



Wyoming Water Association

Wyoming Water Flow

Water Is Wyoming's Gold!

Volume LXVII, Issue III

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Outstanding Annual Conference Highlights Water Conservation Challenges and Opportunities

Governor Freudenthal and Senator Vasey Among Featured Speakers

WWA members and guests were treated to outstanding speakers and excellent presentations at the Wyoming Water Association's 2004 Annual Meeting and Education Seminar held October 27th through 29th in Casper. This year's program was devoted in its entirety to the theme of "Water Conservation - Challenges and Opportunities" - and it was, simply put, a great conference.

Wednesday's Education Seminar explored legal constraints and opportunities for water conservation in Wyoming and highlighted efforts in Colorado, Montana and elsewhere to use voluntary market approaches and financial incentives to foster conservation actions. State Engineer Pat Tyrrell observed that the need exists for all water users to develop a common direction on what conservation really means. He noted an argument can be made that conservation for any use must include storage of excess runoff.

Luncheon keynote speaker Larry MacDonnell observed that Wyoming's first State Engineer, Elwood Mead, recognized the importance of the conservation ethic and instituted it into Wyoming's water law tenets in the beneficial use, waste avoidance and no injury principles. Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation Mark Limbaugh and Senator Bill Vasey addressed the U.S. Department of Interior and Wyoming Legislative perspectives on water conservation.

Governor Freudenthal graciously accepted the Association's invitation to speak at this year's conference and used the occasion to set forth a major legislative initiative to create additional focus on water storage development within the Wyoming Water Development Program. Working with the

Legislature's Select Water Committee, the Governor is proposing to create a dam and reservoir unit within the Water Development Commission, the dedication of revenues for these purposes and a permitting process strategy for Wyoming (additional details are found in the article on page 5 of this newsletter).

In addition to excellent panel discussions on irrigation and municipal water conservation, the Annual Meeting included very successful breakout sessions and a "full group" discussion answering key questions as to WWA's future role in water conservation activities. Using this input, WWA's Water Conservation Committee is preparing recommendations for Board consideration and action.

The majority of the presentations made during the Education Seminar and Annual Meeting can be viewed and downloaded on WWA's website: www.wyomingwater.org by clicking in the blue box on the homepage. Take a look at these excellent speeches and Powerpoint presentations!



Governor Freudenthal expressed his intent to bring more focus and funding resources for water storage development to the Wyoming Water Development Program during the upcoming 2005 Legislative Session.

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Wyoming Water Flow

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Annual Membership Meeting Developments: Another Great Year for WWA

John Shields, Executive Secretary, Wyoming Water Association

“Water Conservation: Challenges and Opportunities” was the theme of the entire program at this year’s annual conference of the Wyoming Water Association. We had a wonderful conference in Casper and thanks to all of you who participated. This has been a great year for the Association and I know all Association members will be pleased to read about several recent developments here.

Our fund-raising activities during the Annual Meeting Banquet, included the traditional Silent Auction, a 50/50 drawing and the raffling off of two hand-made fly rods built and donated by State Engineer Pat Tyrrell and Water Development Officer Administrator Mike Besson. Our hats off and our sincere thanks to Pat and Mike for their generous donation of two beautiful fly rods. Thanks also to our Association Board members who donated wonderful items for the Silent Auction - and then turned around and participated in the bidding and buying to boot. The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Jay Puckett, who then donated his half of the proceeds back to the Association. In all, we made over \$1,900 through these fund-raising efforts to support our annual scholarship program. That’s great.

During the annual Membership Business Meeting, the membership voted to create a new class of membership in the Wyoming Water Association. The WWA now has student memberships and university or junior college students can attend full day sessions of the education seminar or annual meeting - and become members of the Association - by paying only \$15.00 for each day they choose to attend.

In addition, it is apparent that Association members are willing to help sponsor student attendance. Next year’s annual conference registration forms (both hard copy and on the Association website) will allow the payment of registration fees, and the voluntary capability to donate funds for “student sponsorship.” Since we have created this opportunity for University of Wyoming and Wyoming junior college students to participate in an affordable manner in the Association, as members and attendees at our annual conference and summer educational events, I sincerely believe they will come.

