the amount of \$4,486,320 to complete the project. The City made the determination that the present cost of the Project does not justify

the benefits it will provide and the responsible thing to do would be to relinquish the WWDC grant and continue to operate and maintain the existing transmission main in its current condition. When the City completes the requirements to relinquish the Project grant, the entire grant of \$3,102,100 will be reverted to Account I. The WWDO recommendation is to go through the process on relinquishing the funding. Dan Roberts with the City of Sheridan attended the meeting to explain the reasoning behind the decision to not move forward with the project. A brief discussion ensued.

Removed from block approval:

Vice-Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton made a motion to remove the Sheridan Area Water Supply Transmission 2020 Project and the Small Water Project Program -New Development recommendation from the block approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Todd Hoese to effectuate the reversion of the appropriation as requested by the Sponsor. Motion seconded; motion carried unanimously.

• Sheridan Northeast Transmission Main Extension 2023 (Mc)

The Sponsor requested a budget increase in the amount of \$2,447,510 to extend the water supply system through an undeveloped area of Sheridan providing major water transmission improvements to the northeast side of Sheridan. The WWDO recommended that the Commission do not fund at this time, but to reapply for funding after the design has reached at least 50% and all easements have been obtained.

An extended discussion ensued as three customers of Sheridan Area Water Supply (SAWS) joined for public comment. This discussion included their support of the WWDO recommendation to not fund the project as well as their opinion that the above project (Sheridan Area Water Supply Transmission 2020 project) should continue.

• Small Water Project Program – New Development (N)

This program provides funding for small water projects including small reservoirs, wells, pipelines and conveyance facilities, springs, solar platforms, irrigation works, windmills, environmental projects, rural community fire suppression, recreational, and wetland developments. This program currently has a sunset date of July 1, 2025, in the past the date was extended 10 years. Director Mead opened up discussion to extend the sunset date for another 10 years or to eliminate the sunset date completely.

The WWDO recommended a budget increase of \$1,000,000 and to extend the sunset date for the Program. A brief discussion ensued regarding the sunset date and possible elimination of it.

Removed from block approval:

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi- Dalton to eliminate the sunset date and fund the requested \$1,000,000 for the Small Water Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Lawson.

A recommendation was then made and seconded by the Select Water Committee to extend the sunset date 10 years, making the new sunset date July 1, 2035 and fund the requested \$1,000,000 for the Small Water Program.

The Commissioners continued their discussion based on the SWC's recommendation. Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton decided to proceed with her previous motion of eliminating the sunset date. Commissioner Lawson seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to eliminate the sunset date for the Small Water Program Rehabilitation account as well.

Regarding all Account I, Level III project Amendments (if not previously removed):

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton to accept the WWDO recommendations to approve New Development, Level III, Account I Amendments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Kot; motion carried unanimously.

Level II Projects

Director Mead explained that each of the Level I and II projects had been thoroughly discussed at the May 2023 Joint Commission\Select Water Meeting at which time approval was granted to begin consultant selection. He stated that the selection process was now complete with budgets being established for each of the Level I and II projects in the following amounts:

• Burns Groundwater Supply (O) -Do Not Fund

The Office recommends to do not fund this project because the cost of \$2,010,000 would take a significant portion of the funding that was available for planning studies under the Water Development Program

Judy Johnstone with the City of Burns attended the meeting virtually to advocate for the project. A brief discussion ensued to include the notion that the project was specifically targeting water quality issues rather than water supply issues and other water treatment options and costs should be investigated first.

• Cody Area Evaluation 2024 (P) -\$139,000

• Greybull Water System Improvements (Q) -\$160,000

• Hot Springs County Supply Evaluation (R) -\$365,000

Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to accept the WWDO recommendations to approve three out of the four New Development, Level II, Account I Projects in the amount of \$664,000. Commissioner Mark Kot seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Level II Projects - Amendments

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- Pavillion Groundwater Supply (S)

The Office recommended a budget increase of \$429,000 to fund the construction of a deep test well. This additional appropriation is now required to complete the project due to unanticipated increases in well construction costs.

