

Framework Water Plan 5% Progress Review Meeting
March 1, 2006 - 1:00 pm
Riverton, WY - Fremont County Branch Library
Meeting Record

Welcome

Facilitator Vicki Beckman welcomed the group and the meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm. All attendees introduced themselves, followed by a review of the overall meeting agenda. A sign-in sheet was passed around to record attendance. A list of attendees can be found at the end of these minutes. The next meeting for the Framework Water Plan will be the 50% Progress review meeting and is scheduled for July 11, 2006 in Casper at the Game and Fish office.

Framework Water Plan Perspective - Water Development Office

Jon Wade, Water Development Office, gave a powerpoint presentation on where we have been with water planning and where we are going. A copy of that powerpoint presentation can be found at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html>. The powerpoint presentation also explained what was going to occur with the Framework. There were many questions from the group on the purpose of the plan and being sure that everyone is working in collaboration (consultants, WWDO, SEO). Anne MacKinnon, Water Development Commissioner, asked the group the following two questions:

1. What do you (the Basin Advisory Groups or BAGs) want to see come from the Framework Water Plan?
2. What changes do you want to see in the BAGs?

Consultant Progress Report - WWC Engineering

Murray Schroeder, with WWC Engineering, introduced himself to the group. He also gave a rundown of the other members of the consultant team and their responsibilities:

WWC Engineering	Overall project management Overall hydrology Demand projections/analysis Municipal and industrial uses Recreation and environmental uses
Hinckley Consulting	Agricultural consumptive use Groundwater resources
States West Water Resources Corp.	Future use opportunities
Greenwood Mapping	GIS and presentation tool

Mr. Schroeder then went into his powerpoint presentation, explaining what his group has accomplished so far. He also illustrated the differences in the plans by using questions in the form of “Jeopardy”. A copy of that powerpoint presentation can be found at

<http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html> .

Basin Advisory Group Issues

Bear River - Bridger Feuz - A copy of the Bear River basin issues was passed out to the group. Mr. Feuz went through the list and pointed out some of the more important issues that are affecting his basin. A copy of the Bear River issues spreadsheet can be found at

<http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html> .

Green River - Ben Bracken - A copy of the Green River basin issues was passed out to the group. Mr. Bracken gave the group a list of things that concern his basin including, Colorado River compact issues, economics in the basin, federal and state entities - how do we deal with them, oil and gas exploration and the water produced from these activities. Mr. Bracken stated that he would like to see his basin be first in the updates as much of the information in the 2001 water plan is already outdated, there needs to be more groundwater information, more real-time, accurate data and more water quality data. A copy of the Green River issues spreadsheet can be found at

<http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html> .

Northeast - Jim Kruse - A copy of the Northeast basin issues was passed out to the group. Mr. Kruse stated that his basin would like to see more data concerning the underground aquifers, doesn't like the idea of augmenting North Platte flow by using groundwater, would like to see more work with South Dakota on building off-channel storage reservoirs, and his group would like to use the mapping that was created in the NE plan to augment other mapping tools such as LIDAR. A copy of the Northeast issues spreadsheet can be found at

<http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html> .

Platte - John Maier - A copy of the Platte basin issues was passed out to the group. Mr. Maier explained that some of the issues affecting his basin include groundwater problems, rural sprawl, regulation (which is a big issue) and Endangered Species Act implications. He would like to see the BAG more involved in the prioritization of goals. A copy of the Platte issues spreadsheet can be found at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html> .

Powder/Tongue - Bruce Yates - A copy of the Powder/Tongue basin issues was passed out to the group. Mr. Yates offered to the group his basin concerns and issues. Those are: groundwater needs to be looked at, need to address the

water quality issues as Montana is challenging discharges, what to do with the excess produced water, land development issues and the wastewater problems that come with development, impacts of discharge water especially SAR, industrial use of water: there are 2-3 coal to natural gas power plants being proposed, lack of education on water use and rights and Yellowstone River Compact issues. Mr. Yates also brought up the concern that they would like to see the plans progress more quickly than 1 every 1-2 years. He also brought up the possibility of looking at the Environmental Trust Fund for more funding and that fact that their group was disappointed that the Small Water Project program had been eliminated. A copy of the Powder/Tongue issues spreadsheet can be found at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html>.

