

SUMMARY of PROCEEDINGS



SELECT WATER COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

August 5-7, 2025
Western Wyoming Community College, RSC 3650A and RSC 3650B
2500 College Dr
Rock Springs, Wyoming

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative John Eklund, Chairman
Senator Brian Boner, Vice Chairman
Senator Gary Crum
Senator Tim French
Senator Mike Gierau
Senator Stacy Jones
Senator Dan Laursen
Representative Dalton Banks
Representative Ken Chestek
Representative J.T. Larson
Representative Martha Lawley
Representative Tomi Strock

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Josh Anderson, Senior Legislative Attorney
Clayton Caldwell, Research Analyst
Eve Hamilton, Legislative Editor

OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING

Please refer to [Appendix 1-02](#) 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 Select Water Committee (Select Committee) met for one day in Rock Springs to continue its interim work. The Select Committee met with the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) to discuss and review planning closeout memos and the Alkali Creek Reservoir. The Select Committee then met to discuss forest health issues, water and sewer infrastructure, interstate compact updates in the Colorado River Basin, and prescriptive easements.

The Select Committee moved to have the Legislative Service Office (LSO) draft legislation on forest health and prescriptive easements.

JOINT WWDC/SWC MEETING - CALL TO ORDER (AUGUST 7, 2025)

Chairman Leonard A. Craig, WWDC, called the Joint WWDC/Select Committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following sections summarize the Select Committee proceedings by topic. Please refer to [Appendix 1-01](#) to review the Committee Meeting Agenda.

The meeting can be viewed on YouTube – Joint WWDC/SWC Meeting, August 7, 2025 ([AM](#)) and Select Water Committee Meeting, August 7, 2025 ([PM](#)).

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUSINESS

The Joint WWDC/SWC met to discuss planning closeout memos and to discuss the Alkali Creek Reservoir. The minutes for the joint meeting can be found [here](#).

WWDC/OSLI INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WEST FORT RESERVOIR LAND EXCHANGE - WWDC/SWC

Director Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO), provided information on an interagency agreement between the WWDC and the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) for the WWDC to provide funds for OSLI to use to complete the West Fork Land Exchange with the United States Forest Service ([Appendix 3-01, pages 34-39](#)).

The Select Committee adopted a motion to approve the interagency agreement.

SPONSOR CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT REQUESTS - WWDC/SWC

Director Mead presented provided information on the Happy Valley Water Transmission and Storage 2023 project ([Appendix 3-01, pages 54-59](#)), stating that the project required an additional appropriation to complete.

The Select Committee adopted a motion to recommend approval of the increase in the project appropriation with Sponsor's Contingency Funds.

JOINT WWDC/SWC MEETING - ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Craig adjourned the joint meeting at 9:45 a.m.

SELECT WATER COMMITTEE - CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eklund called the Select Water Committee meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes - May 7-8, 2025

The Select Committee approved the meeting minutes from May 7-8, 2025 ([Appendix 1-03](#)).

FOREST HEALTH - UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Senator Larry Hicks, Senate District 11, presented slides on forest health and management techniques and offered information on how forest management and higher water yields are correlated ([Appendix 12-01](#)).

There was no public comment on this topic.

Committee Directives

The Select Committee adopted a motion for LSO to draft legislation to improve forest management as follows:

1. A bill draft based on 2025 HB101 – Forest health grant program.
2. A bill draft to make forest management projects eligible for water development funding. The Committee and Commission will consider whether the bill is necessary or whether it can be addressed through operating criteria.

AGING IRRIGATION AND MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Representative Lloyd Larsen, House District 54; Jennifer Zygmunt, Water Quality Division Administrator, Department of Environmental Quality; Shawn King, State Revolving Fund Program Manager, Office of State Lands and Investments; and Director Mead presented slides on current funding options for water and wastewater infrastructure in the state, including information on what infrastructures initiatives were underway and an overview of asset management planning ([Appendix 14-02](#)).

Dru Palmer, Grants Integration Manager, and Christine Emminger, Administrator of the Grants Management Office, Wyoming Grants Management Office, provided information on their office and what initiatives they have been working on to help fund infrastructure projects throughout the state ([Appendix 14-03](#) and [Appendix 14-04](#)).

Colin Chung, Principal Management Consultant, Kayuga Solution, provided information on their asset management system and how it will be used by cities and towns throughout the state to better track infrastructure issues and address them by level of need ([Appendix 14-05](#)).

Josh Anderson, Senior Staff Attorney, LSO, provided information on the ability of certain irrigation districts pool funds to enable districts to save funds to conduct major maintenance ([Appendix 14-01](#)).

Public Comment

Brett Moline, Policy Advocacy Director, Wyoming Farm Bureau, and Justin Schilling, Deputy Director, Wyoming Association of Municipalities, provided public comments on aging irrigation and municipal infrastructure throughout the state.

Committee Directives

The Select Committee asked that Representative Larsen work on a bill draft to address issues surrounding aging irrigation and municipal infrastructure to bring to the next meeting.

INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS IN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN - UPDATE

Brandon Gebhart, State Engineer, Wyoming State Engineer's Office, and Chris Brown, Office of the Attorney General, provided an update on interstate agreements in the Colorado River Basin, including the timeline that the Bureau of Reclamation has laid out for states around the Basin to come to a consensus on an environmental impact statement for the Colorado River Basin ([Appendix 15-01](#)).

There was no public comment on this topic.

PRESCRIPTIVE EASEMENTS FOR IRRIGATION WATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEMS - OVERVIEW

Senator Hicks provided an overview of prescriptive easements and legal concerns that surround the use of prescriptive easements for irrigation water conveyance systems.

There was no public comment on this topic.

Committee Directives

The Select Committee moved for LSO to draft a bill to address legal concerns surrounding prescriptive easements for irrigation water conveyance systems by authorizing attorney fees and costs for the prevailing party.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Eklund adjourned the meeting at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative John Eklund

Committee Meeting Materials Index

Index Number	Agenda Item	Document Description	Document Provider
1-01		Agenda	Legislative Service Office
1-02		Sign-In Sheet	Legislative Service Office
1-03	WWDC Workshop - Information can be found at https://wwdc.state.wy.us/commission/commission.html	Meeting Minutes - May 7-8, 2025	Legislative Service Office
3-01	Joint WWDC/SWC Meeting- Call to Order (topic times are approximate and are subject to change)	WWDO August 2025 E-Notebook	Wyoming Water Development Office
12-01	Forest Health - Update and Discussion	Increased Water Yield Off Forest Lands in Wyoming	Senator Larry Hicks
14-01	Aging Irrigation and Municipal Infrastructure	Memorandum: Irrigation districts - pooling of funds	Legislative Service Office
14-02	Aging Irrigation and Municipal Infrastructure	Wyoming Water and Wastewater Infrastructure	Office of State Lands and Investments, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming Water Development Office
14-03	Aging Irrigation and Municipal Infrastructure	Wyoming Grants Management Office	State Budget Department, Grants Management Office

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14-04	Aging Irrigation and Municipal Infrastructure	Opportunity Scan - Water and Sewer Infrastructure	State Budget Department, Grants Management Office
14-05	Aging Irrigation and Municipal Infrastructure	Aging Irrigation and Infrastructure	Kayuga Solution
15-01	Interstate Agreements in the Colorado River Basin - Update	Interstate Agreements in the Colorado River Basin - Review and Update	Wyoming State Engineer's Office

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