

SUMMARY *of* PROCEEDINGS



SELECT WATER COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

June 4, 2015
Wyoming Water Development Office
Cheyenne, Wyoming

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Gerald Geis, Chairman
Senator Stan Cooper
Senator Ogden Driskill
Senator John Hastert
Senator Curt Meier (Via telephone)
Representative Stan Blake
Representative John Eklund
Representative Hans Hunt
Representative Robert McKim

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Senator Dan Dockstader
Representative David Northrup
Representative Jerry Paxton

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Joshua Anderson, Staff Attorney
Tamara Rivale, Staff Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING

Harry LaBonde, Director, Wyoming Water Development Office
Please refer to Appendix 1 to review the Committee Sign-in Sheet
for a list of other individuals who attended the meeting.

The Committee Meeting Summary of Proceedings (meeting minutes) is prepared by the Legislative Service Office (LSO) and is the official record of the proceedings of a legislative committee meeting. This document does not represent a transcript of the meeting; it is a digest of the meeting and provides a record of official actions taken by the Committee. All meeting materials and handouts provided to the Committee by the Legislative Service Office, public officials, lobbyists, and the public are on file at the Legislative Service Office and are part of the official record of the meeting. An index of these materials is provided at the end of this document and these materials are on file at the Legislative Service Office. For more information or to review meeting materials, please contact the Legislative Service Office at (307) 777-7881 or by e-mail at lso@wyoleg.gov. The Summary of Proceedings for each legislative committee meeting can be found on the Wyoming Legislature's website at www.wyoleg.gov.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Committee met jointly with the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) to begin their work on approved interim topics including review and approval of proposed water projects. The Committee also considered the University of Wyoming Water Research Program, the ranking of Colorado River Basin MOA applications, the intended use plan of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), a Small Water Project Application, an overview of State water investment accounts and information about consulting engineering rate schedules.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Geis called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following sections summarize the Committee proceedings by topic. Please refer to Appendix 2 to review the Committee Meeting Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the March 19, 2015 Committee meeting were approved with no changes.

PLANNING AMENDMENTS

Mr. Harry LaBonde, director of the Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO) explained the following proposed amendments to water projects:

- Eden Valley (Farson) Master Plan, Level II Study, Amendment No. 1
- Interstate Canal and Reservoir, Level I, Final Amendment

WWDC passed the planning amendments.

AMENDMENTS TO THE OMNIBUS PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION BILLS

Mr. LaBonde addressed the Committee concerning the Weather Modification Big Horn, Laramie, Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre Mountains project and the Midvale Bull Lake Rehabilitation project that were included in the 2015 Omnibus Water Bill, 2015 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Ch. 23.

WWDC approved the weather modification project with the following amendments:

- Use of a radiometer in the Big Horn and Laramie Ranges for the identification of supercooled liquid water over the target areas;
- Determination of a climatology tailored for operational seeding in the Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre Ranges; and
- Completion of a model-based evaluation of the Wyoming Weather Modification Pilot Program and Randomized Statistical Experiment.

WWDC approved the Midvale Bull Lake Rehabilitation project with the following amendments:

- The WWDO staff shall inform the Bureau of Reclamation of the pending WWDC "Big Wind River Storage Study" and the possibility that the WWDC may pursue an enlargement of Bull Lake Dam in the near future; and

- The WWDO shall coordinate with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding interim dam safety measures that may be required should the spillway rehabilitation project be placed on hold while a reservoir enlargement project is pursued.

NEW PLANNING CONTRACTS

Mr. LaBonde explained the following water project contracts:

- Bear River Watershed Study, Level I
- Broken Wheel Ranch Master Plan, Level I
- Byron Master Plan, Level I
- Centennial Well and Master Plan, Level I
- Clearmont Test Well Study, Level II
- Cowley Master Plan, Level I
- Deaver Irrigation District Master Plan Update, Level I
- Dry Creek Irrigation District Master Plan, Level II
- Green River, Rock Springs, Sweetwater County Joint Powers Water Board Pipeline Feasibility Study, Level II
- Greybull Valley Irrigation District Storage Enlargement, Level II
- Heart Mountain Canal Rehabilitation, Level II
- High Meadow Ranch, Level II
- Instream Flow Hydrologic Study, Level I
- LeClair Irrigation District Master Plan, Level I
- Meeks Cabin Dam Enlargement, Level II
- Middle North Platte – Glendo Watershed Study, Level I
- New Fork Lake Dam Enlargement, Level II
- Newcastle Madison Well, Level II
- Opal Master Plan, Level I
- Powder/Tongue & Northeast River Basin Plan Updates
- Powder/Tongue & Northeast River Basin Plans Groundwater Update, Interagency Agreement between WWDC and WSGS
- Upper Laramie River Watershed Study, Level I
- Upper Snake River Watershed Study, Level I
- Weather Modification, Big Horn Range, Siting and Design Study AND Medicine Bow/Sierra Madre Ranges, Final Design & Permitting
- Weather Modification – Laramie Range – Siting and Design Study

