

WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM
Board of Trustees Annual Meeting
Minutes
Friday, October 21, 2016

10:30 a.m. Otero Junior College *Student Center*
2001 San Juan Avenue
La Junta, CO 81050

Acting Chairman, Garrett Markus, called the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Winter Water Storage Program (WWSP) to order at 10:38 a.m. Introductions were made then roll call of voting members was taken.

Winter Water Board of Trustees Voting Members Roll Call:

Glenn Wilson, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Danny Genova, Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company; Greg Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Bruce Hughes, Colorado Canal Companies; Jerred Hoffman, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Dennis Caldwell, High Line Canal Company; Bob Barnhart, Holbrook Mutual Irrigating Company; Jeff Baylor, Las Animas Consolidated Canal Company; Von Lieber, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; Thomas Pope, Riverside Dairy Ditch; and, Alan Ward, West Pueblo Ditch.

Others in Attendance: Director from the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District - Bill Long and Carl McClure; Colorado Division of Water Resources - Jeanette Myers, Phil Reynolds, Lonnie Spady, John Van Oort, and Steve Witte; Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District - Michael Weber and Jack Goble; Amity Mutual Irrigation, Colin Thompson; High Line Canal, Richard Keck; Colorado Canal, Stacey Sober; Colorado Springs Utilities, Kalsoum Abbasi; Oxford Ditch, Kirk Lamphier; Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company - Michael Hill and Justin DiSanti; U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Pueblo Field office - Roy Vaughan and Terry Dawson; Fort Lyon Canal Company/Las Animas Consolidated Canal, Mike Spady; Rocky Ford Ditch/Aurora Water - Rick Kienitz and Tom Simpson; Monson, Cummins & Shohet, LLC, David Shohet; Colorado Water Conservation Board, Steve Miller; Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District - Jim Broderick, Garrett Markus, Margie Medina, Lee Miller and Chris Woodka.

Minutes:

Mr. Markus asked if everyone had received the minutes of the October 16, 2015 Board of trustee's meeting and asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Dennis Caldwell made the motion, seconded by Bob Barnhart, to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Fry-Ark Operations – U. S. Bureau of Reclamation

Terry Dawson reported in her PowerPoint presentation on the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) as of October 18, 2016 there was:

- 184,032 AF stored in Pueblo
- 121,615 AF of Project water
- 41,718 AF of excess capacity water
- 20,722 AF of Winter water
- 123,758 AF of Project space in Pueblo
- 21,776 AF of Project space in Twin & Turquoise

During 2015-2016, 59,267 AF Winter Water was stored in Pueblo, the average is 43,257 AF. 1984 was the largest winter water storage period (offline storage may have been gone); 1978 and 1998 no storage.

Project reservoir storage as of October 18, 2016 were - Turquoise - 101%, Twin Lakes - 93% and Pueblo Reservoir – 136%. Bureau of Reclamation anticipates moving 38,000 af, the bulk of the water in November and December down from the upper reservoirs netting 34.2 KAF in Pueblo Reservoir. Terry indicated there is a possibility of spill after March 15, the seven spill priorities will fall into place upon which entities are liable to spill, which will begin with out of District space. The 70,000 for the Winter water program will not be at risk of spilling. The Bureau of Reclamation anticipated room for over 100KAF of winter water unless John Martin fills and east slope rights come into priority. Movement of water will be adjusted according to the forecast and customer’s needs.

April 15 Projected content	184,000
+New Winter Water	43,000
+Project Water	34,200
+M&I Inflow	24,500
-Total Releases	-17,150
-Evaporation	-1,940
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	266,610-245,373 = 21,237 spill

Additional Water Out Before May 1	
-2015 Winter Water	22,722
-2015 Ag Project Water	3,376
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	240,512-245,373=4,861 below top of conservation pool

*Per Article 13 of the repayment contract there will be 70,000 AF of winter water space available.

Division of Water Resources – Division Engineer’ Office

2015-2016 Program Review

Phil Reynolds of the Division Engineer’s Office began his presentation reviewing the Pueblo Reservoir, John Martin Reservoir, Fort Lyon, and Meredith Reservoir contents from 2012 thru 2016. Colorado Canal normally requests water around January first of each year. Last year Amity Canal submitted a Substitute Water Supply Plan (SWSP) to take their water to the Great Plains Reservoir via the Fort Lyon Storage Canal. When assessing the Winter Water storage Mr. Reynolds assesses storage from the furthest storage point back up to Pueblo Reservoir because it is easier to release water, if the water is too far down in the system, it is hard to get back.

2016-2017 Winter Water Storage Program Operations

John Van Oort’s reviewed the off-channel storage reservoir accounts.

Reservoir	Total in Storage on November 14 th			Capacity	2016-17 Space available for WW
	2014(af)	2015(af)	10/7/16(af)		
Pueblo	171,493	182,949	185,337	311,384 _Δ	126,047
John Martin	9,167	209,072	103,949	340,703 _{ΔΔ}	236,754
Turquoise	111,398	114,986	113,350	129,440	16,090
Clear Creek	6,227	6,102	6,108	9,213	3,105
	Total in Storage on November 14th				2016-17 Space

Reservoir	2014(af)	2015(af)	10/7/16(af)	Capacity	available for WW
Twin Lakes	121,535	113,416	104,060	141,000	36,940
DeWeese	2,210	2,843	2,210	4,338	2,128
Pisgah	709	2,192	1,679	2,192	513
Skagway	1,744	1,915	1,872	2,066	194
South Slope	5,382	5,342	5,597	7,956	2,359
Brush Hollow	805	2,263	1,304	3,933	2,629
Colorado Canal System*	27,429	32,525	32,624	52,517	19,893
Holbrook Canal**	3,104	2,061	1,780	9,700	7,920
Fort Lyon Canal System***	6,930	38,564	33,097	106,000	72,903
Great Plains System****	0	7,902	9,484	256,000	246,516

△ including the Joint use pool.

