

Water Development Commission

❖ *Mission and philosophy*

The Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) provides funding assistance to public entities for water supply projects, serves as the water planning agency for the state, performs technical services for public entities and other state agencies and serves as the lead state agency in some of Wyoming's water investments. Public service is a public trust. The Wyoming Water Development Office will be open, ethical and responsive to the public served. Within the program's limited resources, innovation and creativity are the keys to long-term success. Through management support, training and development of personnel and a respect for the views of citizens, Water Development Office staff will be empowered to deliver quality services.

❖ *Results of outcomes*

During FY99, the Water Development planning and construction staffs completed 21 new development projects and 11 rehabilitation projects with a total cost savings of \$2,884,401. Applications for four new development and eight rehabilitation projects were reviewed and, through the legislative process, accepted into the program.

Water Development Account I and II loans generated revenue of \$2,465,388 in principal payments and \$2,457,934 in interest payments. All 117 loan payments were collected, and there are no delinquencies in the loan program.

The state's repayment and operation/maintenance obligations on Buffalo Bill, Fontenelle and Palisades Reservoirs were met, and all payments were received from the state's storage contractors.

During FY99, the planning staff completed one instream flow feasibility study. In conjunction with the State Engineer's Office and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, hearings were held on an additional 19 instream flow filings.

The WWDC completed the feasibility study of the new river basin planning process, with the recommendation being authorization of a five-year effort that will culminate in the completion of basin plans for the entire state. These plans will include compilation of an exhaustive database of water-related information that will be available to the public on the Internet.

Consultants have been selected to prepare plans for the Green and Bear River Basins, with notice to proceed on those contracts scheduled for July 1, 1999. The consultants' work on these basins will be completed by December 2000. In order to stay on schedule, two more basins will be started each year; therefore, requests will be submitted to the next three Legislatures for funding for successive river basin planning efforts.

The WWDC has conducted an extensive public outreach

General information

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Year established and reorganized

Established 1979, reorganized 1982.

Statutory references

W.S. 41-1-106 through 41-1-108 and W.S. 41-2-101 through 41-2-124 and W.S. 41-3-1004

Number of authorized personnel

15 full-time

Organizational structure

Planning division, construction division, managerial services division

Clients served

Irrigation districts, conservancy districts, municipalities, water and sewer districts, joint powers boards, improvement and service districts, counties and state agencies.

Budget information

Water Development Account I	\$1,678,120
Total	\$1,678,120

effort as part of the river basin planning process, including presentations to interest groups, formation of basin advisory groups (BAGs), informational displays at conferences, etc. The BAGs were formed to serve as an information exchange mechanism for the river basin planning process and have been invaluable in identifying basin water issues. These groups will also be utilized in reviewing products received from consultants.

A river basin planning Web site has been established and is being maintained to provide a quick and accurate mechanism whereby current information can be provided to BAGs, the public, government agencies and other interested parties. During FY99, this Web site was accessed more than 7,200 times per month. This will also be the primary presentation mechanism for the river basin plans upon their completion.

❖ *Strategic plan changes*

The Wyoming Water Development Commission will continue to develop and fund water projects, within budgetary restraints, to preserve and protect Wyoming's water. River basin planning efforts will continue as a valuable tool for future water development.

Water Development Commission organization chart