Following extensive explanation by Mr. LaBonde and discussion by the WWDC and the Committee, the WWDC moved that all projects be approved except the Broken Wheel Ranch, the Greybull Valley Irrigation District Storage Enlargement and the High Meadow Ranch projects. The motion passed. After further discussion about these projects, the WWDC moved to approve the three projects and the motion passed. Senator Cooper moved to approve all projects, including the Broken Wheel Ranch, the Greybull Valley Irrigation District Storage Enlargement and the High Meadow Ranch projects. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

UW WATER RESEARCH PROGRAM

Mr. Greg Keer, Director of the Office of Water Programs at the University of Wyoming, explained the Water Research Program 2016 Request for Proposal (RFP). He stated that this year's proposals focus on statewide water strategy. Following discussion and WWDC approval, Representative Blake moved that the Committee approve the Water Research Program 2016 RFP. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

CONSIDERATION AND RANKING OF COLORADO RIVER BASIN MOA APPLICATIONS

Mr. LaBonde addressed the WWDC and the Committee concerning proposed projects for Bureau of Reclamation MOA funds. After extensive discussion, the WWDC approved the following projects in order of preference:

1. Farson Lateral Phase I
2. Fontenelle Dam Riprap
3. Wind River Range Operations project
4. CO River Basin Weather Mod Coordination

INTENDED USE PLAN– DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

Mr. Wade Verplancke, Engineering Consultant at the WWDO addressed the WWDC and the Committee. He explained that to date, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund has funded 154 projects and that applications for funding have decreased in recent years. Representative Eklund moved to approve the Intended Use Plan. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

SMALL WATER PROJECT OPERATING CRITERIA

Mr. LaBonde described proposed changes to the operating criteria of the Small Water Project Program. The amendments are proposed to conform to statutory changes enacted in 2014 and to implement other changes proposed by the WWDO staff. The WWDC voted to submit the changes for public comment and to consider the proposed changes to the Small Water Project operating criteria at the next WWDC meeting.

LATE SMALL WATER PROJECT APPLICATION FROM SARATOGA-ENCAMPMENT-RAWLINS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ms. Jodie Pavlica, Project Manager at the WWDO explained that the application from Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservative District (SERCD) was mailed but the WWDO did not receive it. She introduced Mr. Joe Parsons, SERCD District Manager who explained the application. After discussion about the project, the WWDC accepted the WWDO Director's recommendation of "do pass." Representative Eklund moved that the Committee also accept the WWDO Director's recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

OPERATING CRITERIA OF THE WWDC

Mr. LaBonde testified that the WWDO published notice in the Casper Star Tribune to take public comment regarding proposed changes to the operating criteria of the WWDC. There being no public comment to date, the WWDC moved to adopt the operating criteria.

WATER INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

Mr. LaBonde summarized a memorandum he proved to the WWDC on the State's water investment accounts. He explained the authorizing legislation and funding status of the following water investments accounts: Fontenelle Reservoir, Buffalo Bill Dam, Palisades Reservoir, Miscellaneous Water Investment, High Savery Reservoir, Platte River Basin Endangered Species, Pathfinder Modification and Glendo Reservoir.

CONSULTING ENGINEERING RATE SCHEDULES

Mr. LaBonde addressed the WWDC and the Committee to provide information about engineering consultant billing rates. He explained the procedures consultants use to develop rate schedules.

NEW BUSINESS

The WWDC discussed the option to consider liquidated damages in future planning projects during the August planning session. Additionally, Mr. LaBonde announced the retirement of Mr. Jon Wade from the WWDO.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Geis announced the Committee will meet in Worland, WY August 19, 20 and 21 and adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Gerald Geis, Chairman

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Committee Meeting Materials Index

Appendix	Agenda Item	Appendix Description	Appendix Provider
1	Committee Sign-In Sheet	Lists meeting attendees	Legislative Service Office
2	Committee Meeting Agenda	Provides an outline of the topics the Committee planned to address at meeting	Legislative Service Office
3	Information Packet	Meeting binder	Wyoming Water Development Office
4	Potential WWDC Motions	WWDC motions concerning the Weather Modification Big Horn, Laramie, Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre Mountains project and the Midvale Bull Lake Rehabilitation project	Wyoming Water Development Commission