WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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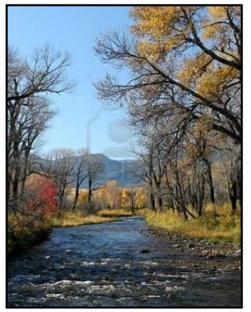

Water News

WWDO Construction Division

In this issue of the Wyoming Water Development Office's newsletter, we'll update you on some activities of the Construction Division. The Office has three divisions: Director and Administrative Support, Planning Division (including River Basin Planning and Dams & Reservoirs), and the Construction Division. Prior to a project making it to the Construction Division, it must be reviewed by the Water Development Commission and recommended for construction, and then approved by the legislature and governor. Most construction projects make their way through the commission planning process (Level I and Level II studies) managed by the Planning Division.

Once the approval process is accomplished, the Construction Division staff will prepare project documents specific to each project. Project documents will always include a Project Agreement serving as the foundation for the completion, duties, responsibilities and authority for all parties on the project. If a project has a loan component, the project documents will also include a Promissory Note, Mortgage and Pledge of Revenues.

Construction projects include such things as transmission-main pipeline installation, replacement or rehabilitation; storage tank construction or rehabilitation; well drilling and completion; irrigation ditch to pipeline conversions; and irrigation structure rehabilitation. The accompanying photos show construction of a water storage tank. Currently, there are approximately seventy (70) active projects in some phase of the construction process. The construction process includes the project design, construction, completion, and close-out. Projects have been completed in every county in the state.

With the completion of the project documents, the project sponsor is ready to hire an engineer and start the design process. Construction Division staff will assist, as needed, in the selection of an engineering consultant and review the engineering contract. Once the project design is underway, the Construction staff will visit with the engineer and sponsor at 10%, 50% and 90% design intervals to ensure the design is progressing in an efficient manner and

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Inside this issue:

The newsletter is available online at (http://wwdc.state.wy.us/newsletter/)

1.5 Million Gallon Tank Construction for the City of Sheridan and SAWS

Tank Concrete Foundation

Tank Roof Support Columns

Calendar of Water Events

November 8-9, 2012 - CO River Basin Salinity Control Forum/Advisory Council Meetings, Phoenix, AZ

October 10-11, 2012– Western States Water Council, San Antonio, TX

November 6-9, 2012, Board of Control Meeting, Cheyenne, WY

October 17-18, 2012 - Upper Missouri Water Association meeting, Deadwood, SD

November 8-9, 2012 - WWDC/SWC Joint Meting, Casper, WY

October 22-25, 2012 - Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee meeting , Omaha, NE

November 13, 2012 - Bear River Commission Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT

October 24-26, 2012 - Wyoming Water Association Annual Meeting /Seminar, Lander, WY

December 12, 2012 - Upper CO River Commission Meeting, Las Vegas, NV

December 12-14, 2012 - CO River Water Users Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV

December 13, 2012 - WWDC Meeting, Cheyenne, WY

December 14, 2012 - SWC Meeting, Cheyenne, WY

December 31, 2012 - WWDC Small Water Project Program Applications due

March 11-14, 2013 - Missouri River Natural Resources Committee (MRNRC) Conference, Jefferson City, MO

Water Forum meetings, SEO Conference Room, Cheyenne, WY

November 6, 2012; Ed Harvey, Harvey Economics

December 4, 2012; program to be announced

January 8, 2013; Melanie Clark, USGS

February 5, 2013; Brad Udall, Western Water Assessment

March 5, 2013; program to be announced

Construction Division

(Continued from page 1)

adhering to the provisions of the legislation. Once the plans are complete, necessary permits have been secured, easements have been obtained and there is sufficient project budget, the project will go to bid. Easements are often the most difficult and time consuming portion of a construction project. When a project encounters delays, it is usually due to difficulties in obtaining the necessary project easements.

The Construction staff will visit the project several times during the construction phase. These visits will typically include the pre-bid meeting, pre-construction meeting, regular construction meetings, site visits to review construction progress, and a final completion walk-through. During project visits, the staff may meet with the sponsor, contractor and engineer to review the project status and review any project obstacles that need addressing. A final completion walk-through will signal the impending completion of the construction portion of the project and signal the determination of "benefits accrue date." The "benefits accrue date" determination identifies the date that the interest on a project's loan will start accruing. There are still a few more phases left in order to finalize a project.