Commissioner Mark Kot moved acceptance of the New Development, Level II Amendment in the amount of \$429,000. Commissioner Dennis Pince seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Level I Projects

- Alpine Water Master Plan (T) - \$153,000
- Bairoil Water Master Plan (U) - \$147,000
- Chugwater Water Master Plan (V) - \$209,000
- Douglas Water Master Plan (W) - \$286,000
- GR/RS/SC JPWB Regional Water Master Plan (XYZ) - \$432,000
- Hudson Water Master Plan (A2) - \$210,000
- Salt River Watershed Study (B2) - \$344,000
- Shoshone Municipal Pipeline Regional Water Master Plan (C2) - \$216,000
- Sinclair Water Master Plan (D2) - \$147,000

A motion by Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton was made to move acceptance of the WWDO recommendations to approve all New Development, Level I, Account I Projects in the amount of \$2,144,000. Motion seconded; motion carried unanimously.

General/Other

- UW Office of Water Programs (E2)

This program is charged with identifying research needs of State and Federal agencies regarding Wyoming's water resources and serving as a point of coordination to encourage water related research. The Office made a recommendation of \$175,000 to fund the UW Office of Water Programs for the biennium (July 1, 2024- June 30th, 2026). Director Greg Kerr with the University of Wyoming was present at the meeting to answer questions. A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Commissioners Clinton Glick to move acceptance of the WWDO recommendation of \$175,000. Commissioner Lawson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

- UW Water Research Program (F2)

A recommendation was made to fund water research projects under the UW Water Research Program, the budget amount yet to be determined. Final approval as to which projects are included in the WRP block funding request as part of the Omnibus Water Planning Bill will be determined by the WWDC and the SWC at a later date.

- 2024 Account I Transfer (G2)

The Office proposed a recommendation to transfer \$7,000,000 from WDA I to WDA II to mitigate the WDA II fund deficit for this year. This would leave approximately half the funds

currently in each account for the 2nd year of the biennium (2025). Specifically, this would leave \$12,834,628 in WDA I and \$5,604,414 in WDA II.

Commissioner Todd Hoese moved to approve the \$7,000,000 transfer of funds from WDA I to WDA II as recommended by the Office. Motion seconded; motion carried unanimously.

8. 2024 Funding Recommendations – Dam and Reservoir Program (See Attachment to the Agenda)

Director Mead presented the following for Water Development Account III:

Level III Projects -Amendments

• Leavitt Reservoir Expansion (H2)

It was recommended by the Office that there be an extension to the reversion date from July 1, 2027 to July 1, 2028 and an increase to the budget of \$10,850,000. A brief discussion ensued concerning project costs and operating and maintenance concerns.

• Middle Piney Reservoir (I2)

It was recommended by the Office that there be a one-year time extension only extending the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2025. The project is substantially complete; however, some additional cleanup will be performed in the spring of 2024 to allow potential filling and operation of the dam in the summer of 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Todd Hoese to accept the WWDO recommendations to approve all Dam and Reservoir, Level III, Account III project amendments in the amount of \$10,850,000. Commissioner Dennis Pince seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

General/Other

• Sponsor’s Contingency Fund

The Office recommended that there be an increase to the Account III Sponsor’s Contingency Fund in the amount of \$10,000,000. Director Mead explained the purpose of the Sponsor’s Contingency Fund and discussion was brought up about adding more than the recommendation into the Contingency Fund, with the discussion concluding that the Sponsor’s Contingency Fund be increased in the amount of \$20,000,000.

Commissioner Mark Kot moved to increase the Sponsor’s Contingency Fund in Account III in the amount of \$20,000,00; motion carried unanimously.

9. Adjourn

A recess for the Wyoming Water Development Commission and Select Water Committee Joint Meeting was called by Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton. The Commission and Committee would reconvene the next morning, November 9, 2023.

