



WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

JOINT MEETING: WWDC/SWC
6920 Yellowtail Road | Cheyenne, WY
Thursday August 6, 2026

1. Vice-Chairman Dennis Pince called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. The pledge of allegiance was recited.
3. Recognition of Members Present to Establish a Quorum – Secretary Todd Hoese

Commission Attendance:

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

Select Water Attendance:

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

Advisor Attendance:

Patrick Kent, Attorney General's Office
Greg Kerr, UW Office of Water Programs

4. Approval of Minutes
 - May 6th, 2026: WWDC Workshop Minutes
 - May 6th, 2026: WWDC Executive Session
 - May 7th, 2026: WWDC/SWC Joint Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Secretary Todd Hoese to approve the minutes for the May 6th WWDC workshop and May 7th joint meeting. Commissioner Lee Craig seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Mark Kot made a motion to accept the May 6th executive session minutes. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

5. Financial Status Update

Fiscal Manager Dale Vanlandingham went over the status of Water Development Accounts I, II, and III. The estimated balance available for Appropriation in Account I is \$46,284,610. The estimated balance for Appropriation in Account II is \$17,449,328. The estimated balance for Appropriation in

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Account III is \$69,284,728. Fiscal Manager Dale Vanlandingham then discussed Reservoir Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Accounts and associated balances. Discussion ensued.

6. Construction Project Closeout Memos

Deputy Director of Construction, Bill Brewer, presented the following closeout memos:

- Gillette Regional Extensions Phase VI 2022
- Kirby Creek Spillway Replacement 2025
- Owl Creek ID System Improvements 2022

7. LaPrele Dam Update

Deputy Director of Construction, Bill Brewer, gave an update on the LaPrele Dam. A brief discussion ensued.

8. Other Items Requiring Commission Action

WWDO Grants Administrator, Sarah Bargsten, presented information regarding the Wyoming Water Development Office's proposal to apply for a \$10 million NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant to fund water efficiency, irrigation, and conservation projects throughout the North Platte River Basin. The five-year program would support both on-farm and off-farm irrigation improvements, water-loss reduction, aquatic habitat, streambank stabilization, and related conservation projects. As the lead partner, the Office would provide technical assistance and \$591,500 in staff time and future construction funding over five years.

Ms. Bargsten provided the Commission and members of the Select Water Committee with a handout containing information regarding the proposed geographic area for the newest RCPP proposal. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Ron Kailey Jr. made a motion to move to authorize the Director of the Water Development Office to submit the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) proposal, titled Wyoming's North Platte River Basin Water Efficiency and Conservation Projects, to the Natural Resources Conservation District before the deadline of August 24, 2026 and also to submit a partner letter that will contribute \$591,500 in staff time and future construction dollars toward the RCPP project over five years. The motion was seconded by Secretary Todd Hoeser; motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion

Director Jason Mead presented Technical Resource Coordinator, Chace Tavelli, with a 30-year service award and thanked Chace for his continued hard work, service and dedication to the State of Wyoming.

Following the presentation of Mr. Tavelli's award, Director Mead recognized Grants Administrator, Sarah Bargsten, for her efforts she brought forth in planning the joint August tour. Also recognized was Select Water Committee Chairwoman, Martha Lawley, for her involvement in regards to the tour.

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10. Future Meetings Schedule

- WWDC - September 23-24 - Cheyenne - Consultant Selection Interviews & Meeting
- WWDC/SWC - November 4-6 - Casper - Joint Workshop & Meeting (Funding Recommendations)

11. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wyoming Water Development Commission was made by Secretary Todd Hoese. Commissioner Ron Kailey Jr. seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

 Sec.
Todd Hoese, Secretary