

These are the notes from the April 9, 2019 Yellowstone River Compact Commission Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Sheridan, WY. The notes below are meant to summarize the activities, presentations, and discussions that occurred at the meeting and are not meant to capture the meeting in its entirety.

1. Introductions

Attending: Chairman John Kilpatrick, Seth Davidson and (via phone) Kirk Miller (US Geological Survey); David Schroeder, John Mumm, and Loren Smith (Wyoming State Engineers Office); Mark Elison (Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation); Clayton Jordan and Mahonri Williams (US Bureau of Reclamation); Todd Chambers (National Weather Service); Art Hayes, Jr. (Tongue River Water Users' Association); Chris Brown (Wyoming Attorney General's Office); Forest Dunning (Tongue River Electric Cooperative, Inc.), and (via phone) Lucas Zukiewicz (Natural Resources Conservation Service).

2. Additions/Revisions to Agenda

No additions or changes to the proposed agenda.

3. Hydrologic Update of USGS Gages

MT-WY USGS (Seth Davidson)

Davidson presented a hydrologic update on streams of relevance to the YRCC.

4. 2019 Runoff Forecasts

NRCS (Luke Zukiewicz)

Zukiewicz presented SNOTEL site data and 2019 runoff.

NOAA-NWS (Todd Chambers)

Chambers presented NWS predictions.

5. YRCC TAC Report

Discussion of Tongue River forecasting efforts. Minimal progress without Callaway and Dalby or replacements.

Discussion of financial actions available to YRCC TAC. None readily available (ie: no mechanism for grants, etc.).

Discussion of staffing for YRCC partners:

No Wyoming State Engineer has been appointed.

No replacement for Beth Callaway.

No replacement for Charles Dalby.

6. Reservoir operations and storages

USBR (Mahonri Williams)

Williams presented information about the operations of dams within the Wind/Bighorn River Basins.

USBR (Clayton Jordan)

Jordan presented a handout of the Bighorn Lake April Operating Plans.

WSEO (Dave Schroeder)

Schroeder presented a summary of WSEO Division II reservoir contents.

MTDNRC (Mark Elison)

Elison provided a summary of DNRC reservoirs contents.

7. Bighorn Lake Operations Technical Review

USBR (Clayton Jordan)

Jordan provided a summary of the USBR technical review of operations at Bighorn Lake.

Additional comments by Loren Smith.

8. Montana V. Wyoming update

Wyoming Attorney General's Office (Chris Brown)

Brown provided an update of the Special Master's Decision.

Action Items for TAC consideration:

- a) Recommend removing Wyoming v Montana agenda item from future meetings.
- b) Reminder for TAC to assess provisions in section G of Special Master's report concerning information sharing between MT and WY.
- c) Currently a perpetual request for GW use that is hydrologically connected
Is standing request necessary? TAC may make recommendation to Commissioners.

9. State Permits and Adjudication

MTDNRC (Mark Elison)

Elison provided a verbal report of recent permits and adjudication in Montana.

WSEO (Loren Smith)

Smith provided a verbal report of recent permits and adjudication in WSEO Division III.

WSEO (Dave Schroeder)

Schroeder provided a verbal report of recent permits and adjudication in WSEO Division II.

10. Wyoming project updates

WSEO (Dave Schroeder)

Schroeder provided a handout of Wyoming water planning projects in the Yellowstone River Basin.

11. 2019 Annual Yellowstone River Compact Commission Meeting

The TAC confirmed date of Wednesday, December 4, 2019 in Sheridan, WY – Location TBD.