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

1. Chairman Ron Kailey, Jr. called the joint meeting to order at 8:33 a.m., reconvening from the recess on November 8, 2023.
2. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. Recognition of Members Present to Establish Quorum – Vice-Chair Liisa Anselmi-Dalton

Commission Attendance:

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

Select Water Attendance:

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

Advisor Attendance:

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

Commissioner Bob Choma made a motion allowing Vice-Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton to sign Commission documents in Secretary Lee Craig’s absence. Commissioner Dennis Pince seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

4. 2024 Funding Recommendations –Rehabilitation Program (See Attachment to the Agenda)

Director Mead presented the following for Water Development Account II:

Level III Projects

• *Bridger Valley JPB Tank Replacement 2024 (K2)*

The Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO/Office) recommended a budget in the amount of \$728,500 for the design and construction of a 500,000-gallon water tank and appurtenances necessary to complete the project. Project funding is contingent on the Legislature approving a \$7,000,000 transfer of funds from WDA I to WDA II. Troy Anderson, a representative with the Bridger Valley Joint Powers Board joined online to answer any questions. A brief discussion ensued.

• *Dayton Water System Rehabilitation 2024 (L2)*

The Office recommended a budget in the amount of \$200,000 to rehabilitate the existing infiltration gallery adjacent to the Tongue River. Clifford Reed with the City of Dayton was

present at the meeting to answer any questions and advocate for the project. A brief discussion ensued.

• *Deaver ID Laterals 2024 (M2)*

The Office recommended a budget in the amount of \$172,000 to replace 2 portions of laterals that are failing. Jerry Dart, a representative from the Deaver Irrigation District attended the meeting to advocate for the project. A brief discussion ensued.

• *Dry Creek ID Phase V 2024 (Mc2)*

The Office recommended a budget in the amount of \$777,000 to replace pipe for laterals LS-1 and LN-3. Project funding is contingent on the Legislature approving a \$7,000,000 transfer of funds from WDA I to WDA II. Rollin Gardner with Dry Creek Irrigation District was present at the meeting to answer any questions. A brief discussion ensued.

• *Hanover ID Bighorn River Flume Replacement 2024 (N2)*

The Office recommended a budget in the amount of \$1,500,000 to replace the current 100-year old flume and bridge. Project funding is contingent on the Legislature approving a \$7,000,000 transfer of funds from WDA I to WDA II. Stephen Snyder a representative with Hanover Irrigation District attended the meeting to advocate for the project and answer questions. A brief discussion ensued.

• *Kirby Ditch ID Pipeline Phase II 2024 (O2)*

The Office recommended a budget in the amount of \$1,882,500 to complete Phase II of the project, which includes a pipeline intake structure and converting two segments of open ditch to pipeline. Project funding is contingent on the Legislature approving a \$7,000,000 transfer of funds from WDA I to WDA II. Chip Axtell with the Kirby Ditch Irrigation District attended the meeting to answer any questions. A brief discussion ensued.

• *Laramie Dowlin Diversion Rehabilitation 2024 (P2)*

The Office recommended a budget in the amount of \$1,137,500 to rehabilitate the Dowlin Diversion, replace the slide gates, and add fish passage to the diversion. Project funding is contingent on the Legislature approving a \$7,000,000 transfer of funds from WDA I to WDA II. Janine Jordan and Jay Smith representatives with the City of Laramie were present at the meeting to explain the project and answer any questions. An extended discussion ensued regarding the history and plans for this project.

• *Lovell Bench Lateral 2024 (Q2)*

The Office recommended a budget in the amount of \$1,448,000 to convert 5,300 feet of irrigation canal to pipe and will be the fifth phase of enclosing the lateral. Project funding is contingent on the Legislature approving a \$7,000,000 transfer of funds from WDA I to WDA II. Willie Bridges with Pryor Mountain Engineering was present at the meeting to advocate for the project and provide a brief explanation. An extended discussion ensued regarding value engineering and grant funding.

• Ranchester Transmission Line 2024 (R2)

It was recommended by the Office to fund \$268,600 of pre-construction only for the installation of dedicated transmission pipelines between the water treatment plant and the tank. Jeff Roselund with DOWL was present at the meeting to provide an overview of the Town of Ranchester's current water system and the benefit of the project. Mayor Peter Clark and Will Newbold also joined virtually to answer any questions. A brief discussion ensued.