When a project enters final completion, the Construction staff will start preparing to close-out the project. These activities generally include discussions with the sponsor and engineer to ensure all project eligible costs have been submitted for reimbursement. After all bills are paid, any remaining project funds will be reverted to the WWDC to be used on future projects. The Construction staff will start the process of (1) documenting the project files, (2) preparing project documents for archiving, and (3) obtain the project "as-built" or construction drawings and operation and maintenance manuals for the project. If a project has WWDC loan funding, an amortization and loan payment schedule will be prepared based on the "benefits accrue date," and the loan terms established in the legislative appropriation.

The march of archive boxes out of one's office signals the end of a construction project - - just in time too, fiscal year 2014 is right around the corner.

1.5 Million Gallon Tank Construction for the City of Sheridan and SAWS

Concrete Roof Being Poured

Concrete Tank Almost Complete

Retirees and New Hires

There have been a number of staff changes at the Water Development Office during 2012.

Retirements include Mike Purcell, Dave Zalenka, Ted Coyer and Norma Coulson. Mike was our long time Director serving two tours from 1982 to 1996 and from 2007 to 2012. Dave was the Construction Division Administrator for many years and worked for the state for over 40 years. Ted Coyer was a Construction Division Engineer and had worked for the state over 20 years. Norma Coulson was a Fiscal Specialist and had over 35 years of service with the state.

Four new people, who filled the vacancies created by the retirements, have joined the staff. Harry LaBonde has been appointed by Governor Mead as the new Director. Harry was Deputy State Engineer before being appointed director. Mike Hackett, a long time WDO Engineer, has moved into the Construction Division Administrator position and has hired two new engineers Frank Strong and Bill Brewer . Frank and Bill come from local consulting firms. Janet Belmonte moved into the Fiscal Specialist position and Nancy Cousins was hired as the Administrative Specialist.

Know Your Well

The Wyoming Water Development Office works with cities, towns and districts within the state to provide safe drinking water, but drinking water, supplied by private wells, is also important. Approximately 15% of Americans rely on private drinking water supplies, and between 80,000 and 90,000 people in Wyoming rely on private wells for their drinking water.

Private wells must be permitted through the Wyoming State Engineer's Office but they do not regulate water quality. In fact, there is no government agency (federal, state, or local) that monitors/regulates water quality from private drinking water wells in Wyoming.

This means the water quality from these wells is not regularly checked.

If your drinking water comes from a private domestic well you are responsible for your well's safety. It is recommended that you test your drinking water quality regularly for total coliform bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids (TDS), and pH. If you suspect other contaminants test for those also. Well maintenance and well head protection are also important. Around a farm, ranch, or rural home-site, there are many potential contaminants that should concern the owner. Store chemicals and wastes away from the well and see that water drains away from the well so there is no ponding around the well. Be sure the well is maintained and in good working order.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality provides information and assistance to domestic well owners to help them with this important task at: http://knowyourwell.org and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture provides a training video on collecting domestic well water samples for testing at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ynZmbzWiUk&list=UUD3h0viO1k7kUJ4kSTKL8Sw&index=2&feature=plcp

Total Amount of Reported Irrigated Acres and Irrigated Acres by Reported Crop Type (*Only a portion of the entities reported crop type and related acreages)*

Total Reported Irrigated Acres	**688,057**
Crop Type	**Total Acres**
Alfalfa	63,115
Beans	14,811
Beets	28,700
Corn	24,371
Garden/Ornamental Lawn/Misc	55
Grains include:	
Barley	6,000
Barley Wheat	3,000
Grains	29,419
Malt Barley	7,000
Oats	339
Native/Wild Hay	194,332
Other	1,392
Total Reported Crop Acreage	**372,534**

News from the Water Resources Data System (WRDS)

Every two years the WWDO and WRDS conduct a survey of all irrigation systems in Wyoming. The results of the 2012 Irrigation System Survey are now available online at: http://wwdc.state.wy.us/irrsys/2012/raterept.html This survey provides important information for the agency's funding criteria. It aids in prioritizing the funds available for feasibility studies and project construction. In addition, this information allows irrigation districts and companies to compare operational issues, financial data, and general information with others around the state.

The 2012 Irrigation System Survey resulted in a total distribution of 127 surveys with 65 (51%) responses. Combined with responses from 2008 and 2010, 93 (70%) entities have completed the irrigation survey in the past 4 years. The table provides an example of the data collected and summarized from this survey. For more information, contact Chris Nicholson at WRDS (cnichol5@uwyo.edu) or Phil Ogle at WWDO (phil.ogle@wyo.gov).