



Wyoming Water Association

Wyoming Water Flow

Water Is Wyoming's Gold!

Volume LXVII, Issue II

August 2004

WWA's 2004 Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar To Be Held on October 27th through 29th in Casper *Water Conservation: Challenges and Opportunities*

WWA Members, mark your calendar and make your plans now to attend the Wyoming Water Association's 2004 Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar to be held October 27 through 29th. This year's meeting will again be held in Casper at the Radisson Hotel, located at 800 North Poplar Street. This year's program theme is devoted to "Water Conservation - Challenges and Opportunities" and your Program Committee has done a tremendous job in selecting topics for program sessions and speakers

and panel members that will explore and expand upon the program's water conservation theme in interesting and informative ways. Your Wyoming Water Association Officers and Board of Directors are determined to make this annual meeting *the* water meeting of the 2004 year. More details about the annual meeting, including a rundown of the proposed program and educational seminar are found in other articles within this newsletter.

We hope you'll make plans to attend!

WWA Members Enjoy Summer Tour in Sheridan/Buffalo Area

Thirty-five Association members and guests participated in the WWA's July 9th Summer Tour. The tour included presentations during the tour orientation and registration period at the Holiday Inn in Sheridan prior to the field tour and during the noon luncheon at the Bozeman Trail Steakhouse and Conference Center in Buffalo. Featured stops during the field tour included the Mead Creek Ditch rehabilitation project, Lake DeSmet and the City of Buffalo Water Treatment Plant, hydroelectric generation plant and the Tie Hack Dam and Reservoir.

The Association is very pleased to have the opportunity to thank **First Interstate Bank of Sheridan** for underwriting the cost of the tour luncheon held at the Bozeman Trail Steakhouse and Conference Center in Buffalo. The Association gratefully acknowledges the generous support of First Interstate Bank and attendance at the luncheon by Linda Thompson, Vice-President and Manager of the Bank's Sheridan Financial Services Group.

Presentations were made during the course of the tour by Dave Engels, President of EnTech, Inc. of Sheridan and Jerry Forster, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service of Sheridan on erosion control work completed to date on the Mead Creek Ditch and studies and planning underway to correct erosion problems associated with ditch operations associated with the Mead Creek Ditch Company, Piney and Cruse Creek Ditch Company and the Prairie Dog Water Supply Company. These companies' ditches divert flow from North and South Piney Creeks into the Prairie Dog Creek watershed. Over the years, the transbasin diversions across Tunnel Hill have caused considerable erosion and downcutting, contributing to ditch operational and sedimentation problems. The initial Mead Creek Ditch work eliminating a considerable drop by piping the ditch water and discharging it through an innovative energy dissipation tank structure was funded through NRCS

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Wyoming Water Flow

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Editorial

WATER CONSERVATION: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

**John Shields, Executive Secretary, Wyoming Water Association
Cheyenne, Wyoming**

Water Conservation: Challenges and Opportunities is the theme of this year's Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar. The Association's Program Committee has labored mightily to develop a relevant and integrated program of presentations, panel discussions and moderated question and answer/breakout sessions that will address the many aspects of water conservation. The subject of water conservation is at once many things to many people. The phrase is used in many contexts to mean very different things. As we are now in our fifth year of drought in Wyoming and across the western United States, these words are being spoken - and acted upon - in many ways. For example, consider that a "Google" search of the words "water conservation" turns up 1.198 million hits at the time this article is being written. This is indicative of the fact that water conservation is both a popular and a very complex topic that involves both public and private interests. Clearly there are a lot of people who are having a lot to say about the topic! The WWA believes the need exists - and through this year's program - is going to ensure that more is said about the matter here in Wyoming. The format of this year's annual conference will address both the public policy and personal property right perspectives of water conservation. We hope that you will make plans to attend **both** the Educational Seminar and the Annual Meeting this year - please consider investing the time to learn more about this topic.

Water conservation, to my way of thinking, is a phrase to describe "effective water use." Water conservation consists of any beneficial reduction in water losses, waste, or use. "Demand management" has come into the lingo to describe purposeful means for reducing use. Here in the arid West we understand that water is a limited and most precious resource - so much so that the Wyoming State Constitution vests ownership of our water supplies in the collective ownership of the State. This ownership is a means to control not only use but to avoid loss and waste. The State's laws put necessary bounds on water use and control.

The term "conservation" in our society sometimes carries the stigma of inconvenience and discomfort, conditions that can occur with stringent forms of water use restrictions. Another aspect of effective use or demand management is living within the available limited supply.