• Wheatland Tank Replacement 2024 (S2)

The Office recommended a budget in the amount of \$2,685,500 to replace one of the town's 1-million-gallon portable water storage tanks with a half million-gallon elevated water tank. Ray Catellier and Rick Keck with the City of Wheatland were present at the meeting to advocate for the project and answer questions.

Commissioner Mark Kot moved to accept the WWDO recommendations to approve all Level III Rehabilitation, Account II Projects in the amount of \$10,799,600. Commissioner John Lawson seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Level III Projects - Amendments

• Austin-Wall Reservoir Rehabilitation 2019 (T2)

The Office recommended a two-year time extension only to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2026. This project is to rehabilitate the reservoir to reduce water loss. Austin-Wall Irrigation District has received federal funding to help with this project, however, the process slowed the progress of the project.

• Eden Valley ID System Improvements 2019 (U2)

The Office recommended a two-year time extension only to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to June 1, 2026. This project is the design and construction of 1,100 feet of canal lining and a sand trap structure. This project was put on hold due to funding and grant circumstances, a time extension is recommended to allow the District to obtain additional funding to finish the construction of the project. Jim Mines and Brian Deeter were present at the meeting to answer questions. A brief discussion ensued.

• Interstate Diversion Structure Rehabilitation 2019 (V2)

The Office recommended a two-year time extension only to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2026. This project is to replace the deteriorated Burnt Creek diversion structure with a new concrete structure. This project was delayed by efforts to obtain Bureau of Reclamation Basin States Program funding as well as land access issues. Brian Andrew and Dana Wilkinson attended remotely to answer questions. A brief discussion ensued.

• Owl Creek ID System Improvements (W2)

The Office recommended a one-year time extension to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2027 to July 1, 2028. The Sponsor also requested an additional \$1,000,000 grant. However, the WWDO recommended that the Sponsor request Sponsor's Contingency Funds when the project and additional funds from other sources are ready. This project includes three grouped projects to improve the lower area of the Owl Creek Irrigation District. Matt Brown

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

and Paul Ward were present at the meeting to advocate for the project. An extended discussion ensued.

• *Wind River Inter-Tribal Council Rehabilitation 2019 (XYZ2)*

The Office recommended a one-year time extension only to extend the reversion date from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2025. This Project is to rehabilitate the entire irrigation system. Funding problems have previously delayed the project so a time extension is recommended. Lokilo StClair joined the meeting virtually to answer any questions and advocate for the project. A brief discussion ensued.

Commissioner Bob Choma moved to accept the WWDO's time extension recommendations for all Rehabilitation, Level III, Account II Amendments. Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Level I Projects

Director Mead explained that each of the Level I and II projects had been thoroughly discussed at the May 2023 Joint Commission\Select Water Meeting at which time approval was granted to begin consultant selection. He stated that the selection process was now complete with budgets being established for each of the Level I and II projects in the following amounts:

• *Big Horn Canal ID Master Plan (A3) - \$289,000*

• *Elk Canal Master Plan (B3) - Do Not Fund - Not a Public Entity*

Fred Hopkin with the Elk Water Users Association was present at the meeting to explain where they are at in the process to become a Public Entity. Because of how far the Elk Water Users were in the process of becoming a Public Entity, they requested a reconsideration on the Do Not Fund WWDO recommendation.

The Commission, Select Water Committee (SWC) and Director Mead discussed the possibility of approving funding for both this project and the Strawberry Canal Water Master Plan, with the caveat that, funding cannot be expended until they have formed Public Entities.

• *Strawberry Canal Master Plan (F3) - Do Not Fund - Not a Public Entity*

Julie Ollenslager and Lauren Preston attended the meeting to advocate for the Project. Strawberry Canal Company has begun the process to become a Public Entity. A brief discussion ensued.

Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to not accept the WWDO recommendation of Do Not Fund for both the Elk Canal Master Plan and the Strawberry Canal Master Plan, but approve the funding in the amount of \$500,000 (Elk Canal Master Plan - \$265,000, Strawberry Canal Master Plan - \$235,000), contingent upon both Sponsor's forming a Public Entity prior to expending funds. Commissioner Bob Choma seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

• Horse Creek Conservation District Master Plan (C3) - \$248,000

• Midvale ID Master Plan (D3) - \$409,000

• Powder River ID Master Plan (E3) - \$176,000

Commissioner Bob Choma moved to accept the WWDO recommendations for the remainder of the Rehabilitation, Level I, Account II Projects in the amount of \$1,122,000. Commissioner Dennis Pince seconded; motion carried unanimously.