The Association should be proud to have taken this action and I’m sure that it will pay great dividends to our state-wide water resources organization and to those students who take advantage of the Association’s great offer for them.

Certainly this action reflects the Association’s underlying objectives of promotion and education - and increases the opportunity to do both among a greater segment of Wyoming’s people. Importantly, it recognizes that our future - that of Wyoming’s water and of the Wyoming Water Association - rests with our young adults and those who come after us to continue to address and solve water issues. Congratulations, WWA!

“Instream Flows For Riverine Resource Stewardship”

Instream Flow Council Releases Revised Edition of Book on Instream Flow Administration and Application

The Instream Flow Council is proud to announce the release of the revised edition of “Instream Flows for Riverine Resource Stewardship” -- the first book ever to embrace the entire field of instream flow administration and application. The IFC is an organization comprised of instream flow professionals from state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies, working to improve the effectiveness of instream flow programs for conserving aquatic resources. Authored by 16 instream flow specialists from these agencies in the U.S. and Canada, this book provides a detailed description of riverine ecosystem management concepts and strategies for aquatic resource managers and others involved in the determination of instream flow needs and water management.

The first edition was published in March 2002 and sold out two printings without any promotion. Agency managers, consultants, academicians, legal experts and libraries all found the book a valuable resource. In response to the many positive comments received, the revised edition (2004) was published to add new text, reorganize the content, and provide over 100 illustrations to better describe the concepts of instream flow management.

This one-of-a-kind resource will help agency managers and other instream flow practitioners better fulfill their legal natural resource stewardship and public trust responsibilities. It is also an excellent text for university courses dealing with this complex subject. The book provides a comprehensive treatment of riverine ecology, the role of the public and legal aspects of river management. It contains 46 policy statements related to program development and study design and includes descriptions and critical opinions of 34 instream flow methods.

The book is priced at \$85.00 plus \$8.75 for shipping and handling and may be purchased via the IFC website, <http://www.instreamflowcouncil.org/> or by calling 800-247-6553. For more information or to view the book, contact Tom Annear at 777-4559.

2005 WWA Officers and Board Members

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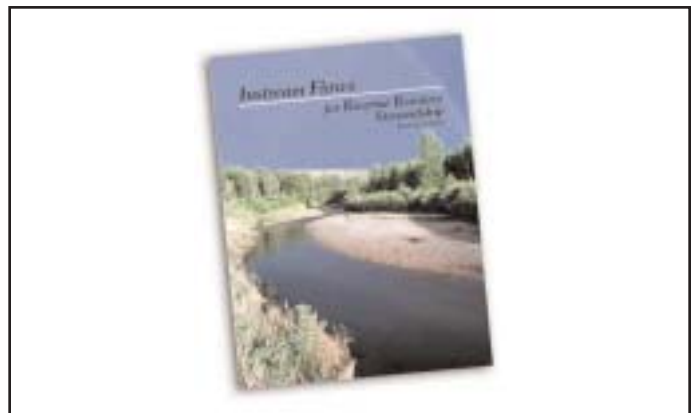
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Wyoming Water Association Board Member Tom Annear is one of 16 state and provincial fish and wildlife agency authors from across the U.S. and Canada who contributed to the second edition of Instream Flows for Riverine Resource Management. Annear also wrote the Preface to both editions of the book. The material in the book presents an exhaustive treatment of the very complex and highly technical subject of instream flows.

Governor Freudenthal Proposes Additional Focus on Water Storage Development

Governor Freudenthal's October 28th speech to the WWA included each of the points made in his guest editorial found in the October 25, 2004 edition of the "Wyoming Livestock News" reproduced in its entirety below.

As the numbers begin to take shape for the upcoming legislative session, it looks as though we are in for another year of revenue exceeding expectations. Mineral prices continue to be good to us. In short, Wyoming has money and probably will for the next several years.

I propose we invest these present resources in those things that can build our state for the future. I want to see us help local communities become inviting places for businesses to thrive. I want to see us preserve our wildlife heritage, one part of what makes Wyoming the state it is.

And I want to see us develop our water resources. From agriculture to small business development, water plays an integral role in Wyoming's future.