Snake/Salt - Garry Crook - A copy of the Snake/Salt basin issues was passed out to the group. Mr. Crook first wanted to point out that there are some differences in these two basins. The Salt Basin is more agricultural while the Snake Basin is more environmental. Mr. Crook stated that some concerns of his group are agricultural lands moving into subdivisions creating dense development and how those developments impact water consumption and the problems with the levees and banks of the Snake River that should be addressed in the next round of planning. Mr. Crook also mentioned that two projects that were listed in the last planning process got approved through the Water Development Commission. These projects had the data from the plan to back them up and it seemed to add more credence to the projects since they were listed in the Water Plan. A copy of the Snake/Salt issues spreadsheet can be found at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html>.

Wind/Bighorn - John Joyce - A copy of the Wind/Bighorn basin issues was passed out to the group. Mr. Joyce had the group just take a look at their list and see what issues had been brought forward. He stated that his group was favorable to the BAG process and looked at the plan as more of an inventory, not as much as a list of projects that the group wanted to have done. Their group would rather leave that end of it to entities that have the authority to move forward with projects. He stated that if the BAGS were to start making bigger decisions concerning projects, the group should be more formalized. A copy of the Wind/Bighorn issues spreadsheet can be found at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html>.

After all BAG representatives gave their reports, Ms. Beckman asked if there were any others who would like to ask questions or provide comments. Larry Hicks, Little Snake River Conservation District, stated that he would like to see the plans start to develop some water policy and give guidance and direction as to where the state should head. The plans should guide legislators on how decisions need to be made. Mr. Hicks also stressed that the economic availability is great now and we should try and take advantage of that.

Ms. Beckman asked if there were any other questions or comments. After nothing further, she reminded everyone of the next meeting which will be held July 11 in Casper, WY.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

List of Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>City</u>
Lee Arrington	WWDC	Pavillion
Vicki Beckman	WWDO	Cheyenne
Randy Bolgiano	Green River BAG	Boulder
Ben Bracken	GR/RS Joint Powers Water Board	Green River
Dan Budd	WWDC	Big Piney
Melvin Calhoun	Tribal Water Board	Crowheart
Sandra C'Bearing	WRWRCB	Ethete
Mitchel Cottenoir	WWDC	Riverton
Garry Crook	Star Valley Conservation District	Afton
Karlene Crook	Star Valley conservation District	Afton
Bridger Feuz	UW Extension	Evanston
Wayne Felteri	WRWRCB	Ethete
Floyd Field	WWDC	Casper
Dick Geving	WWDC	Cody
Clinton Glick	Tribal Member	Fort Washakie
Ronnie Givens	Tribal Water Board	Arapahoe
Larry Hicks	Little Snake River CD	Baggs
George Jost	WWDC	Green River
John Joyce	Big Horn Regional Joint Powers Board	Manderson
Jim Kruse	Niobrara Resources Association	Lance Creek
Anne MacKinnon	WWDC	Casper
John Maier	Platte BAG	Torrington
Phil Ogle	WWDO	Cheyenne
Jodie Pavlica	WWDO	Cheyenne
Jodee Pring	SEO	Cheyenne
Scotty Ratliff	Tribal Water Board	Riverton
William Russell	Tribal Water Engineer	Fort Washakie
Murray Schroeder	WWC Engineering	Laramie
Jim Shakespeare	Wind River Water Board	Fort Washakie
Loren Smith	SEO	Riverton
Jeb Steward	WWDC	Encampment
John Stoll	Tribal Water Board	Crowheart
Ann Strand	Green River BAG	Rock Springs
Jon Wade	WWDO	Cheyenne
Alfred Ward	Tribal Water Board	Fort Washakie
Mahonri Williams	BOR	Mills
Bruce Yates	Sheridan Co. Engineer	Sheridan