



Wyoming Water Association

# Wyoming Water Flow

*Water Is Wyoming's Gold!*

Volume LXVIII, Issue III

September 2005

## **“Wyoming’s Water – Transitions Ahead” Water Association’s 2005 Annual Conference Coming Soon!**

The Wyoming Water Association’s 2005 Annual Meeting and Education Seminar is barely a month away! The Association will be convening its Annual Meeting on the morning of Wednesday, November 2nd and it will continue through a concluding luncheon on the following day, Thursday, November 3rd. The Education Seminar will be initiated with the same luncheon and continue through noon on Friday, November 4th. This year’s conference will explore the ramifications associated with the program theme: Wyoming’s Water - Transitions Ahead.” The Association’s Program Committee has developed an excellent program itinerary and believes this conference theme is appropriate and timely. We hope you will make plans to attend one of Wyoming’s premier water resources event of the year 2005.

Implicit in the notion of transitions is that change is occurring. Effective planned change is not impossible, but neither is it easy. Conversely, dealing with change and making the best of changes that are foisted upon us is a continual human condition. Other times we find ourselves in the position of resisting changes.

There are implications associated with change outcomes. The 2005 Wyoming Water Association conference will provide presentations and panel discussions covering a broad scope of Wyoming water resource issues and concerns in states of transition and for which we reasonably anticipate more changes are coming. What are these likely changes? What are the important implications that these coming changes have? These and other related questions will repeatedly be addressed throughout the course of this year’s annual meeting and education conference. We hope you will join us for these discussions and engage in our dialogue.

An annual event, the Association’s annual conference will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel (formerly the Radisson) located at 800 North Poplar Street in

Casper. Association members will recognize that this is the same location as we have met in prior years. The Ramkota has agreed to provide the Association with an excellent room rate of \$55.00 for conference attendees. Rooms can be reserved by calling 307-266-6000. Be sure to indicate when making your reservation that you will be attending the WWA’s annual conference.

This year’s Program will feature insightful panel discussions covering a wide range of current issues and topics. These will include: water development and project permitting challenges, Wyoming’s water planning program, coal bed methane produced water management and use, and weather modification activities in Wyoming and surround states. In addition, panel discussions addressing the state of current management efforts to improve forest, range and riparian vegetation management have been developed.

As at prior WWA annual conferences, Association members will hear status reports and updates from the Wyoming State Engineer, Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Water Development Commission. These reports will also address ongoing adaptations and transitions occurring in response to current challenges and emerging needs.

The Annual Meeting keynote address will be delivered by former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science Bennett Raley who will offer his perspectives on west-wide water issues. Pat O’Toole, Wyoming rancher and current President of the Family Farm Alliance will address the challenges of maintaining western irrigated agriculture in the face of increasing competition for water supply. Wyoming House of Representatives Speaker Randall Luthi will speak on Legislative Views on Transitions in Water Law. A report on the WWDC’s ongoing economic value of water study will also be presented. **Registration info is on page 7.**

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### **2005 Officers of the Wyoming Water Association**

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# **Another Annual Meeting Approaches**

*by John Shields, Executive Secretary*

Nearly a year has rolled around since the 2004 Wyoming Water Association's Annual Conference and planning and preparation for the 2005 Annual Meeting and Education Seminar are in full swing. You will recall that last year's program was devoted to water conservation - challenges and opportunities. The Association got many great compliments about how what a great conference we had; about the quality of our speakers and their presentations and further about how well the program fit together. As this is written the 2005 Annual Meeting is just over a month away. Your Program Committee has worked hard to develop another excellent annual meeting and education seminar and we hope that you are making plans to attend.

This year's Program theme is "Wyoming's Water - Transitions Ahead." Mention of "transitions" involves and implies change and changing; something we are all familiar with. Nothing on this Earth is unchanging, even if the time scale is geologic. When we speak of "making progress" an inherent concept is that changes are occurring for the betterment of ourselves, our family, our community, the world, etc. How often do we consider the aspects of change itself? How is change effectuated? Are we victims of the change around us or architects of it? While these might seem initially like arcane and academic questions, they do have a real-world impact on our lives, our happiness and the environment in which we live and work.