To this end, I will propose legislation during the 2005 legislative session to create a Dam and Reservoir Division within the Water Development Office. This legislation will provide funding and staff support for the identification of dam and reservoir development as a priority of this state.

I don't need to tell agricultural producers that the ongoing drought in Wyoming and most of the West reemphasizes the need for reservoirs. With ample revenues, now is the time for the state to invest in water development projects that will provide an inheritance for future generations.

The state's water loan program has tended to focus on delivery rather than storage. My proposed shift in focus would return to the earlier, basic intent of the Wyoming Water Development Commission: to build dams and retain our rightful portion of what is arguably the most precious resource in the state. While the smaller water distribution projects and improvements have certainly been important to our water development efforts, the larger water projects must become a priority again.

Additionally, we have continually called for water conservation as a centerpiece of our water infrastructure. I have to wonder, though, what benefit

other than philanthropy, there is in conservation if we cannot store and use what we save. Put simply, this is our opportunity to build accounts to hold the savings we have long advocated.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, the Commission's major function was to secure storage for Wyoming's portion of the water flowing through the state. But the federal government did not recognize our statement of purpose for water projects as meeting the federal definition of purpose and need.

Importantly, we are not asking for the money to do the projects. We are only asking for our right to the use of the water that already belongs to us. About \$500,000 in funding for the new division, which will look at the whole state for possible sites, will be included in the state omnibus water bill.

As mentioned, the Wyoming Water Development Commission and the Select Water Committee would decide on the final sites before the Legislature approves funding for the projects. Final approval would be mine.

I don't want anyone to be mistaken: It's very unlikely that any of us will see the results any time soon from our taking these proactive steps toward larger water storage projects. It could easily take a decade, and more likely longer, before we see any of the projects that we discuss now actually built. But I believe the people that live in this state thirty years from now will appreciate any progress we can make while the state is flush.

With a large part of Wyoming still suffering from the impacts of a five-year drought, there is plenty of proof that developing water storage is a must so the state can survive future drought. This state needs to be prepared when these times come again.

At one time, we all thought the current spike in the state's revenues would be short-lived. But now, it looks as though we aren't looking at a spike at all, but a plateau. With projections of a more sustained upturn in state revenues, we can prudently work towards projects and programs that, even two years ago, would have been a pie-in-the-sky.

But time is not on our side. It took nearly twenty years to put the High Savery Dam project into place, after the time planning, permitting and construction were complete. So we must have the resolve and wherewithal to look beyond short-term gains for long-term prosperity.

* * * * *

Thank You!

The Wyoming Water Association gratefully acknowledges the following firms who each donated funds to underwrite the costs of the beverage and snack breaks at our 2004 Education Seminar and Annual Meeting. This financial support and sponsorship of the Association is greatly appreciated and is the reason that we have been able to hold our registration fees for the conference to the same, affordable rate for a number of years. You will recognize the names of these firms and companies as they are your fellow Wyoming Water Association members and many have donated funds multiple years to help sponsor our conference. We thank them and urge you to thank them as well!

PacifiCorp

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1591 Tank Farm Road
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772 Whalers Way, No. 200
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525
(970) 226-0120

General Manager Sought

Heart Mountain Irrigation District Announces Search for General Manager

The Heart Mountain Irrigation District is now accepting applications for the position of General Manager. This position is responsible for the distribution of irrigation water within the boundaries of the district that encompasses 31,120 irrigated acres, and employs ten full-time employees with an annual operations budget of \$600,000. Applicant must have knowledge of pipeline and concrete construction. Salary range is \$40,000 and is DOE. Resume with references and cover letter outlining salary requirements will be taken until January 15, 2005 and should be sent to the Heart Mountain Irrigation District, 1206 Road 18, Powell, WY 82435. Tentative start date is March 1, 2005.

Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program RFP is Now Available Online

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Program Seeking Proposals From Irrigation and Water Districts to Conserve Water or Improve Water Project Efficiency

The Request for Proposals for the *Water 2025* Challenge Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2005 is now available at www.grants.gov (keyword search: *Water 2025*). Additional information about the Challenge Grant program, including frequently asked questions and answers, is available at www.doi.gov/water2025.