Many questions about water conservation can be easily asked - with answers and explanations being much tougher to come by. This will not detract us from trying. The Board of Directors of the Wyoming Water Association believe now is the time for our organization to engage in the dialogue, explore the issues and develop a more meaningful and active role for Wyoming's only statewide water resources association in addressing ongoing and future challenges in the water conservation - effective water use - demand management arena. See you in Casper!

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and ditch company funding; the additional planning study for additional work on the Mead Creek Ditch, Piney and Cruse Ditch and the Prairie Dog Water Supply Ditch is being funded through a Wyoming Water Development Commission Level I Study.

Bruce Yates, Sheridan County Engineer, provided a most informative and insightful presentation both during the tour orientation session and at the group's field tour stop at Lake DeSmet concerning the construction, history and operation of Lake DeSmet. Yates described the formation of the joint powers water board and involvement of Sheridan and Buffalo Counties in the board's actions to date. Yates provided an overview of the complex water rights associated with Lake DeSmet, its important recreational and water supply functions in the Buffalo area and relationship of the reservoir's former owners,. Reynolds Aluminum and subsequently Texaco, Inc. to its past enlargement.

During the luncheon, Mickey Steward of the Coal Bed Methane Coordinating Coalition provided a most educational presentation on coal bed methane water disposal techniques. She described, using extensive photographs in a PowerPoint presentation, the evolution of thinking and methods used for water collection and disposal (including means of putting the water to use).

This year's summer event covered diverse topics and all subjects covered were both informative and well received. Thanks to all that participated in the summer tour! A special thank you is extended to those who provided "car pool" transportation for others - as we travelled from Sheridan to Buffalo and out to Tie Hack Reservoir and back.

WWA's Board of Directors' Met on July 8th

During the Board meeting held the evening before the tour, the Association's Board members discussed the upcoming Association Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar and arrangements being made for the conference at length. The Board also reviewed ongoing and planned committee activities. The Board visited with Jim Magagna, Executive Director of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association by telephone concerning the organization of the Coalition for Wyoming Water, recently formed by the

WSGA, WY Wool Growers Association, WY Assoc. of Conservation Districts, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and the Farm Bureau Federation. More information about the coalition can be found on the internet on the Wyoming Association of Conservation District's (WACD) website at : www.conservewy.com/wacd/watercampaign.html.

The Board's next meeting will be on Tuesday evening, October 26th, in the Tetons Room at the Radisson Hotel in Casper.

Association Website Overhaul and Updating Underway *Convenient and Secure Online Registration for Annual Conference To Be Offered This Year*

There's an old adage that a picture is worth a thousand words ... and in these these early years of the 21st century there seems to be a corollary that every good organization needs a good website. Although WWA's two year old site has provided service to our members and information to site visitors, an overhaul of the site's appearance and organizational improvements to arrange the information that is presented in a more logical order is ongoing. This is being done at the same time that new functionality is being added. Those wishing to attend the WWA's Educational Seminar and/or annual meeting will be able, by mid-September, to register and make credit card payments for the upcoming annual meeting online at our website: www.wyomingwater.org. The WWA Board believes our members will like the convenience of registering for meetings or paying membership dues online - in a secure online environment. This service will allow WWA to accept payments made by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, Diners, JCB and debit cards with the Visa and MasterCard logo. We sure think you are going to like this new service!

I never allow myself to become discouraged under any circumstances ... The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are, first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense.

Thomas A. Edison

A Quick Summary of the WWDC's Water Management and Conservation Program

Our upcoming Annual Meeting's program will focus entirely on water conservation as noted elsewhere in this newsletter. Provided below is the summary of the Water Development Commission's "Water Management and Conservation Program" found on the Commission's website:

"Conserving water is a function of water management. It is a tool to help meet the demands society places on a finite supply of water. Saving water is not necessarily simply the result of water conservation implementation but is also the outcome of water management influences related to history, custom, culture and politics. As such, conserving water is not only an activity involving irrigation efficiency, low-flush toilets and xeriscaping but an idea regulating growth, development and environmental mitigation.