Effective planned change is not impossible but is more and more difficult to accomplish as the influence unit becomes larger in size and scope. As we consider making changes in our own lives, our first encounter is likely to be with the interdependency that modern existence has for all of us. There is so very much that is beyond our personal control (and that certainly is both good and bad). As we then look to larger influence units the scope of the factors and variable that must be dealt with so as to effectuate change magnifies by nonlinear multiples.

Nonetheless, changes do occur everyday on account of the ability of people to develop consensus, coalitions and get "on the same page" with common purpose and needs -- that can be met by a purchase, a vote or resolution or through other types of governmental action. Innovation similarly is a process. Change can be characterized as incremental or as fundamental systemic discontinuity. Transformation involves "jumps" to new systems and is sometimes called root, radical, revolutionary, or paradigm change; examples being our US clean air and clean water and airline deregulation legislation. Innovation is a major part of the process of transformation. Progress fundamentally involves the creation of an irreversible transformation based on a new set of ordering principles - with a new set of trade-offs (benefits and drawbacks). Complexity is often one of those drawbacks of progress. Paradoxically, there seems to only be one constant for each of us and our world around us: change.

# High Savery Dam Dedication on August 30th *Dream is Now Reality*

*The following story is reprinted from the September 6, 2005 edition of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup – This article was written by and credit is thankfully given to Kristy Wiedemeyer, WLR Assistant Editor.*

Originally envisioned over 20 years ago, the High Savery Dam near Baggs had its official ribbon-cutting and dam dedication on August 30, 2005.

After pumping water across the basin from the Little Snake River to Cheyenne in a project called “Stage II” years ago, the State of Wyoming promised the people of the Little Snake River Valley recovery of their water. A task taking time, legal strings and a lot of people has finally come to a much anticipated completion as the dedication and ribbon-cutting took place August 30 at the new High Savery Dam. “It took a lot of people ... a lot of conversation,” said area local Harry Russell of the completion of High Savery.

There to dedicate the High Savery Dam were past and present members of the Wyoming Water Development Commission, Wyoming Game and Fish representatives, state senators, local ranchers and numerous people deeply involved with the project during its many years to completion.

The dedication ceremony was led by Master of Ceremonies Senator Bill Vasey with an address from Governor Dave Freudenthal. Special remarks were made by WWDC Chairman Floyd Field, past WWDC member Jim Hicks, WWDC Director Mike Besson, WGF Director Terry Cleveland, State Engineer Pat Tyrrell and Joe Chant of the Savery-Little Snake River Water Conservancy District. The ribbon cutting was carried out by Governor Freudenthal and George Salisbury, past county commissioner and legislator for Carbon County.

“After years, disappointments, overcoming bureaucratic egos, petitions ... now its here!” said Salisbury, waving his piece of ribbon from the ribbon cutting ceremony. He continued regarding how monumental the event taking place was with, “well, I guess it’s the same elation as when your first child is born, it’s close!”

Past WWDC member Jim Hicks called the dedication of the High Savery Dam an “outstanding achievement for the State of Wyoming,” and a “testimony to not giving up.”

The High Savery Reservoir covers an area of 482 acres, holding a volume of 22,432 acre-feet in the Little Snake River Valley. It covers two miles in length and

spans up to a half-mile in width. The dam is 1600 by 900 feet with a height of 165 feet. From the dam’s gatehouse, the water temperature is controlled using temperature sensors located on each of the gates.

There are two generators for power at the dam, which are connected to a battery system and can be charged by solar panels. Should the battery system ever get low, the generators will start automatically.

According to Phil Ogle, “all of this can be run by Cheyenne. You can get it started, run the gates, check the battery to see if it’s charged or not, and if not, we can go ahead and start the generators from there (Cheyenne).”