△△ including the Permanent pool.

*Colorado Canal System consists of Lake Henry and Lake Meredith

**Holbrook Canal System consists of Dye Reservoir and Holbrook Reservoir

***Fort Lyon Canal System includes Adobe and Horse Creek Reservoirs

****Great Plains System consists of Neesopah, Neenoshe, Nee Gronda, and Neeskah (Queen)

Article III accounts in John Martin Reservoir

Most of the storage reservoirs are at average with the exception of Twin Lakes at a little below average. Mr. Van Oort also compared 2016 to 2015 for the ARKWELCO, ARKPORCO, and ARKLASCO gauges.

The NOAA 2016-2017 Winter forecast by Tony Anderson indicated another year that will favor the central and northern parts of the state and could leave the southern parts of the mountains high and dry (literally). If this holds to the normal pattern, I would look for the line to set up around Salida. The Collegiate Peaks should see better precipitation than the northern Sangres. The southern Sangres may tend to get even less water. There is still lots of uncertainty associated with all of this, especially since this year's El Nino did not behave as expected in Colorado. Kyle with NOAA believes we are on a path to a weak La Nina, peaking in January and trailing off to neutral February-March. Anomalies only look to peak about -0.6C, so impacts will likely not be strongly felt.

Composite years: (best to worst) 1995-1996, 1983-1984, 2000-2001, 1961-1962

Forecast: Looking at the composite years with heavier weight on 95-96 along with the SUNY Albany OLR model and a few other items. We will likely see drier than to near normal rain/snow along the I-25 corridor into the SE CO plains. Some signals and data from 95-96 indicate it will likely be very dry for the lower elevations, which match up well to what we have seen so far. It should be noted the OLR model does indicate the potential of a couple things...one being a Madden-Julian Oscillation event in late October to early November, but given the atmospheric profile of the Pacific and the Indian Ocean Dipole, I wouldn't expect it to have too much impact on the western US. More important will likely be the waves off Africa. The model is indicating a period of late Oct to mid Nov with open flow off Africa, and another period late December to early January. These periods may see an uptick in active weather for CO, but the base state storm track is favored north.

Looking at some numbers from Leadville and Wolf Creek for 95-96, it follows what you'd expect...nearly double normal for Leadville (October-May) for both precip and snow, while Wolf Creek was running about half of normal for this same period. Given the base state and favored northerly track, this seems like the pattern to keep an eye on...better north and central areas, drier the further south you go.

The DWR would like to be notified via email, the sooner the better, where the entities would like to store Winter Water and will do their best to manage the transfer of the water with the request.

The draft Operating Procedures has been sent to the Kansas Representatives on October 6, 2016. There has been operating issues to address with the Winter water split into John Martin Reservoir regarding the Kansas compact.

Aurora Rocky Ford Ditch Water Estimate of Return Flow Storage Availability

Rick Kienitz of Aurora Water reported that the estimated amount of the Rocky Ford Ditch return flow transfer will be approximately 1,527 acre feet delivered to Pueblo Reservoir per the 2250 stipulation.

Other Business

Fountain Mutual Irrigation Company Substitute Water Supply Plan (SWSP)

David Shohet with Monson, Cummins & Shohet, LLC representing Fountain Mutual Irrigation Company (FMIC) reviewed the SWSP that was filed with the Colorado Division of Water Resources. In the fall of 2016, FMIC will commence rehabilitation work on the outlet works of Big Johnson Reservoir, anticipating two years to completion. During the rehabilitation period FMIC will not have the ability to store or release water from Big Johnson Reservoir. The plan seeks the right to divert water at Colorado Canal headgate for storage in the space of Colorado Springs Utilities in Lake Meredith or to exchange water from the confluence of the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek to Pueblo Reservoir. FMIC has become heavily urbanized at a rate of 2/3 with approximately 1,000 acres left in production. FMIC anticipates swapping with the CWPDA under SDS (Southern Delivery System) or FVA (Fountain Valley Authority) estimating less than 2,000 af will be involved using Fountain Creek credits. Storage will be after January when Colorado Canal is running water. The plan covers one year; a new plan will be filed in 2017.

Amity and Fort Lyon Canal SWSP

The Amity and Fort Lyon Canal have entered into a SWSP due to canal maintenance requirements. Jarred Hoffman, Fort Lyon Canal superintendent reported that the operations will be the same as last year that the Fort Lyon Storage Canal will carry the water to the Great Plains Reservoir.

River Admin Tool Q&A Session

John Van Oort presented the DWR's tool to track water exchanges currently in beta testing. This tool is used to make requests for exchanges and available on your smart phone. When entering the site there is a map identifying the river gauges along the Arkansas River. The background data involved are exchanges, water releases, augmentation releases, etc.

The DWR anticipates a more robust interactive model available, there was conversation regarding a futuristic (possible predictive) prototype with possible bulletin board messages listing anticipated exchanges to aide in river management. To request a log in sign in go to cdwrdiv2.us.

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District legal counsel, Lee Miller addressed the attendees that if there were any questions regarding the SWSP's to address those questions now while the experts were there to reply to those questions as this is an appropriate forum to communicate those issues.

Mr. Markus reported the next meeting would be October 20, 2017. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Margie Medina, Administrative Support Specialist, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Date Approved:

DRAFT