

Framework Water Plan 90% Progress Review Meeting
June 11, 2007 - 1:00 p.m.
Riverton, WY - Community Room, Fremont County Branch Library
Meeting Record

Welcome

Jodie Pavlica welcomed the group and the meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. All attendees introduced themselves, followed by a review of the meeting agenda. A sign-in sheet was passed around to record attendance. A list of attendees can be found at the end of this meeting record.

As each attendee entered the meeting they were handed a blue comment card. Ms. Pavlica asked that the blue cards be used for any comments the public would like to make on the Framework Water Plan or the water planning process in general. Ms. Pavlica also informed the group that the 90% draft of the Framework Water Plan could be viewed online at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us>. If requested, a hard copy or CD can be provided. Comments may be submitted online at <http://www.greenwoodmap.com/framework/contact.php> or to the Water Development Office, 6920 Yellowtail Road, Cheyenne, WY 82009, attention Framework Water Plan. Comments must be received by June 30, 2007.

Draft Final Framework Water Plan Presentation - Murray Schroeder, WWC Engineering and Phil Ogle, Water Development Office

Murray Schroeder, WWC Engineering (WWC), gave a PowerPoint presentation on the important components of the plan. A copy of that presentation can be found **here**. Mr. Schroeder explained that there are two volumes of this Framework Water Plan report. Volume I presents a statewide perspective on the distribution of water, water quality, present water uses, and projected water uses. Volume II provides future water resource planning direction to the State of Wyoming. Mr. Schroeder went on to explain some of the interesting items that can be found in each of the chapters of Volume I.

Chapter 1 - Introduction: This chapter introduces the reader to the Framework Water Plan and explains the purpose and history of water planning in Wyoming.

Chapter 2 - Web Tool: This chapter outlines the web tool. This website will be searchable using Google. It will also allow you to view the water planning data in two different ways. First, the main webpage will remain static to preserve the history of the 2007 version of the Framework Water Plan. Second, the data will be updatable allowing the user to search the water plan database for the most current information possible. Users will also have the ability to download maps and other information from the website.

Chapter 3 - Setting. This chapter describes the setting of the state of Wyoming. Physical setting, socioeconomic setting and the legal and institutional setting are all described in this chapter.

Chapter 4 - Resources: This chapter details the surface water and groundwater resources in the state.

Chapter 5 - Use: This chapter describes the use of water in the state in all sectors including agricultural, municipal and domestic, industrial, recreational and environmental.

Chapter 6 - Projections: This chapter outlines the projections of water use for the state and describes future economic and demographic scenarios. This chapter also outlines the projected demands for each of the sectors mentioned in Chapter 5.

Chapter 7 - Availability: This chapter details the availability of surface and groundwater in the state. Basin supply estimates for each of the seven basins are also outlined.

Chapter 8 - Opportunities: This chapter details the short list and long list of future water use opportunities across the state. Victor Anderson of States West Water Resources, a subconsultant on this project, reviewed all of the projects and potential projects in each basin. He started from the date that each plan was completed and developed a more comprehensive list of water use opportunities that is current to the date of this Framework Water Plan.

Chapter 9 - Project Funding: This chapter explains the different types of funding that can be obtained for water development projects.

Mr. Schroeder then asked the audience if there were any questions on Volume I of the Framework Water Plan. Anne MacKinnon asked if an example could be given of some of the work that Victor Anderson did in Chapter 8. Mr. Schroeder explained that Mr. Anderson updated the water use opportunity list for the Green River Basin, the Bear River Basin, the Northeast Basin and the Wind/Bighorn River Basin. Studies of water use opportunities have been completed in each of these basins since the time the individual basin plans were completed. This new information was made a part of the Framework Water Plan.

Loren Smith asked about the availability section and what period of record was used for the analysis. Mr. Schroeder explained that the period of record used for each basin is a bit different. This is due to the fact that information needed to analyze availability is obtained from gages that are located across the state. Some of the gages do not have consistent records, some gages have been discontinued and information is available only for certain periods of time, some gages have large data gaps, some only have very recent information. All of these inconsistencies are analyzed for each basin and the best information available is synthesized. This leads to variations in the period of record that is used for each basin.

Mr. Schroeder continued with his presentation and gave the audience a flavor of what could be found in Volume II of the Framework Water Plan. Each of the chapters is outlined below:

Chapter 1 - Introduction: This chapter explains the rationale for the development of Volume II and what the reader can expect from this document.

Chapter 2 - Information and Data: This chapter details the issues that each of the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) developed during their individual meetings, the three-tiered survey that Bill Collins of Collins Planning Associates conducted, and the meeting held in October of 2006 that involved heads of different state agencies.

Chapter 3 - Recommendations for Future Plan Structure and Content: This chapter outlines the recommendations from the consultant team and other agencies on the structure and general scope of future basin plans, some general planning methods that should be followed and the future order of the basin plan updates.

Chapter 4 - Agency Planning Recommendations: This chapter was reserved for state agencies to provide their comments and recommendations on the planning process. Three agencies, Water Development Office, State Engineer's Office and Game and Fish Department provided write-ups.

Chapter 5 - Summary of Issues and Recommendations for Future River Basin Planning: This chapter summarizes some of the key issues brought forth in Volume II.

Mr. Schroeder also pointed out that, per the request of the BAGs, the executive summary of each of the seven individual basin plans and the individual basin issues lists have been included as Appendix A in Volume II. The Executive Summary of the Western States Survey is Appendix B and Appendix C is the matrix and supporting information for the order of future basin plan updates.

Rich Greenwood of Greenwood Mapping was the next speaker and presented information on the web tool. Mr. Greenwood gave a demonstration of the tool and the options that will exist once it is completed. The settings on the web tool will deviate slightly from the written report, but will reference back to the original source. Some of the tables will have the ability to be updated and will give the user the most current information available by hitting the "click here for current numbers" button.