5. Construction Manager at Risk Construction Delivery Method (E)

Cory Foreman with HDR, Inc. gave a presentation on an alternate procurement method called Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR). It is proposed that this delivery method would replace the current agreement the WWDO has with the Goshen ID Tunnel Rehabilitation Project.

Throughout his presentation, Mr. Foreman explained how CMAR can help manage project risks, project budgets, scheduling, and permitting better than other project delivery methods. He reviewed the Design-Bid Build project delivery method and the CMAR delivery method to highlight the differences and show how CMAR provides cost certainty with a guaranteed maximum price.

An extended discussion ensued regarding the CMAR process, the advantages and disadvantages, and how it would be implemented. Both GID and the LaPrele Irrigation Districts are in favor of pursuing the CMAR process after project agreements are in place.

A motion was made and seconded by the SWC to recommend to the Commission that they move forward with the CMAR Delivery Method on the Goshen ID Tunnel Rehabilitation Project.

Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to accept the contract change to the CMAR Delivery Method for the Goshen ID Tunnel Rehabilitation Project. Commissioner Bob Choma seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

6. Other Items Requiring Commission Action

Omnibus Water Bills:

Director Mead opened up a discussion for additional direction on the Omnibus Water Bill and the projects that were not recommended to be funded through WWDC dollars.

A motion was made and seconded by the Select Water Committee (SWC) to place the following four projects in the Construction Omnibus Water Bill to be funded out of the General Fund: Big Horn Regional JPB Lucerne Tank and Pump Station 2024, Happy Valley Water Transmission and Storage 2023, Ranchester Transmission Line 2024, and Sheridan Northeast Transmission Main Extension 2023. The motion passed.

An amendment to the motion was made and seconded by the SWC to remove Sheridan Northeast Transmission Main Extension 2023 Project from the Construction Omnibus Water Bill. The motion passed.

Another amendment to the motion was made and seconded by the SWC to keep Sheridan Northeast Transmission Main Extension 2023 in the Construction Omnibus Water Bill and could be removed later if they did not meet the requirements. The motion failed.

A motion was made by the SWC to place the Burns Groundwater Supply Project on the Planning Omnibus Water Bill to be funded out of the General Fund. This motion was not seconded and therefore died due to lack of a second.

Director Mead opened up discussion for the Goshen ID Rehabilitation Project and the LaPrele ID Rehabilitation Project regarding language on the Omnibus Water Bills for this legislative session.

A motion was made to remove the added language in 2023 from the Supplemental Water Bill from 2022 about SLIB and reset it to the Legislature. The motion was seconded by the SWC to update the language on the Omnibus Water Bill for the Goshen ID Rehabilitation Project and the LaPrele ID Rehabilitation Project that the Legislature can authorize those projects and the funding. The motion passed.

Small Water Projects Time Extension:

Director Mead opened up a discussion regarding six Small Water Projects that were approaching their expiration date of the agreement. The Little Snake Conservation District is requesting an extension to the reversion date of one-year to all six Small Water Project Agreements.

Commissioner Bob Choma moved to accept the time extension to the six Small Water Project agreements for the Little Snake Conservation District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clinton Glick; motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion

Director Mead announced that the Office and specifically Chace Tavelli applied for Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP), NRCS Funding earlier this summer and was successful in getting their maximum grant of \$25,000,000 to complete water efficiency projects in the Colorado River Basin within Wyoming.

8. Future Meeting Schedule (F)

Director Mead presented the proposed meeting schedule for the 2024 WWDC meetings.

Commissioner Clinton Glick moved to adopt the future meeting schedule. Vice-Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

9. Adjourn

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Liisa Anselmi-Dalton to adjourn the Wyoming Water Development Commission and Select Water Committee Joint Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clinton Glick. The Joint Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard "Lee" Craig, Secretary