The water temperatures are important as the High Savery Reservoir contains a minimum pool for the raising of native Colorado River Cutthroat Trout. Also stocked in the reservoir will be kokanee salmon and tiger trout, a hybrid of the brook and brown trout.

Dam construction and water storage have become top priority in the state with an eye on the future. During the dedication, Freudenthal stressed the emphasis on water development in Wyoming. He said dam construction in Wyoming is a “multi-generational project.” He confirmed that belief at the end of last year’s legislative session when he signed Water Account III into law, the proceeds of which will be used for water development projects yet to come.

The time it took to complete High Savery Dam is testimony to the complexity presented by permitting, construction and the many steps that must be taken to complete a project. Water development touches on the individual, state and national levels.



*Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the August 30th High Savery Dam dedication were (l to r) Jim Chant, Senator Bill Vasey, Harry Russell, Governor Dave Freudenthal, George Salisbury and WWDC Director Mike Besson.*

# Culture of Water Conference to Be Held in Cody on October 13–15th

## *The Culture of Water: The Evolution of Ownership, Control and Conflict in the West -- Being Held at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center*

The Buffalo Bill Historical Center is putting on a conference this fall in Cody that will be of interest to members of the Wyoming Water Association. The conference is called *The Culture of Water: the Evolution of Ownership, Control and Conflict in the West* and is scheduled for October 13-15, 2005. The goal of the conference is to put current water law and policy issues in a broad context. This event is being sponsored in part by the University of Wyoming College of Law and is supported by a generous grant from the William H. Donner Foundation.

Information included on the conference website notes: “In the 19th century American West, water rights laws were developed to stabilize access and control this precious resource. However, attainability and rights to water are still sources of conflict today. In the arid lands of the American West, the federal government, states, sovereign tribes, corporations and individuals all want increased amounts, creating ongoing struggles. The Culture of Water symposium brings together water specialists from the fields of law, commerce, history and environmental studies to explore this important and timely topic.”

The conference will address multiple law, economics and history topics. The first session of the conference, the *Emergence of Conflict: From Unregulated Use to Preservation and Conservation*, will be followed by a luncheon address by the Honorable Alan K. Simpson, United States Senator (Ret.). Friday afternoon’s session will address “the Platte River: Case Study for Interjurisdictional Conflicts.” The conference keynote speaker will be Tom Sansonetti, Former Assistant Attorney General for Environment and Natural Resources of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Saturday morning’s session will address “Future Water Outlook: Emerging Issues.” This emerging issues session will be moderated by Dr. Harold Bergman, Director of the University of Wyoming’s Institute and School for Environment and Natural Resources and those speaking will be: Mark Gordon,

Chair, Environmental Quality Council and Manager of the U-Cross Ranch, Wyoming; Dan Lueke, Environmental Defense Fund; Tom Jensen, Former Director, Grant Canyon Trust; Edward Barbier, University of Wyoming Economics Department and Lisa Graumlich, Executive Director, Big Sky Institute, Montana State University.

The Saturday luncheon speaker will be the Honorable Bill Bradley, United States Senator (Ret.) and the conference will close with summation & closing remarks.

The conference agenda is posted at [www.bbhc.org/CultureofWater](http://www.bbhc.org/CultureofWater). The registration form can be downloaded at the same website. More information can be obtained from the website or by calling Dr. Bob Pickering at the BBHC by calling 307-578-4043 or by sending an e-mail to [bobp@bbhc.org](mailto:bobp@bbhc.org). The conference registration fee is a mere \$50.00 per person.