The Challenge Grant Program is seeking proposals from irrigation and water districts that want to leverage their money and resources in partnership with Reclamation, to make more efficient use of existing water supplies through water conservation, efficiency and water marketing projects.

The program is focused on achieving the outcomes identified in Interior Secretary Gale Norton's *Water 2025: Preventing Crises and Conflict in the West*, particularly through water conservation and efficiency, water markets and collaboration, with an emphasis on projects that can be completed within 24 months and that reduce future water conflicts.

The goal of *Water 2025* -- and these challenge grants -- is to support realistic, cooperative

approaches and tools that have the most likelihood of successfully addressing water challenges in basins where crisis and conflict are preventable," Secretary Norton said. "*Water 2025* is focused on local solutions in partnership with local water users."

The deadline for submitting proposals is January 21, 2005. Selection and award is anticipated by July 1, with implementation beginning in early August, 2005. Depending on the number and type of proposals received, funding for some proposals selected in fiscal year 2005 may be awarded in the beginning of fiscal year 2006, to ensure efficient administration of all Challenge Grant projects.

The *Water 2025* Challenge Grants encourage voluntary water banks and other market-based measures, promote the use of new technology for water conservation and efficiency, and remove institutional barriers in order to increase cooperation and collaboration among federal, state, tribal and private organizations.

Eligible applicants include irrigation and water districts, tribal water authorities and entities created under state law with water delivery authority, which may include water users associations, water conservancy districts, canal, ditch and reservoir companies, and municipal water authorities. Applicants must also be located in the western United States, as identified in the Reclamation Act of 1902. Those not eligible for funding under the Challenge Grant Program include other state governmental entities, Federal governmental entities, universities, individuals and other entities without water delivery authority.

The Water Planner:

Water-Related Upcoming Events and Activities of Interest

To inform WWA membership of upcoming meetings on Wyoming's water resources, the Water Planner is included in newsletters and can be viewed on our website (www.wyomingwater.org).

- **December 15-17** - Annual Meeting of the Colorado River Water Users Association, Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada. More info at www.crwua.org or by calling (760) 398-2651.

- **January 13, 2005** - Winter Board Meeting of the **Wyoming Water Association** at the Wyoming Water Development Commission Offices at 1:30 p.m. The first Legislative Review Session will immediately follow the Board meeting.



Wyoming Water Association

2005 Membership Form

Water is Wyoming's Gold

The WWA Board has established the following dues schedule for calendar year 2005.

Membership Class:	Annual Membership Dues:
Student	\$15.00 (includes one-day of annual conference)
Individual	\$35.00
Small Businesses	\$50.00
Medium Businesses	\$100.00
Large Businesses	\$250.00
Associations	\$50.00
Irrigation Districts	\$0.01 per acre ... Minimum of \$50.00
Conservation Districts	\$25.00
Drainage Districts	\$50.00
Special Districts (Including water and sewer, improvement and sanitation)	\$50.00
Municipalities of 100 to 1,000 population	\$100.00
Municipalities of 1,001 to 5,000 population	\$200.00
Municipalities of 5,001 and over population	\$300.00
County Governments	\$250.00
Joint Powers Boards	\$300.00

Please fill out the short form below and return it, along with your dues payment, to the WWA today.

Yes, please renew my Wyoming Water Association membership for the 2005 Calendar Year. I have enclosed \$ _____ as my/our dues payment for the coming year.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *If you attended the 2004 Annual Meeting and/or Educational Seminar in Casper, your registration fees included your membership dues for 2005 - and you do not need to submit this renewal form. Membership dues invoices will be sent out in early 2005 - avoid that billing by sending your payment today.*

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

Please mail this form and your dues payment to:

Wyoming Water Association, P.O. Box 21701, Cheyenne, WY 82003-7032.

Should you have questions, please call the WWA at 307-631-0898 or e-mail to wwa@wyoming.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Wyoming Water Association

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Water Is Wyoming's Gold!

*Thanks for making 2004
such a great year for the
Wyoming Water Association!*

The Officers and Board of the WWA wish you and yours:
Joyous and Blessed Holidays and the Best in 2005.

Website: <http://www.wyomingwater.org>