

## Water Committee

Chair: Rob Crofts

Vice Chair: Chuck Sylvester

Recorder: Bridger Feuz

- Call to Order – Rob Crofts
- State Engineer’s Report – Harry LaBonte
  - Weighted average of snow water equivalent on May 11 = 102%
  - Viewed as a pretty good water winter
    - Most reservoirs forecasted to fill
  - Niobrara River
    - Group of Nebraska farmers is alleging that Wyoming is not in compliance with the compact
    - The group of landowners has sued the state of Nebraska for failure to meet compliance
  - Yellowstone Compact
    - Special master held first hearing in February
    - Decision expected shortly on possible dismissal
  - Millian Pipeline Project
    - Divert water in Wyoming and deliver to the front range of Colorado
    - 250,000 acre feet
    - State Engineer is seeking more clarification before acting on pending applications
      - Once applications are better defined public meetings will be held in the affected water basins
- Water Quality Issues – Jack Berger
  - TMDL Development – State is moving forward
    - Producers are encouraged to get involved
    - Districts will continue to implement watershed management plan
  - Clean Water Restoration Act
    - Broad definition of what water would be federally regulated
  - UAA – Use Attainability Analysis
    - Check to see if streams on your property are properly categorized in table A and table B
  - Water and Conservation Tour
    - Platte Valley on June 12<sup>th</sup>
- Clean Water Restoration Act – Maggie Beal of Senator Barrasso’s office
  - A bill has been introduced that would change the definition of water under federal regulation from navigable waters to essentially all water
    - Opposed by Senator Barrasso

- Treatment as States – Doug Thompson
  - Provisions that allow federal government to grant authority to tribes to administer authority of water and air covered in the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act
  - Clean Air Act defines a 50 mile buffer zone for the tribes notification jurisdiction
  - Proposing resolution to deal with this issue
- New Policy
  - The Wyoming Stock Growers oppose the EPA granting administrative authority under TAS (Treatment As States) provisions of either the Clean Water Act of Clean Air Act to the Joint Business Council of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe tribes.
    - Moved to accept as a directive – motion passed
  - The Wyoming Stock Growers oppose the Clean Water Restoration Act, S. 787, which attempts to remove the word “navigable” from the definition of US Waters that are subject to federal regulation.
    - Moved to approve – motion passed
  - The Wyoming Stock Growers oppose any pipeline across southern Wyoming to transport water from the Green River and Flaming Gorge to Colorado.
    - Moved to approve – motion passed
- Policy Review
  - #22 Support the development of a weather modification program funded by the State of Wyoming through the Wyoming Water Development Commission.
    - Moved to remove – motion failed
    - Moved to renew – motion passed
  - #23 Urge that all excess Wyoming water should be utilized by Wyoming users first and that Nebraska be allowed to use the water only if they replace it and forfeit their right to exercise the water call the following year.
    - Moved to renew – Motion passed
- Adjourn

### Adopted Directives and Resolutions

Directive 1- The Wyoming Stock Growers oppose the EPA granting administrative authority under TAS (Treatment As States) provisions of either the Clean Water Act of Clean Air Act to the Joint Business Council of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe tribes.

Resolution 1 - The Wyoming Stock Growers oppose the Clean Water Restoration Act, S. 787, which attempts to remove the word “navigable” from the definition of US Waters that are subject to federal regulation.

Resolution 2 - The Wyoming Stock Growers oppose any pipeline across southern Wyoming to transport water from the Green River and Flaming Gorge to Colorado.