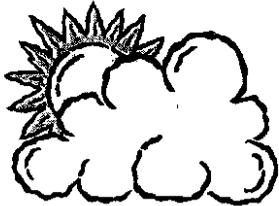


On the Inside Weather



TODAY: A 30 percent of precipitation. Mostly cloudy with a high near 67.

TONIGHT: Continued 30 percent chance of precipitation. Mostly cloudy with a low around 46. West winds 9 to 18 mph.

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Lifestyles

Project manager discusses proposed pipeline plans

By **DEREK RAYBACK**
Daily Rocket-Miner Staff Reporter

ROCK SPRINGS — While there has been a lot of focus on Aaron Million and his proposed pipeline, the manager of another project addressed the Sweetwater County Joint Waters Board on Tuesday about his plan to move water from the Flaming Gorge to Colorado.

Frank Yeager stressed that the project he is proposing is still in its infancy. He said he is fully aware this project is not very popular but said both Wyoming and Colorado needs water. Yeager said he is interested in helping both Wyoming and Colorado communities.

Yeager said his project is very different than the other pipeline proposal because

he represents public agencies trying to get water to their constituents.

"We are not looking at making millions of dollars," Yeager said. "We have to look at this as an opportunity for both states."

Yeager said he does not know if his project will be built or even if the water is available. He said they are beginning a dialogue and are starting to discuss studies needed to answer questions about the project and the Flaming Gorge. He said he believed any pipeline project would need to be approved by both states and it is imperative that all the parties are involved in the project. Yeager also said they would involve the federal government and the Bureau of Reclamation.

To go forward, Yeager said they will spend hundreds of thousand dollars to look

at the issues and make sure every question is answered. He said he does not believe the Million project has looked at the different issues or attempted to answer questions.

Yeager stressed they came to Rock Springs to visit with the water board to have an open dialogue.

"There is no hidden agendas, we want to have an open dialogue with everyone and make sure everything is open to the public," Yeager said. "I don't know if you get that with the other project."

Yeager said they have looked at different options, including the South Platte River as well as the Colorado and Arkansas rivers. He said the difference between the South Platte and the Flaming Gorge is water quality. He said there would be a lot more

work to clean the South Platte water for use than for Flaming Gorge water.

Board member Tom Jorgensen asked if the pipeline group was aware of any current studies. He said his biggest question is if the water is available. Yeager said that is their biggest question. He said he did not know about the Million group research, but the state of Colorado has a study on the impact of global warming and the Colorado River. His staff also said Colorado officials are also looking into compact calls.

Board member Wally Johnson said during an earlier presentation Yeager said once the water gets into Flaming Gorge, it has no value. Johnson said he disagreed with this statement.

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Pipeline ...

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Johnson said Flaming Gorge has a tremendous value to the residents as well as to Sweetwater County. Johnson said he is opposed to any project that would hurt this.

Yeager said the quote was accurate, but clarified he understands the economic value but does not know the potential physical changes.

Jorgensen questioned how much Wyoming would receive from the feed. Yeager said 30,000 acre feed of water would help the eastern part of Wyoming. Yeager said his project was said to involve a 165,000-acre feed, but this number is not accurate. He said until they finish the study, they will not know what is possible.

Other board members ques-

tioned Yeager about potential benefits for the area and specifics about the project. Yeager said most of the answers would be speculation and did not want to speculate, so he wanted to wait until the studies are done to answer specific questions.

Board member Gary Kilpack said he agreed with Johnson saying he sees zero value to Sweetwater County by doing this.

"If there is no value to us, why would we be supportive," Kilpack said.

Harriet Hageman, a Wyoming water lawyer and member of the Yeager group, said she has been involved with Wyoming water issues for many years including some in Sweetwater County. She said the big question is not what is happening now but what will happen in 100 years. She said

Laramie, Cheyenne and Natrona County are all very interested in the project and getting water to the eastern side of the state.

Hageman played down the East vs. West factor and said they are not here to steal anyone's water. She also said they have put together a coalition with all parties involved and need Sweetwater County to be at the table.

Chairman Gene Smith said although there is not a lot of support for any project to take water from the gorge, it does not mean they cannot talk. Smith said he thinks people would be better served by the JPWB and others in Sweetwater County to sit at the table and talk.

Again Smith noted the opposition in the area and told Yeager to expect a negative response to the projects.

8 - 9 a.m. Coffee, pastries and schedule.

9 a.m. - Depart for historic sites!

Historian Talks and Home-cooked Lunch included for \$30

Please bring a four-wheel drive vehicle if possible. Carpool arrangements can be made.

Join us at the Carbon County Museum

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Spaces are limited, call soon 307-328-2740

or e-mail carbonc@wyoming.com

Mail check/names to:

Carbon County Museum Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1995, Rawlins WY 82301

Supported in part by a grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund, a program of the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources

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