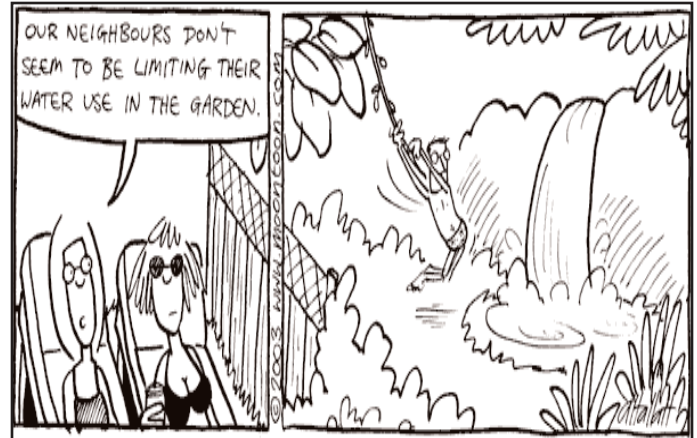
The WWDC and the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, initiated the development of a water conservation program for the state beginning August 1998. The purpose of this effort is to develop options for a water conservation program with targets of addressing water conservation practices, investigating strategies, evaluating methodology, analysis of implementation ramifications, evaluation of impacts and identification of sources of assistance.

The program has developed a directory of assistance programs available to water users and the public. There are presently 23 participating local, state and federal agencies and organizations that provide educational, technical, financial, planning and policy assistance to water users and the public in pursuing voluntary water management and conservation implementation.

The WY State Engineer's Office, Western States Water Council, USBR Wyoming Area Office and the Natural Resources Conservation Service sponsored a western region Water Conservation Symposium in Casper, Wyoming on July 12-14, 2000. Access to a summary of the presentations and activities of this symposium are available through the following address:

wwdc.state.wy.us/wconsprog/sum-2000Jul12.html"

Can U C the humor in it ...



2004 WWA Officers and Board Members

- President** Alan Dugan
- 1st Vice-President** Ron Cunningham
- 2nd Vice-President** Nick Wambeke
- Treasurer** Bill Stafford
- Secretary** John Shields

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2004 Annual Meeting Focus On Water Conservation

Program and Educational Seminar to Explore Multiple Realms of Water Conservation

“Water conservation - coming soon to a water user near you” - it's a message that may we may be hearing sooner - rather than later - here in Wyoming.

Recently very much center stage and in the spotlight, water conservation seems to be an idea whose time has come. If, however, we define water conservation as the careful use of water to better maintain current supplies, then water conservation is not a recent development. What is relatively new is our current perception of water conservation.

The Wyoming Water Association's Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar will provide an in-depth look at many aspects of water conservation. It will include not only the “Wyoming experience” but also offer examples and case studies from surrounding states as well. It's interesting to consider some of the relatively current news reports about how others are dealing with the ongoing drought. For example, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported in mid-April that ten of the large water utilities on the Front Range of Colorado will spend an average of \$2.50 on water conservation programs this year, according to a survey conducted by that newspaper. As southwestern states including Colorado enter their fifth year of drought, Colorado Springs will spend the most - \$6.25 per customer, or about 1.26 percent of the overall budget of the state's second-largest water utility the survey found. Pueblo will spend the least, about \$0.59 per customer. Denver Water, Colorado's largest water utility, will spend \$3.72 million on conservation, 1.7 percent of its budget, or about \$3.10 per customer. Denver's long-range plans call for reducing demand through conservation programs by 29,000 acre-feet by 2050 - equal to 14 percent of current water use. Additionally, Denver's new recycling plant will save another 17,000 acre-feet, or a supply amount sufficient for 35,000 families.

These figures pales in comparison to the budget for water conservation in Las Vegas, where the Southern Nevada Water Authority will be spending

about \$15.50 per customer on conservation activities during 2004. The Authority's Water Smart landscape program pays residents and business owners to replace grass with desert landscaping. So far this year, 17 million square feet of turf has been converted to xeriscape landscaping and \$14.7 million in rebates have been paid out in the Las Vegas Valley, up from 11.8 million square feet and \$10.2 million in all of 2003. According to an August 2004 article in a Las Vegas newspaper, since its inception in January 1999, the Water Smart landscape program has eliminated enough grass to form a roll of turf 18 inches wide and long enough to stretch from Las Vegas to New York City and back. Some sources indicate that SNWA will spend in excess of \$100 million on landscape modifications over the life of the program.

Here in Wyoming, the City of Cheyenne's water conservation program has been quite successful in reducing water demand over the past two years. At the August 2004 meeting of the Wyoming Drought Task Force, Gary Beach, who is head of the drought task force's subcommittee on public water supply, said Cheyenne has been the most aggressive of Wyoming's communities in dealing with the drought. Beach said he is unaware of any community in the state that has developed the kind of drought response plan Cheyenne adopted. Beach referenced the reservoir storage “scare” Cheyenne had two years ago, when the city almost came up short of water.

Thoughtful practitioners of water conservation know there is more to water conservation than saving water. Saving water is the end result and final product of the workings of various historical, cultural and political influences. These determine our perceptions of water, water use and therefore our commitment to water conservation. Water conservation can be folklore, a strategy to support growth and development, a method for providing water for “the greatest good, for the greatest number, for the longest time” or an action mandated by law, among other things. Water conservation is supported and practiced today for varied reasons.

