

Framework Water Plan 50% Progress Review Meeting
July 11, 2006 - 1:00 pm
Casper, WY - Pronghorn Room, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.
Meeting Record

Welcome

Facilitator Vicki Beckman welcomed the group and the meeting was called to order at 1:20 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 90% progress review meeting and will be scheduled sometime in late February, early March in Riverton.

Framework Water Plan Update - Water Development Office

Phil Ogle, Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO), gave a powerpoint presentation updating the purpose of the Framework Water Plan. A copy of that presentation can be found at

<http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html> . Mr. Ogle started the presentation with where we have been. He went through a review of the previous plans, giving the dates of completion and who the consultants were for each of the plans.

Mr. Ogle reviewed the next topic, where are we now, by describing the funding for the Framework Water Plan, along with the requirements that were listed in the request for proposal. He also explained what the Framework will provide and the challenges of compiling all of the data from the seven different plans. A draft of the Framework plan will be available April 2007 with the final being due in June of 2007.

The last topic, where are we going, was addressed. Mr. Ogle stated that a more in-depth study of groundwater will be included in the next round of basin plans along with addressing water rights and correcting any data. The consultant, WWC Engineering, will also make a recommendation on the schedule for the next round of basin plan updates. This recommendation will be made fairly quickly as the WWDO will need to request funding during the next legislative session.

Bruce Yates, Basin Advisory Group (BAG) representative for the Powder/Tongue, asked what the inclusion of groundwater would entail. Mr. Ogle stated that we need to get a better handle on our groundwater resources to help plan for the future. The consultants have been directed to make recommendations on groundwater such as, what should be studied, how do we go about getting the information we need, what resources do we need to accomplish this task, etc.

Jim Kruse, BAG representative for the Northeast, asked what the role of the BAGs will be in the next round of planning. Mr. Ogle stated that the BAGs are a vital component of the Framework plan and will continue to remain vital during the next round of water planning.

Ben Bracken and Randy Bolgiano, representative and alternate for the Green River BAG as well as John Maier, representative for the Platte BAG, all had questions concerning water rights and what was going to be looked at in the next round of planning. Mr. Ogle explained that when the water rights were mapped in the last round of planning, many water right permits were attributed to a single polygon which made it difficult to ascertain which permit or which portion of a permit specifically belonged to that piece of irrigated land. In the next round, the irrigated lands will be attributed more precisely.

Consultant Progress Report - WWC Engineering

Murray Schroeder, WWC Engineering, began his update by reviewing with the audience the members of his team. Mr. Schroeder is the project manager with the other members of the team being, John Jackson, WWC Engineering, Bern Hinckley, Hinckley Consulting, Vic Anderson, States West Water Resources Corp., Rich Greenwood, Greenwood Mapping and Bill Collins, Collins Planning Associates.

Mr. Schroeder then gave a powerpoint presentation, a copy of which can be found at

<http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html> . Mr. Schroeder reminded the audience that the objective of the project is to prepare a useful first source for water planning.

He then went through the initial progress his team has made. A skeleton review has been compiled which describes all seven of the plans and where there are inconsistencies between each of the plans.

Three homework assignments were given to each of the Planning Team members (Water Development Commission and State Engineer's Office). The first assignment asked each person to go through the table of contents from all seven of the basin plans and decide which parts of each of these documents were important to include in the 2007 Framework Water Plan. The second homework assignment asked the Planning Team members to review the 1973 Framework Water Plan and consider how the layout of the previous plan might be updated for the 2007 plan. The last homework assignment asked the Planning Team to jot down a "wish list". These are items (tables, figures, charts, etc.) that a person might like to see in the 2007 Framework Plan that weren't included in the basin plans or the 1973 Framework Plan. The results from these homework assignments then led to the draft table of contents for the updated Framework Water Plan.

The next assignment that has been partially completed by the consultant team is the BAG survey, which Bill Collins is conducting. There will be a three tiered approach to this survey. Tier I will be a questionnaire that will be mailed to the BAG members. Tier II is a phone survey of decision makers with water knowledge. Mr. Collins has contacted approximately 20 people for this portion of the survey. Tier III will focus on policy makers. This portion of the survey will include a day long meeting on Oct. 18th at the WWDO office to discuss the Framework Water Plan and the future of water planning in Wyoming.

Mr. Collins is also working on a survey of the Western states. He is surveying Montana, Idaho, Utah, Kansas, Texas, Nebraska and Colorado to find out how each of these states address water planning. The goal is to look for that “golden nugget” that we might be able to apply to water planning in our state.

The next assignment that has been completed by the team is taking a look at the issues spreadsheets that the BAG groups put together. Mr. Schroeder explained that the team has looked closely at these issues and found some commonalities between the basins as well as some differences. The team will examine each of the basin plans and see if the current plans address these issues. They will then make recommendations on addressing these issues in future revisions of the plans.

Mr. Schroeder then detailed the work that Rich Greenwood of Greenwood Mapping is completing on the Geographic Information System (GIS) component of the Framework Water Plan. Mr. Greenwood has taken a look at all of the attribute tables and found that four of the seven plans used similar methods to attribute while the other three did not. He will take these three attribute tables and restructure the data so that they are similar to the other four, helping to create a seamless coverage for the entire state.

Mr. Greenwood is also working on the presentation tool component of the plan. The presentation tool will be web-based internet site and assist users in understanding the Framework Water Plan.

Mr. Schroeder then discussed with the group the next round of basin plans. WWC Engineering has been charged with making recommendations to the WWDC on the order of the revisions of the plans. Mr. Schroeder proposed some criteria to the Framework BAG group for their consideration, which are as follows:

- length of time since the last plan was written
- basin with the most issues
- basin with the most water use changes
- basin with the most population gain

Mr. Schroeder asked the group for other suggestions on criteria and to speak up for their basin on where they should be on the list of revisions.

Jim Kruse suggested that the basins with the most interstate compact pressure should be some of the first plans to be revisited.

Bruce Yates suggested doing a phased approach on the revision of the plans. This method would tackle one part of all of the plans at the same time. That would give each of the basins something to work on instead of having one or two basins working on an entire plan, leaving a big gap of time between plan revisions.

Basin Advisory Group Reports/Discussion - WWC Engineering

Bill Collins, Collins Planning Associates, led the BAG group in a discussion on their issues. Jim Kruse stated that there is not a lot of diversity of issues between the BAGs. He also expressed concern over the dwindling number of people attending BAG meetings.

Bruce Yates asked how the consultants are going to estimate population. Mr. Yates suggested that instead of concentrating on the increased number of people in the state, we should concentrate on how Wyoming will be affected. For instance, the overall population is aging, therefore, we should be thinking about how those people are going to spend their time recreating, such as golf. An increase in golf courses will change the way we use water in Wyoming.

Mr. Yates also reiterated that if a phased approach to completing the next round of basin plans were undertaken, he feels that more people would be encouraged to attend the BAG meetings.

John Maier stated that we should “do something” with the basin plans. He feels we should implement the plans, do something about rural sprawl and the problems that the state is facing. We need to think about using our water resources wisely.

Margo Sabec stated that the issues lists that are presented might not be issues of concern for the entire basin. Ms. Sabec also feels that the BAGs should not be making decisions or recommendations. They should only be an advisory group.

Mr. Collins then asked the BAG representatives what they thought should be included in a web based tool.

Ben Bracken stated that the tool should be simple. Decision makers will be using this to gather information, therefore it should be as user friendly as possible.

Bruce Yates suggested that a link from the water plan site to other sites such as the different chambers of commerce in the state, the Wyoming Association of Municipalities and the different county sites would be helpful.

Ben Bracken asked the BAG group to think about whether the plans are going to be data gathering plans or whether we are going to implement these plans. He stated that we need to know who we are and what we are doing. Mr. Bracken feels that we should gather all the data together and then decide what the next process will be.

Mr. Collins then asked if the group had any other issues or concerns they would like to discuss with the group. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

List of Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>City</u>
Lee Arrington	Water Development Commission	Pavillion , WY
Vicki Beckman	Water Development Office	Cheyenne, WY
Randy Bolgiano		Boulder, WY
Ben Bracken	Green River/Rock Springs JPB	Green River, WY
Keith Clarey	WY State Geological Survey	Laramie, WY
Bill Collins	Collins Planning Associates	Jackson, WY
Floyd Field	Water Development Commission	Casper, WY
James Foster	City of Torrington	Torrington, WY
Steve Gray	WRDS Director	Laramie, WY
Linda Harris	Dist. Rep., Senator Craig Thomas	Casper, WY
Bob Juve	City of Torrington	Torrington, WY
Jim Kruse	Niobrara Resources Assoc.	Lance Creek, WY
Sue Lowry	State Engineer's Office	Cheyenne, WY
Anne MacKinnon	Water Development Commission	Casper, WY
John Maier		Torrington, WY
Phil Ogle	Water Development Office	Cheyenne, WY
Jodie Pavlica	Water Development Office	Cheyenne, WY
Jodee Pring	State Engineer's Office	Cheyenne, WY
Murray Schroeder	WWC Engineering	Laramie, WY
Margo Sabec	Powder River Preservation Assoc.	Casper, WY
Patty Slack		Kinnear, WY
Jim Stafford	WY Geological Survey	Laramie, WY
Phil Stump	State Engineer's Office	Cheyenne, WY
Jon Wade	Water Development Office	Cheyenne, WY
Mahonri Williams	Bureau of Reclamation	Mills, WY
Bruce Yates	Sheridan County Engineer	Sheridan, WY