## **July 15th WWA Summer Tour *Successful and Well-attended***

Twenty-nine WWA members and guests participated in the July 15th Summer Water Resources Education Tour in the Afton and Star Valley area of Wyoming. Tour stops included the intermittent Periodic Spring, Cottonwood Lake (a WWDC Level II study site for rehabilitation and enlargement), Strawberry Hydroelectric Plant and the WY G&F-managed Upper Palisades wildlife management area. Lunch was provided and was the occasion for an overview briefing by Barry Lawrence of the WWDC on Commission-funded water resources studies in the Snake and Salt River Basins. Tour goers had a great day outdoors being treated to the scenic vistas of the Star Valley, visited interesting sites and learned about water resources features and issues in the northwestern portion of the State. A special “thank you” is extended to Barry Lawrence for pinch-hitting as tour coordinator on tour day when the Executive Director couldn’t be there.

## Resolutions Process Underway

### **WANTED: Your Participation**

The 2006 Resolutions process has begun. The Resolutions and the Statement In Support Of Objectives define the WWA's purpose and goals, and provide guidance to the association's leadership. All WWA members are invited to review the 2005 Resolutions on-line ([www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org)) or by contacting Executive Secretary John Shields at [wwa@wyoming.com](mailto:wwa@wyoming.com) or calling 307-631-0898.

All interested Association members are invited to provide suggested changes to Becky Mathisen by submitting an e-mail to [rlmath@msn.com](mailto:rlmath@msn.com) or by calling her at 307-634-7305 prior to October 15, 2005. Ideas for new resolutions should also be submitted by that date.

The Association's draft 2006 Resolutions and Statement In Support Of Objectives will be posted on the Association website by mid-October. After Board discussion at the November 1st Board of Directors's meeting, the 2006 Resolutions will be considered, debated and approved by the Association's membership at the 2005 Annual Membership Business Meeting to be held in the Ramkota Hotel on November 2, 2005 beginning at 4:00 p.m. Paper copies of the proposed resolutions will be provided to each annual meeting attendee when they check-in at the conference registration desk. Your participation is WELCOME AND NEEDED.

## Exhibitors Sought for WWA Annual Conference

The Ramkota Hotel in Casper has a terrace area adjacent to the ballrooms where the conference sessions and meal events are being held that is ideal for industry and business exhibitors. Our exhibitor fee is a mere \$50.00 - a real bargain for those seeking quality "face time" with water resource professionals from all sectors across the entire state of Wyoming. Consider being an exhibitor at this year's annual conference. A newsletter insert provides additional information and a very short form to register or do so over the phone by calling 307-631-0898.

### **A Point to Ponder:**

The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you can see.

Winston Churchill

## Reminder - WWA Student Members Can be Sponsored to Attend Annual Conference

### **Still Time to Make a Donation to Help Bring a Student to Casper**

As noted in prior newsletters, the General Membership of the Wyoming Water Association now has student memberships. University of Wyoming or junior college students can attend full day sessions of the education seminar or annual meeting by paying only \$15.00 for each day they choose to attend. Payment of the one-day fee also provides students with full-year membership in the Association for the following year.

Members may donate funds for "student sponsorship" so as to facilitate attendance at our conference by students. As of this date, \$175 has been donated for student Sponsorship. A big "thank you" is extended to **Bridger Valley Electrical Association, Wyoming Water Rights Consulting, Inc., and BRS, Inc.** for their donations!

Student memberships are a great way for the Association to accomplish our objectives of promotion and education - and recognizes that the future of Wyoming's water rests with our young adults and those who come after us to continue to resolve this State's water issues.

**WYOMING'S WATER**  
*Transitions Ahead*

**The Wyoming Water Association**

*proudly announces our*

**2005 Annual Meeting & Education Seminar**  
**November 2 - 4, 2005**

**Ramkota Hotel • 800 North Poplar Street, Casper, Wyoming**

*In-Depth Presentations • Panel & Group Discussions*

**Wednesday & Thursday, Nov. 2 & 3 – Annual Meeting & Banquet**  
**Thursday & Friday, Nov. 3 & 4 – Education Seminar**  
*(Qualifies for CLE credits)*