The Wyoming Water Association is looking forward to substantial discussions of the important topic of water conservation during our October 27-29th annual conference. Hope to see you there!

Resolutions to Be Considered and Approved by Association Members

Input By Our Members Needed and Sought

The 2005 Resolutions process has begun. The Resolutions and Statement In Support Of Objectives define the WWA's purpose and goals, and provide guidance to the WWA's leadership. All members are invited to review the 2004 Resolutions on the WWA website (www.wyomingwater.org) and to provide suggested changes to Becky Mathisen at rlmath@msn.com or 307-634-7305 prior to Sept. 15, 2004. Ideas for new resolutions are also requested by that date. The Association's Draft 2005 Resolutions and the Statement in Support of Objectives will be brought to the membership for approval during the Annual Membership meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. on October 28th at the Radisson Hotel in Casper. Participation is encouraged, necessary to have the Association's positions reflect the viewpoints of all members and most especially is welcome!

Reminder to Make Your Hotel Room Reservation by October 12th

Educational Seminar and Annual Meeting Lodging at the Radisson Hotel

Association members are reminded to make your lodging reservations for the upcoming Educational Seminar and Annual Meeting in advance of the block reservation cut-off of **October 12, 2004**. Make your reservation by calling Radisson Reservations at 800-333-3333 or by calling the hotel in Casper directly at 307-266-6000. Please mention that you are attending the Wyoming Water Association Annual Conference when making your reservation in order to obtain our conference lodging rate of **\$55.00 per night**, single to 4 person occupancy. The hotel will not hold rooms past the October 12th deadline - while they will honor the room rate lodging will be subject to availability for reservations made on October 13th and after. The Casper Radisson has recently undergone a \$3 million renovation and we hope to see you there!

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).

- **September 2** - State Water Forum meeting, Herschler Building, Room 1699, Cheyenne. For more info., contact Jodee Pring at 777-7803.
- **September 10-12** - Wyoming Game and Fish Expo, Casper Events Center, Casper.
- **September 16** - Wyoming Legislature's Joint Interim Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee meeting, Evanston.
- **September 27-29** - Western States Water Council's Western Water Supply Challenges Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah. More info at www.westgov.org/wswc/meetings.html.
- **October 5** - State Water Forum Meeting, State Engineer's Conf.Room, Herschler Bldg., 4th East, Cheyenne. More info.: Jodee Pring at 777-7803.
- **October 11** - Bear River Basin Advisory Group meeting, More info, Barry Lawrence at 777-7626 or blawre@state.wy.us.
- **October 12** - Green River Basin Advisory Group meeting, Lyman Town Hall, Lyman. More info: Barry Lawrence at 777-7626 or blawre@state.wy.us.
- **October 13** - Snake/Salt Basin Advisory Group meeting, For more info, contact Barry Lawrence at 777-7626 or blawre@state.wy.us.
- **October 13** - Water Rights & Related Water Supply Issues Conference, Salt Lake City, UT. See the U.S. Committee on Irrigation and Dams website at www.uscid.org/oridcall.html.
- **October 27** - Wyoming Water Association's Educational Seminar, Radisson Hotel, Casper.
- **October 28-29** - Wyoming Water Association's Annual Meeting, Radisson Hotel, Casper.
- **November 9-12** - 73rd Annual Conference of the National Water Resources Association, Hotel Del Coronado, San Diego, California. For more information, go to www.nwra.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.



Wyoming Water Association

2004 Membership Form

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The WWA Board has established the following dues schedule for calendar year 2004.

Membership Class:	Annual Membership Dues:
Individual	\$35.00 to \$100.00
Small Businesses	\$50.00 to \$100.00
Medium Businesses	\$100.00 to \$250.00
Large Businesses	\$250.00 to \$5,000.00
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 2004 Calendar Year. I have enclosed \$ _____ as my/our dues payment for the coming year.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *If you attended the 2003 Annual Meeting and/or Educational Seminar in Casper, your registration fees included your membership dues for 2004 - and you do not need to submit this renewal form. Membership dues invoices were sent out in late March - if you haven't returned yours, please do so 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!

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It's time to mark your calendar for the:
Wyoming Water Association's
2004 Annual Meeting & Educational Seminar

to be held October 27 - 29, 2004

At the Radisson Hotel in Casper, Wyoming

*Information and Details about the Annual Meeting and
Educational Seminar are in this newsletter and on our*

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