MINUTES
WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION MEETING
October 17, 2011

Washakie County School District #1 Administration Office
Worland, Wyoming

The October 17, 2011, emergency Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Wendy Sweeny at Washakie County School District #1 Administration Office, Worland, Wyoming.

Commissioners present: Chairwoman Wendy Sweeny, Commissioners Larry Atwell, Charlene Bodine, Bruce Brown, Sandy McCormick, Saundra Meyer and Jack Russell.

Commission staff present: Executive Director Jim Rose, Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer Matt Petry.

A roll call was taken. A quorum was present. Due notice had been published.

Chairwoman Sweeny asked for introductions, welcomed visitors and called the meeting to order.

RECONSIDERATION OF 2013/2014 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION REQUEST

Jim Rose explained the process that was used in response to the governor’s letter of September 29, 2011. The letter directed the Commission to reconsider the capital construction request weighing three principle issues: (1) local contribution of each district relative to bonding capacity at the level of six mills; (2) the level of design that has been achieved and projected design costs, which should not exceed five to eight percent; and (3) being able to discern an educational mission for the projects that are on the list. There is such a diversity of requests that there is not a common educational mission or goal.

To address these principle issues, commissioners were provided a spreadsheet in which the model was adjusted to include additional information. This resulted in a new priority ranking of projects as shown in Column AB of the handout. Dr. Rose added that the additional weighting factors could and probably should be added to the capcon model.

Referencing the factor on demonstrating local support, Commissioner Meyer asked about proposed projects outside of the community college county. Dr. Rose said there is a sincere interest on the governor’s part to have a demonstration of local support near where the facility is. However, there is no statutory provision for a college board of trustees to levy taxes on assessed valuation outside of its county.

Commissioner Atwell asked whether it was necessary to distinguish Level 1 from Level 2 planning, because construction costs are not known until Level 3 planning is complete. Jim Rose said there is not a
uniform policy. In some cases, projects have been funded before planning has reached Level 2. Historically, the Construction Management Division requires more information than Level 1 provides, but the State Building Commission has been more lenient at times.

Commission Chair Sweeny opened the floor for general comments, asking trustees to include any information that Commissioners may not have in their packets.

Eastern Wyoming College: Trustee Sheri Lovercheck emphasized the importance of the Agriculture Program to EWC and how the Veterinary Tech Program is a critical partner. The college does not have the facilities to fully support necessary instruction. President Armstrong also spoke on behalf of EWC, noting that the building in Converse County is very old. There is strong local support for the building in Douglas. President Armstrong also addressed the need for an addition to Lancer Hall.

Casper College: President Nolte said that the college would be raising $1.2 million for the project, and about $400,000 of that is the value of the land that is being donated. He said the project is at Level 1 planning. He pointed out that the footnote on the handout is somewhat misleading. It says that the project was not given a priority because it is being located off the main campus. President Nolte said that none of the projects in the master plan were prioritized.

Central Wyoming College: Caroline Mills and President McFarland presented for Central Wyoming College. Three of the four projects relate to improving academic space. The purpose for the Equine Center is to augment the Equine Program, which is a popular program in the community; and the new Agriculture Program, which is popular in the surrounding agricultural areas. All four projects have proceeded through Level 2. President McFarland asked Commissioners to consider any current bonded indebtedness in their deliberations, noting that Casper College and CWC, for instance, have just passed long-term, general obligation bonds.

Laramie County Community College: Trustee John Kaiser and Interim President Miles LaRowe presented for LCCC. Mr. Kaiser said that this building has been in the master plan for many years. Level 1 planning is complete. President LaRowe said the purpose of the building would be to provide classroom space for the University of Wyoming focusing on associates through graduate degrees. The flagship coursework that will be offered in the building will be Nursing, Business and Education. Commissioner Russell asked for clarification on the funding. President LaRowe explained that the university and LCCC will each contribute $13 million to the project. The university does not yet know whether they will ask for state funding for actual construction costs. At this time, the university plans to ask for state funding only to cover Level 3 planning.

Northern Wyoming Community College District: President Young reported that half of the cost for the Sheridan project would come from a private gift. For the Gillette project, half of the cost will come from local government. Both projects are at the Level 2 planning stage. President Young also thanked Commission staff for all the work it has done with the many iterations of this model.

Northwest College: President Prestwich said that Level 1 funding has been completed for the Yellowstone building. It is the top facility need in the college’s master plan. About half of the project will be dedicated to Category 1 (academic) instruction.
Western Wyoming Community College: President Leach reported that the college has completed Level 1 planning for both projects, and both projects are in the college’s master plan.

A general discussion was held on the concerns expressed in the governor’s letter and how flexibility of the capcon model was able to address those concerns. Commissioners deliberated the merits of the projects, the process of adjusting the capcon model, and the new priority ranking of projects pursuant to objectives in the Strategic Plan.

**Motion:** It was moved by Larry Atwell and seconded by Saundra Meyer to approve a funding pool of $8,978,919.00, for a planning pool to be used in conjunction with A & I, Construction Management Division, and the Commission for all fourteen (14) projects for Level 2 and Level 3 design planning after Level 1 design plans have been approved by A & I. Those colleges who have already expended funds for Level 2 design planning would be reimbursed for those funds. Motion passed.

**Motion:** It was moved by Jack Russell and seconded by Bruce Brown that the Commission utilize the WCCC Facility Handbook Sec. C, as a means of assessing capcon projects. Section C being – “Capital construction projects requesting state funds shall include a component of non-state funding. Projects recommended to the State Building Commission shall include a portion of the overall funding provided by revenue generated directly or indirectly by the requesting college from non-state revenue sources. In order for projects to be recommended for funding by the WCCC, a minimum of the dollar equivalent of six-tenths of one percent (0.6%) of the applicant district’s assessed valuation (at the time of application), not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total project cost (at the time of application), shall come from non-state sources. Non-state sources include, but are not limited to, elector-approved levies, revenue bond issues, gifts, endowments, federal appropriations, and other non-state sources.” Motion passed.

**Motion:** It was moved by Bruce Brown and seconded by Sandi McCormick to request a pool of funding in the amount of $75,345,437.00, for capital construction of all fourteen (14) projects proposed to date from the legislature. Motion passed.

**Motion:** It was moved by Charlene Bodine and seconded by Sandi McCormick to present the fourteen (14) projects with the new rankings/bonuses as presented herein. Each of the projects will stand further scrutiny by A & I, Construction Management Division, and the Commission, before being presented for construction funding and funds being provided to the colleges. The projects and their ranking are as follows:

1. LCCC – Center for Higher Education and Community Learning
2. CC – Agriculture/Rodeo Complex
3. WWCC – Wellness/Athletic/Math and Science Facility Expansion
4. CWC – Academic Space Improvement – Riverton
5. CWC – Academic Space Improvement – Lander
6. NWCCD – Sheridan Thorne Rider Student Center Remodel/Expansion
7. CWC – Equine Center
8. WWCC – Western Education Center
9. NWCCD – Gillette College Student Center
10. EWC – Douglas Outreach Center
11. NWC – Yellowstone Academic/Workforce Training Building
12. EWC – Large Animal and Agriculture Facility
13. EWC – Lancer Residence Hall Addition
14. CWC – Academic Space Improvement – Sinks Canyon

Motion passed.

Commission Chair Sweeny thanked Commissioners for all of their work and diligence. She also thanked the colleges for valuable input.

**Motion:** It was moved by Charlene Bodine and seconded by Saundra Meyer to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. on October 17, 2011. Motion passed.