**Save \$50 for Early Registration by Friday, October 28, 2005**

Education Seminar - \$150 • Annual Meeting - \$100 • Seminar & Meeting - \$225

*For more information or to register for the conference*

**Online [www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org) • Email [wwa@wyoming.com](mailto:wwa@wyoming.com) • Call (307) 631-0898**

*The Wyoming Water Association's Annual Meeting is one of the premier water resources-related events in Wyoming each year. It's a great opportunity to network with friends and water resources professionals. Learn more about Wyoming's water. Multiple methods to register make it easy to register. See you in Casper!*

## 2005 WWA Officers and Board Members

President .....	Alan Dugan
1st Vice-President .....	Ron Cunningham
2nd Vice-President .....	Nick Wambeke
Treasurer .....	Jack Meena
Secretary .....	John Shields
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<i>Local Government</i> .....	Tim Wilson Bruce Barnard Robert Taylor Scott Schmidt



*The July 15th WWA Summer Water Resources Educational Tour included a stop at Cottonwood Lake. The WWDC has funded a study of rehabilitating this dam and enlarging the reservoir.*

## The Water Planner: Water-Related Upcoming Events and Activities of Interest

To help inform WWA members about upcoming meetings on Wyoming's water resources, the Water Planner is included in newsletters and can be viewed on our website ([www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org)).

- **October 13-15** - Buffalo Bill Historical Center and UW College of Law Conference - The Culture of Water: the Evolution of Ownership, Control and Conflict in the West. More info at [www.bbhc.org/CultureOfWater](http://www.bbhc.org/CultureOfWater).
- **November 1** - Fall Board Meeting of the **Wyoming Water Association** at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- **November 2-3** - 2005 **Wyoming Water Association Annual Meeting** at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- **November 3-4** - **Wyoming Water Association Education Seminar** at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper.
- **November 8** - **Green River Basin Advisory Group Meeting**. More info at [waterplan.state.wy.us](http://waterplan.state.wy.us) or by calling 777-7626.
- **November 9** - **Snake/Salt River Basin Advisory Group Meeting**. More info at [waterplan.state.wy.us](http://waterplan.state.wy.us) or by calling 777-7626.
- **November 9-11** - National Water Resources Association Annual Conference at the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawaii. More info at [www.nwra.org](http://www.nwra.org).
- **December 13** - **Snake/Salt River Basin Advisory Group Meeting**. More info at [waterplan.state.wy.us](http://waterplan.state.wy.us) or by calling 777-7626.
- **December 14-16** - Annual Meeting of the Colorado River Water Users Association, Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada. More info at [www.crwua.org](http://www.crwua.org) or by calling (760) 398-2651.
- **March 9-11, 2006** - 11th Xeriscape Conference & Expo, Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM. Major water conservation conference will feature ~ 400 professionals from 12 southwestern states and ~ 170 exhibitors on all aspects of landscaping, water and plants. More info at [www.xeriscapenm.com](http://www.xeriscapenm.com).

### NOTICE:

In accordance with Title 17 United States Code Section 107, this material is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving this information for research and educational purposes.



# Wyoming Water Association 2005 Annual Conference Registration Form

Ramkota Hotel in Casper; November 2 - 4, 2005

**Annual Meeting Registration:** The annual meeting registration fee of **\$125 per person** (**\$100 if you register before or on October 28th**) covers both day's annual meeting sessions, the November 2nd luncheon and evening banquet, morning and afternoon refreshment breaks and calendar year 2006 Wyoming Water Association membership. No refunds, per WWA Board policy, can be made for cancellations on or after October 28th. Please advise in advance of any special dietary needs for lunch or banquet meals.

**Educational Seminar Registration:** The Association's popular Educational Seminar continues and is open to everyone – and our registration fee continues to be at the rate of **\$150 per person** (**\$175 for registrations made after Friday, October 28th**). This fee includes the seminar sessions, Thursday lunch, Friday continental breakfast and refreshment breaks – as well as Wyoming Water Association membership during calendar year 2006. Accreditation is being sought from the Wyoming State Bar for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) units for seminar attendance. Credits will also be granted for Professional Development and professional competency (CPC) for other professions. No refunds, per WWA Board policy, can be made for cancellations on or after October 28th.

