

WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM
Board of Trustees Annual Meeting
Minutes
Friday, October 20, 2017

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 10:43 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; Mike Hill, Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company; Greg Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Bruce Hughes, Colorado Canal Companies; Jerred Hoffman, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Jay Yaklich, High Line Canal Company; Donny Hansen, Holbrook Mutual Irrigating Company; Jeff Baylor, Las Animas Consolidated Canal Company; Von Lieber, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; Tom Pope, Riverside Dairy Ditch; and Alan Ward, West Pueblo Ditch.

Others in Attendance: - Bill Long, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District; Jeanette Myers, Becky Nichols, John Van Oort, Phil Reynolds, Lonnie Spady, Bill Tyner, and Steve Witte - Colorado Division of Water Resources; Rena Brand, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Kenny Mills, Ronnie Harris, and Michael Cannon - Otero Ditch; Bob Barnhart, Holbrook Mutual; Mike Weber and Jack Goble - Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District; Austin Malotte, Bishop-Brodgen; Kent Ricken, CWPDA; Stacey Sober, Colorado Canal; Kalsoum Abbasi, Colorado Springs Utilities; David Shohet, AVDA; Tom Rusler, Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company; Terry Dawson and Shane Hayden - U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Pueblo Field office; Tom Williamson, Rex Davis, Phil Hemphill, and David Findley - Fort Lyon Canal Company; Rick Kienitz, Rocky Ford Ditch/Aurora Water; Auston Bryen, Diamond A; George Hanzas, Alan Frantz, and John Schweizer - Catlin Canal; Ivan Walter, Ivan Engineering; Jim Broderick, Garrett Markus, Margie Medina, and Chris Woodka - Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Minutes

Mr. Markus asked if everyone had received the minutes of the October 21, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting and asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Glen Wilson made the motion, seconded by Bruce Hughes, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Terry Dawson reported in a PowerPoint presentation on the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) as of October 15, 2017 there was:

- 205,178 AF stored in Pueblo
- 121,339 AF of Project water
- 54,318 AF of excess capacity water
- 29,643 AF of Winter water
- 124,034 AF of Project space in Pueblo
- 13,676 AF of Project space in Twin & Turquoise

During 2016-2017, 47,904 AF Winter water was stored in Pueblo; the average is 42,000-43,000 AF.

Project reservoir storage as of October 15, 2017 were: Turquoise, 110 percent; Twin Lakes, 105 percent; and Pueblo Reservoir, 135 percent. Bureau of Reclamation anticipates moving 53,000 AF Fryingpan Arkansas Project water (Project water) from the upper reservoirs which began in October, netting 47,200 AF in Pueblo Reservoir. The 66,011 AF Joint Use Pool in Pueblo Reservoir can be used between November 15 to April 15 for Project water deliveries from the upper reservoirs and new Winter water. However, with the near 30,000 AF of carryover Winter water and the projected storage of new Winter water, there could be some Winter water subject to spill category three if not released from the reservoir in the spring. Winter and Ag Project water must be out by May 1. Movement of water will be adjusted throughout the winter according to the weather forecast and customer’s needs to better determine possible spills in Pueblo Reservoir.

April 15 Projected content	205,178
+New Winter Water	43,000
+Project Water	47,200
+M&I Inflow	24,500
-Total Releases	17,150 (no releases in anticipation of spill included)
-Evaporation	3,000
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Out Before May 1	
-2016 Winter Water	29,643
-2016 Ag Project Water	7,552
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	262,533 - 245,373 = 17,160 above top of conservation pool

Winter water storage is subject to Article 13 of the USBR/SECWCD contract.

Division of Water Resources – Division Engineer’ Office

2016-2017 Program Review

Phil Reynolds of the Division Engineer’s Office reviewed 2016-2017 final Winter water numbers totaling 130,962 acre feet (96 percent of average). Mr. Reynolds reviewed a six-year comparison for storage in regards to the highest storage yield for John Martin Reservoir, Meredith, Ft. Lyon/Holbrook, and Pueblo Reservoir to gauge the performance of last year’s Winter water season.

Current Winter water Carryover Balances as of 10/15/2017 are:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|----------------|------------------|
| • Bessemer | 5,981 | • Catlin | 10,063 |
| • Colorado | 1,038 | • Fort Lyon | 3,700 |
| • High Line | 6,974 | • Oxford | 1,826 |
| • Riverside Dairy | 40 | • TOTAL | 29,622 AF |

2017-2018 Winter Water Storage Program Operations

John Van Oort reviewed the off-channel storage reservoir accounts. The objective was to show a relationship to Winter water yield in relation to available basin storage. The upcoming Winter water season will have one of the lowest amounts of space available for storage in recent years. This would correlate to

an anticipated high-yielding Winter water program in the upcoming year. The following table shows storage in those reservoirs.

Reservoir	Total in Storage on November 14 th				Capacity	Available Space for WW
	2014(af)	2015(af)	2016(af)	10/18/17		
Turquoise	111,398	114,986	113,006	116,301	129,440	13,139
Twin Lakes	121,535	113,416	104,596	118,896	141,000	21,104
Clear Creek	6,227	6,102	6,063	5,942	9,213	3,271*
DeWeese	2,210	2,843	2,183	3,553	4,338	785
Pisgah	709	2,192	1,675	1,909	2,192	283
South Slope	5,382	5,342	2,719	2,782	3,500	718
Skagway	1,744	1,915	1,808	2,075	2,066	0
Brush Hollow	805	2,263	1,???	3,490	3,933	443
Pueblo	171,493	182,949	182,229	206,187	311,384 Δ	105,197
Colorado Canal System	27,429	32,525	29,371	51,694	52,517	823
Holbrook Canal**	3,104	2,061	1,663	4,614	9,700	5,086
Fort Lyon Canal System***	6,930	38,564	48,279	67,269	78,720	11,451
Great Plains System****	0	7,902	6,855	34,000	256,000	180,000
John Martin	9,167	209,072	102,273	245,182	340,703	95,521 $\Delta\Delta$

Δ Includes the Joint Use Pool. Available space for 2017-2018 WW 105,197 AF before Project water (50,000); 55,197 AF after Project water delivery. Average Pueblo Winter Water Storage Program (PWWSP) into Pueblo Reservoir: 5 year average 41,774 AF; 10 year average 44,687 AF.