Mr. Greenwood went on to explain the work he did on the geographic information system (GIS) layers that were developed during the course of each basin plan. He has created one seamless layer that shows the user information, such as irrigated lands, across the state.

John Maier asked if the GIS information was available on the web tool. Mr. Greenwood stated that it is not. That functionality may be available in future revisions of the web tool.

John Joyce asked about the ability to ask "what if" type questions. Mr. Greenwood explained that there is a small ability to ask those types of questions using the spreadsheet models that were developed for each of the basin plans.

Ben Bracken asked if there was a direct link to databases. Mr. Greenwood explained that the only databases that are linked are the ones that he created. There are no links to outside databases.

Mr. Bracken also asked about the State Engineer's Office (SEO) Depletion Plan and how that should be referenced in the Framework Water Plan. In Chapter 5 of Volume I, Table 5-5 shows depletions. Mr. Bracken stated he is concerned that these numbers might conflict with the numbers that are being developed as a result of the SEO Depletion Plan. Mr. Bracken suggested a note be added to Table 5-5 stating that this table is just one source of depletion estimates.

The next portion of the meeting was a presentation by Phil Ogle, supervisor of the River Basin Planning Section in the Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO) titled, "River Basin Planning - Where are We Going?" A copy of Mr. Ogle's PowerPoint presentation can be found at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/meetingrecords.html>.

Mr. Ogle started by outlining the different issues discovered during the Western States Survey, the BAG survey and the October 18, 2006 meeting of the state agency heads. These issues helped the WWDO outline how river basin planning should proceed in the future. One of the issues brought up was plan structure. Mr. Ogle stated that in future basin plans, there will be a generalized scope and structure for the plans. There will also be a general table of contents, and tables and graphs that will be uniform across the plans. This will help make future comparisons across basins less difficult. In addition, in future revisions of the online presentation tool, specific tables and fields will be populated and GIS tools that can be used for mapping and data presentation will be added.

Mr. Ogle also outlined planning methods on which the WWDO will concentrate. Those are:

- Continue and improve the outreach process.
- Coordinate closely with state, federal and local agencies.
- Don't just repeat the planning process.
- Focus on groundwater resources in the basin plan updates.
- Focus on problems within the first plans or on areas of change.
- Describe improvements and maintenance needs of municipal and irrigation systems.
- Extend the period of record to include the most recent drought.
- Use more sophisticated models. This will require more accurate and larger numbers of datasets.
- Develop better socioeconomic forecasting models for non-consumptive water values.

Mr. Ogle went on to describe the matrix that was developed to determine the order of the updates for the next round of planning. This matrix can be found in Appendix C of Volume II. The matrix determined the update order should be:

1. Green River Basin
2. Powder/Tongue River Basin
3. Northeast River Basin

4. Wind/Big Horn River Basin
5. Snake/Salt River Basin
6. Bear River Basin
7. Platte River Basin

With the Green River Basin slated to be the first in line for the next round of updates, two projects will be conducted in this one basin. One project will be a groundwater resource evaluation study. This project will start in July and is a combined effort between the Wyoming Geological Survey, Water Resources Data System and the United States Geological Survey.

The second project is the Green River Basin Water Plan update. This update of the 2001 Green River Basin plan will focus on changes in population and economics and on developing an extended period of record that will assist in better modeling.

Mr. Ogle reiterated the purpose of the two volumes of the 2007 Framework Water Plan. He stated that Volume I is an encyclopedia that presents information about Wyoming's water. Volume II gives the reader planning and policy recommendations and ideas for future planning efforts.

In conclusion, Mr. Ogle stated that the 2007 Framework Water Plan and water planning in general present opportunities for water development projects that project proponents can bring forward to the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC).

Mr. Ogle asked if there were any further comments or questions from the audience. John Joyce stated that with all of the watershed planning and irrigation district mapping that is occurring and being funded by the WWDC, is there a way to make the information that is gathered through these efforts as uniform as possible so that the information can be integrated into the water planning process? Mr. Ogle stated that this was the goal of the water planning process and that during this next round, more emphasis would be placed on using existing, current information.

With no further questions, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

List of Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>City, State</u>
Lee Arrington	Water Development Commission	Pavillion, WY
Greg Bautz	USDI - BLM	Lander, WY
Tony Bergantino	WRDS	Laramie, WY
Ben Bracken	GR/RS Joint Powers Water Board and Green River BAG Framework representative	Green River, WY
Steve Gray	Water Resources Data System	Laramie, WY
Rich Greenwood	Greenwood Mapping	Wilson, WY
Gary Jennings	Riverton Valley Irrigation District	Riverton, WY
John Joyce	Big Horn Regional Joint Powers Board and Wind/Bighorn BAG Framework representative	Manderson, WY
Anne MacKinnon	Water Development Commission	Casper, WY
John Maier	Platte BAG Framework representative	Torrington, WY
Barbara Muller	Water Resources Data System	Laramie, WY
Chris Nicholson	Water Resources Data System	Laramie, WY
Phil Ogle	Water Development Office	Cheyenne, WY
Jodie Pavlica	Water Development Office	Cheyenne, WY
Jodee Pring	State Engineer's Office	Cheyenne, WY
Mike Purcell	Water Development Office	Cheyenne, WY
Robert Rein	Riverton Valley Irrigation District	Riverton, WY
Murray Schroeder	WWC Engineering	Laramie, WY
Loren Smith	State Engineer's Office	Riverton, WY
Mark Thiesse	WY Dept. of Environmental Quality	Lander, WY
Vicki Winders	Water Development Office	Cheyenne, WY