**Seminar and Annual Meeting Registration:** Once again, we are offering a **\$25 discount** to individuals registering for **both the Educational Seminar and the Annual Meeting** as well as an **additional \$25 discount for registering before October 28th**. Payment of **\$225 by October 28th** (\$250 if registering after October 28th) provides all seminar and annual meeting materials, continental breakfast on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, meal tickets for the Wednesday and Thursday luncheons and the Wednesday banquet, and refreshment breaks all three days – as well as Wyoming Water Association membership during calendar year 2006.

**Hotel Registration:** To make room reservations, call the **Ramkota Hotel at 307-266-6000**. More information can be found on the hotel's website: [www.casper.ramkota.com](http://www.casper.ramkota.com) (same location as last year, the hotel has changed names). Be sure to **state you're attending the WWA Annual Conference** – to get the conference rate of **\$55 per night for one to four people**. **Reserve by October 21st** to assure a room within the WWA block!

**Registration and payment via secure credit card transaction can be quickly and conveniently made on-line by visiting the Association's website at [www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org).** Those paying by credit card can also fax this complete registration form, with all credit card information supplied, to **307-632-0299**. To register by mail, return this form with payment via check or credit card to: **Wyoming Water Association, PO Box 21701, Cheyenne, WY 82003-7032 by 10/28/2005**. Registrations can be accepted and payment made with a credit card over the telephone if other methods are not workable by calling the WWA at **(307) 631-0898**. No refunds for cancellations made the week of the conference. The draft program and other conference information will be posted on the WWA website at [www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org).

Cut on this line and return the bottom portion or copy this page and enclose with payment prior to October 28th to enjoy our pre-conference registration discounts!

ANNUAL MEETING AND SEMINAR PACKAGE - Includes all conference activities on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, including 3 days' continental breakfast; Wednesday and Thursday luncheons and Wednesday evening banquet; beverage and snack breaks all three days; and 2006 WWA annual membership: **\$225** registration on or before October 28th / \$250 thereafter or at the door. \$\_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL MEETING - Thursday and Friday morning annual meeting sessions, luncheon and evening banquet; Friday continental breakfast; beverage and snack breaks both days; and 2006 WWA annual membership: **\$100** on or before October 28th / \$125 after or at the door. \$\_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - Includes seminar materials, Thursday and Friday continental breakfasts; Thursday luncheon; snack and beverage breaks: **\$150** per person on or before October 28th / \$175 thereafter or at the door. \$\_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE DAY OF ANNUAL MEETING – Attend "Wednesday only" for \$50.00 (includes breakfast, lunch and banquet); "All day Thursday" (includes breakfast and luncheon) for \$30.00; or attend "Friday session" by paying \$20.00 (includes continental breakfast). \$\_\_\_\_\_

EXTRA MEAL tickets may be purchased: Banquet tickets are **\$20**; lunches are **\$15.00**. (# Banquet \_\_\_\_ # Lunches \_\_\_\_ ) \$\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT MEMBER - Student Members of the WWA can register for the special rate of **\$15.00 per day** which includes breakfasts, snack and beverage breaks and luncheon costs. Please indicate number of days you will be attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00/day: \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL:\$\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ REPRESENTING \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPOUSE OR GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

VISA or MasterCard (circle one) Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE requested for credit card purchases: \_\_\_\_\_



## Wyoming Water Association

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*Water Is Wyoming's Gold!*

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**Details are inside concerning the  
2005 Wyoming Water Association's  
Annual Meeting and Education Seminar  
November 2-4th in Casper**

***"Wyoming's Water -- Transitions Ahead"***

**Sure hoping to see you at the Ramkota Hotel.**

**Make your reservations now!**