$\Delta\Delta$ Available space for 2017-2018: 5,000 AF Las Animas Consolidated; 20,000 AF Fort Lyon; 50,000 AF Amity; Total 75,000 AF.

*Board of Water Works of Pueblo believes Clear Creek Reservoir will fill by March 15, 2018

**consists of Dye Reservoir and Holbrook Reservoir

*** includes Adobe and Horse Creek Reservoirs

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

Pueblo WWSP carryover water: 29,622 AF

Pueblo WWSP 10 year average into Pueblo Reservoir: 44,687 AF

Total: 74,309 AF

Spill category 3, any Pueblo WWSP water over 70,000 AF would spill

There is a possibility of meeting in January regarding spill category three.

The Division Engineer’s Office determined that Case No. 84CW179 PWWSP, paragraph 8A stated that WWSP participants may store in one or multiple reservoirs such as Pueblo Reservoir, John Martin Reservoir and off-channel storage facilities included in the WWSP. An entity in the WWSP has the ability to store in any WWSP storage vessel without a Substitute Water Supply Plan (SWSP).

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 delayed return flow transfer is estimated at 1,469.64 acre feet delivered to the Winter Water Storage Program at Pueblo Reservoir pursuant to both of Aurora’s Rocky Ford Ditch decrees (83CW018 and 99CW169) and at the direction of the WWSP – Board of Trustees.

Other Business

Winter Water Spill in Relation to Carryover Winter Water

Garrett Markus explained the Joint Use Pool operations from November 15 through April 15 and how that affected spill as April 15 approached each year. Current spill criteria in Pueblo Reservoir states spills occurred on a pro rata basis but did not distinguish between carryover Winter water and current year stored Winter water. Mr. Markus proposed the suggested spill criteria to the trustees,

“If Winter water is subject to spill in Pueblo Reservoir and previous year’s Winter water is stored in Pueblo Reservoir, then previous year’s stored Winter water would spill prior to current year’s stored Winter water in the Winter Water Storage Account.”

The trustees agreed unanimously to adopt that spill criteria.

Alan Ward inquired if the direct flow Winter water participants receive preference to store and spill, per the Winter water decree. Item Z states,

“If storage space in Pueblo Reservoir is limited, winter water of direct flow entities will have priority over any winter water which storage entities may desire to store in Pueblo Reservoir.”

Both the Division Engineer’s Office and the Bureau of Reclamation believe that applies to both the ability to store in Pueblo Reservoir and in regard to spill of Pueblo Reservoir.

Fryingpan-Arkansas Water Rates

Chris Woodka reported the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District plans to increase water rates for the first time in 20 years. The proposal will allow the District to raise Project water \$1 per year each year from \$7 from 2018 through 2020. In addition, Project water Return Flows would be raised to match Project water rates. A fully consumable AF of water would cost an additional \$5.33 to align with the first use of Project water with a total cost of \$13.33 for 2018. A rate study will be completed after the three years to align with negotiating a new contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. The reasoning behind the increase in rates is to overcome a deficit in the Water Activity Enterprise. These funds will stop the deficit and also help fund capital projects that are anticipated.

Project Water Commingling Plans

Garrett Markus gave a brief overview of the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) of 1982, which includes 17 western states. Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) is in the Great Plains region. RRA is the mechanism for the District to allocate agricultural Project water based on eligible acres.

Commingling plans were developed as an instrument to deliver Project water to eligible lands without changing ditch operations significantly by allowing RRA compliance to be achieved at the canal flume level. Commingling plans use a percent ineligible, commingling Project water with native/other waters. Standard RRA deliveries would require individual headgate adjustments to prevent Project water to irrigate ineligible lands. Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District is the only district that commingles Project water in the Great Plains region.

Mr. Markus used a case study of the Catlin Canal to show how commingling plans were affecting the native flow to eligible entities in order to be compliant. The solution was to *not* let ditch companies commingle with native water, including Winter water. The ditch company would need to find other water, outside their native right, to offset flows to ineligible lands or reduce individual headgate diversions to ineligible lands

(standard RRA). There was some discussion on what is considered “other water” and how the canals would be able to deliver that water to ineligible acres. The District is considering other solutions on the subject.

Arkansas Decision Support System (ArkDSS) River Admin Tool

Bill Tyner reported on the ArkDSS tool developed by Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and Division of Water Resources (DWR) the Arkansas River is the last basin to receive the tool. Three firms were hired to accomplish the following:

1. HRS Water Consultants for GIS/Spatial Data;
2. Wilson Water Group and Parsons Water Consulting for surface water/consumptive use modeling; and,
3. Leonard Rice Engineers for administrative tools

The schedule consists of completing water commissioner interviews and in November the water user interviews will begin. The tool for transit loss model for Pueblo Reservoir to John Martin Reservoir and John Martin to state line would be integrated into ArkDSS by Spring 2018 and updates to river/reservoir dashboard will be complete by the irrigation season in 2018. Bill Tyner reminded those in attendance they will be kept informed of the work being done and input will be requested.

Mr. Markus reported the next meeting would be October 19, 2018. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

Date Approved: