WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

JOINT MEETING: WWDC/SWC
Water Development Office
6920 Yellowtail Road | Cheyenne, WY
Downstairs Conference Room
Thursday May 7, 2026

Meeting Minutes

1. Vice Chairman Dennis Pince called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

2. Recognition of Members Present to Establish a Quorum – Secretary Dennis Pince

Commission Attendance:
Robert "Bob" Choma, Chairman -Virtual
Dennis Pince Vice-Chairman
Todd Hoese, Secretary
Liisa Anselmi-Dalton
Leonard "Lee" Craig
Ron Kailey, Jr.
Mark Kot
John Lawson - Virtual
Ronald Vore - Excused
Jared White Bull - Virtual

Select Water Attendance:
Representative Martha Lawley, Chairwoman
Senator Brian Boner, Vice-Chairman
Senator Gary Crum
Senator Ogden Driskill -Virtual
Senator Mike Gierau - Virtual
Senator Stacy Jones
Senator Dan Laursen - Virtual
Representative Dalton Banks
Representative Ken Chestek
Representative Justin Fornstrom
Representative J.T. Larson - Virtual
Representative Tomi Strock

Advisor Attendance:
Patrick Kent, Attorney General's Office
Greg Kerr, University of Wyoming -Virtual

3. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Approval of Minutes
   - *March 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes*
     A motion was made by Commissioner Todd Hoese to approve the minutes for the March 18th meeting. Commissioner Ron Kailey Jr. seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

5. New Level I and Level II Project Applications

Level I Reconnaissance Projects – New Development

- *Central Campbell County ISD Water Master Plan*

  Director Mead gave a brief introduction on the Central Campbell County ISD Water Master Plan project, recommending to fund this project. Bob Zabel, representative of the district, participated in the meeting to advocate for this project.

  Commissioner Todd Hoese moved to preliminarily approve the Central Campbell County ISD Water Master Plan project and to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Seconded by Commissioner Lee Craig; motion carried unanimously.

- *Wamsutter Water Master Plan*

  Director Mead provided an overview of the Wamsutter Water Master Plan project, recommending to fund this project. Mina Aguilera Valdez, Clerk/Treasurer with the Town of Wamsutter participated in the meeting to advocate for this project.

  Commissioner Mark Kot moved to preliminarily approve the Wamsutter Water Master Plan project and to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Level II Feasibility Projects – New Development

- *Douglas Water Source 2027*

  Director Mead explained that the Office's recommendation is the phased approach to the project, as was discussed the previous day. Director Mead explained that the study would refine the source capacity goals and options for Douglas and compare the scenarios for replacing, upgrading or retrofitting the existing water treatment plant with scenarios for developing groundwater supply. Josh Oberlander with the City of Douglas attended the meeting to advocate for the project.

  Commissioner Lee Craig made a motion to preliminarily approve the Douglas Water Source 2027 project and to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Seconded by Commissioner Todd Hoese. Motion carried unanimously.

- *Hudson Regional Supply Evaluation*

  Director Mead briefly provided an overview for the Hudson Regional Supply Evaluation project, recommending to fund the project. Sherry Oler, Mayor of Hudson, attended the meeting virtually to advocate for this project and to answer any questions that arose.

  Commissioner Todd Hoese made a motion to preliminarily approve the Hudson Regional Water Supply Evaluation project and to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Seconded by Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton. Motion passed.

- *Lake DeSmet Water Supply*
  Driector Mead gave a brief overview of the Lake DeSmet Water Supply project, recommending to fund the project. Dan Roberts with the City of Sheridan, Christy Haswell, Sheridan County Commissioner and Kevin Silbernagel with the City of Buffalo all attended this meeting to advocate for the project.

  Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to preliminarily approve the Lake DeSmet Water Supply Project and to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Seconded by Commissioner Todd Hoese. Motion passed.

Level I Reconnaissance Projects – Rehabilitation

- *LeClair Irrigation District Master Plan*
  Director Mead introduced the LeClair Irrigation District Master Plan project. Sarah Trehearne, Shaylee Frell and John Hazlewood all with the LeClair Irrigation District attended the meeting to answer any questions that arose. Discussion ensued.

  Commissioner Lee Craig made a motion to preliminarily approve the LeClair Irrigation District Master Plan and to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with Consultant Selection. Seconded by Commissioner Ron Kailey Jr.. Motion carried unanimously.

- *Riverton Valley Irrigation District Master Plan*
  Director Mead introduced the Riverton Valley Irrigation District Master Plan Project. Steve Doyle, Board Member of the Riverton Valley Irrigation District, and Caleb Elder, Manager for the Riverton Valley Irrigation District attended the meeting to advocate for the project and to answer any questions that arose.

  Commissioner Todd Hoese made a motion to preliminarily approve the Riverton Valley Irrigation District Master Plan project and to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Seconded by Commissioner Lee Craig. Motion carried unanimously.

Level II Projects – Rehabilitation

- *Byron Raw Water System Rehabilitation*
  Director Mead introduced this project and explained the Office's recommendation of "Do Not Fund", which included factors such as, raw water being a fairly low priority for the program, limited available funding, and that previous attempts by the Town to get the project completed having been unsuccessful due to the inability to generate matching funds.

  Commissioner Ron Kailey Jr. made a motion to accept the Director's recommendation of "Do Not Fund" for the Byron Raw Water System Rehabilitation Study. Seconded by Commissioner Dennis Pince. Commissioner Ron Vore opposed the motion; Motion passed.

- *Goshen ID Whalen Dam and Upper Fort Laramie Canal Infrastructure Study*
  Director Mead introduced the GID Whalen Dam and Upper Fort Laramie Canal Infrastructure Study. Kevin Strecker, General Manager of Goshen Irrigation District, attended the meeting to advocate for this project and to answer any questions that arose. Discussion ensued.

  Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved to preliminarily approve the GID Whalen Dam and Upper Fort Laramie Canal Infrastructure Study project to allow the Water Development Office to proceed with consultant selection. Seconded by Commissioner Ron Kailey Jr.; Motion carried unanimously.

6. Planning Closeout Memos
   - *Cody Areas Evaluation 2024*
     Project Manager Chace Tavelli presented the Closeout Memo for the Cody Areas Evaluation 2024, Level II Study. Discussion ensued.

     Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton moved acceptance of the Cody Areas Evaluation 2024 Level II Project report as being complete and further, the WWDC makes the following findings relative to this project:
     1. That the Commission recommend proceeding to Level III of project development upon the submittal of an appropriate funding application by the sponsor.
     2. Based on the findings in the final report, the project is determined to be in the public interest.
     3. The project functions and services cannot realistically be provided by any person, association, or corporation engaged in private enterprise.

     Seconded by Commissioner Ron Kailey Jr. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Planning Project Amendments
   - *Silver Lake Dam Rehabilitation, Level II Study, Amendment Three*
     Project Manager Cindy Hernandez presented Amendment Three to the Silver Lake Dam Rehabilitation, Level II Study, which extends the contract expiration date to June 30, 2027. Mike Jackson with Rio Verde Engineering attended the meeting virtually. Together, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Jackson and Director Mead provided the Commission with an update on project progress, environmental review requirements, delays associated with federal agency staffing and approvals, and the anticipated timeline. Discission ensued.

     Commissioner Mark Kot made a motion to approve the Silver Lake Dam Rehabilitation Level II Study, Amendment Three, time extension for one year. Seconded by Commissioner Lee Craig; Motion carried unanimously.

8. UW Water Research Program
   Program Director Greg Kerr attended virtually to give an overview of the University of Wyoming Office of Water Programs Water Research Program FY 2027 RFP. A brief discussion ensued. Director Kerr reminded the Select Water Committee and Commissioners that this is an approval to pass the RFP, and no funding is involved at this time. Representative Ken Chestek made a motion to approve the topics for the RFP for the University of Wyoming Water Research Program. The motion was seconded by Representative Fornstrom; motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Ron Kailey Jr.

made a motion to approve the 2027 UW Water Research Program RFP as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Todd Hoese; motion carried unanimously.

9. Construction Project Agreement Amendments
   - *LaPrele Dam Rehabilitation – Amendment Two*

     Deputy Director of Construction Bill Brewer presented Amendment Two for the LaPrele Dam Rehabilitation Project. He explained that approximately $720,510.89 in remaining Bureau of Reclamation planning funds would be transferred to the Level III Construction project rather than reverted, allowing the funds to be fully utilized for dam reconstruction. Mr. Brewer also noted that the amendment incorporates suspension and debarment language into the agreement, eliminating the need for annual reporting requirements and addressing a recent audit finding. Discussion ensued.

     Select Water Committee Vice Chairman Boner moved to review and recommend to the Commission that the contract be amended. Seconded by Senator Mike Gierau. Motion passed unanimously.

     Commissioner Todd Hoese made a motion to approve the Amendment. Seconded by Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton; motion carried unanimously.

10. Sponsor Contingency Account Request
    - *Skyline ISD Well Connection 2024*

      Deputy Director of Construction, Bill Brewer, presented the Skyline ISD Well Connection 2024 Sponsor Contingency Request. Mr. Brewer explained that the bids that were received were significantly above the engineer's estimate. Mr. Brewer recommended approving the maximum allowable sponsor contingency funding increase of 20% of the original project cost, noting that the larger increases have historically been referred back to the Legislature.

      Josh Kilpatrick with Nelson Engineering and Mike Mentor and John Goldstein, representatives from Skyline Ranch ISD attended the meeting to advocate for the project and the additional funding.

      Senator Mike Gierau made a motion to recommend that the Commission appropriate additional funds from the Sponsor's Contingency Fund for a full 50% for the Skyline ISD Well Connection 2024 project. Seconded by Vice Chairman Boner; motion carried unanimously.

      Mr. Brewer explained to the Commission and Select Water Committee that the 50% funding would increase the project funding by $415,116.00, but that the Office typically ensures that there is at least 5% contingency due to a likeliness of a change order(s). If a 5% contingency fund was added, the total would equate to $435,872.00, with a recommendation to round the total to $436,000.

      A clearer motion was made including 50% of the amount that the bid was over, plus 5% contingency which comes to $436,000. The motion was seconded by a member of the Select Water Committee.

Commissioner Liisa Anselmi-Dalton made a motion to approve the Sponsor Contingency Account request for the Skyline ISD Well Connection 2024 project for 50% of the bid plus 5% contingency in the amount of $436,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoese; motion carried unanimously.

11. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP)
Project Manager Jennifer Russell presented the FY2027 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Representative Ken Chestek that they have reviewed and do approve the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 2027 Intended Use Plan. The motion was seconded by Senator Mike Gierau. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Future Meetings Schedule
Director Mead noted the upcoming August workshop, meeting, and tour. Director Mead mentioned that a half-day tour of data centers near Cheyenne was in the works.

13. Other Items Requiring Commission Action (if needed)
There were no other items requiring commission action.

14. Discussion
Director Mead introduced the Office's new Fiscal Manager, Dale Vanlandingham. Commissioner Lee Craig followed with more discussion, asking if the Office could follow up with Commissioner John Lawson's suggestion for the November meeting of touring the Bureau's "command center". Director Mead explained he would be happy to look into it and report back during the August 2026 meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wyoming Water Development Commission was made by Commissioner Todd Hoese and seconded by Commissioner Lee Craig. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Hoese, Sec.
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