

WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM
Board of Trustees Annual Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 18, 2019 (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; Mike Hill, Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company; Casey Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Stacey Sober, Colorado Canal Companies; Jerred Hoffman, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Jack Yaklich, High Line Canal Company; Jeremy Dutton, Holbrook Mutual Irrigating Company; Jeff Baylor, Las Animas Consolidated Ditch Company; Von Lieber, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; Tom Pope, Riverside Dairy Ditch; and Alan Ward, West Pueblo Ditch.

Others in Attendance: - Rick Kienitz, Rocky Ford Ditch; Bob Barnhart, Holbrook Mutual; Terry Howland, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Brandy Cole, John Van Oort, Philip Reynolds, Lonnie Spady, and Bill Tyner, - Colorado Division of Water Resources; Kalsoum Abbasi, Colorado Springs Utilities & Colorado Canal; Mike Holmberg and Roy Vaughan - U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Pueblo Field office; Kirk Lamphier, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; Emily Logan, West Pueblo Ditch; Wesley Eck, Fort Lyon Canal Company; George Hanzas, Catlin Canal; Rena Brand, Colorado Parks & Wildlife; Jack Goble, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District; Jim Broderick, Garrett Markus, Margie Medina, Leann Noga and Chris Woodka - Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Minutes

Mr. Markus asked if everyone had received the minutes of the October 19, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting and asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Glen Wilson made the motion, seconded by Jeremy Dutton, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mike Holmberg reported in a PowerPoint presentation on the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) as of October 12, 2019 there was:

- 190,503 AF stored in Pueblo
- 144,508 AF of Project water
- 40,328 AF of excess capacity water
- 16,208 AF of Winter water
- 100,785 AF of Project space in Pueblo
- 3,858 AF of Project space in Twin & Turquoise

Project reservoir storage as of October 12, 2019 were: Turquoise, 115 percent; Twin Lakes, 110 percent; and Pueblo Reservoir, 121 percent. The 2018-2019 WWSP in Pueblo Reservoir was 40,590 acre-feet (AF); the average is 43,546 AF. Bureau of Reclamation anticipates moving 57,000 AF down from the upper reservoirs beginning mid-November netting 51,300 AF in Pueblo Reservoir. Winter water ends March 15, use of the Joint Pool ends April 15. After April 15 all Winter water will be stored up to

70,000 AF plus what room is available after Project water and spill four water is accounted for. Winter and Project water will be out by May 1. Movement of water will be adjusted according to the forecast and customers needs. Bureau of Reclamation estimates with Winter water and ag Project water out before May 1 will leave 14,029 AF to spill.

**Division of Water Resources – Division Engineer’ Office
2018-2019 Program Review**

Phil Reynolds of the Division Engineer’s Office reviewed 2018-2019 final WWSP numbers totaling 100,071 AF. Mr. Reynolds identified timeline and actions:

- Fort Lyon Canal started diverting on 11/16/18, and stopped on January 23, restarted diverting February 21
- No water was taken to Great Plains Reservoirs
- No storage in Holbrook Reservoir during the program
- Colorado Canal started diverting 80 cfs on 11/15 and then increased to over 200 cfs from January 22 through February 22
- The combined ARKPUECO gage and Fish Hatchery release were at 50 cfs the entire program

The current Winter water is at 16,223 AF, leaving a 54,000 AF available for the 70,000 AF safety threshold.

2018-2019 Winter Water Storage Program Operations

John Van Oort reviewed the off-channel storage reservoir accounts. The following table shows storage in those reservoirs.

Reservoir	Total in Storage						Capacity
	2014(af)	2015(af)	2016(af)	2017(af)	10/17/18	10/10/19	
Turquoise	111,398	114,986	113,006	107,919	99,443	122,628	129,440
Twin Lakes	121,535	113,416	104,596	114,779	97,756	125,031	141,000
Clear Creek	6,227	6,102	6,063	5,863	5,801	6,254	9,213
DeWeese	2,210	2,843	2,183	3,499	1,080	1,929	4,338
Pisgah	709	2,192	1,675	1,801	1,243	1,319	2,192
South Slope	5,382	5,342	2,719	2,782	2,700	4,570	3,500
Skagway	1,744	1,915	1,808	2,074	1,854	1,659	2,066
Brush Hollow	805	2,263	1,???	3,399	1,859	1,092	3,933
Pueblo	171,493	182,949	182,229	206,187	186,210	190,959	311,384Δ
Colorado Canal System	27,429	32,525	29,371	50,068	22,362	32,243	52,517
Holbrook Canal*	3,104	2,061	1,663	4,009	366	3,409	9,700
Fort Lyon Canal System**	6,930	38,564	48,279	64,219	5,728	12,180	78,720
Great Plains System***	0	7,902	6,855	34,000	0	0	256,000
John Martin	9,167	209,072	102,273	251,447	133,524	72,147	340,703

Δ Includes the Joint Use Pool. 245,373 AF not including the Join Use Pool; estimated 42,000 AF of PWWSP water on March 15, 2020; 16,200 AF Carry-Over (16,200 + 42,000 = 58,200)

*consists of Dye Reservoir and Holbrook Reservoir

** includes Adobe and Horse Creek Reservoirs

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

John Van Oort's prediction for 2019-2020 storage using Catlin Canal diversions versus WWSP in previous years as the patterns ran along the same lines, generating a prediction of 111,943 AF of Project Winter Water Storage Program. Phil Reynolds predicted 90,000 AF again using the ARKPORCO & ARKLASCO gauges matching 2002, 2003, and 2013 with the 2019 flows.

November 15 is the end of the irrigation season, all WWSP participants close their headgates, winter storage begins and Pueblo Reservoir is reduced to 80 cfs (100 cfs w\Fish Hatchery), and Fort Lyon Storage Canal sweeps the river.

Division of Water Resource continues to work with Leonard Rice on the Arkansas Basin Water Operatoins Dashboard using a model to color the water in use. The new model will track headgate diversions, forecast flows, and show transit losses (using Livingston's logic).

Aurora Rocky Ford Ditch Water Estimate of Return Flow Storage Availability

The amount of the Rocky Ford Ditch delayed return flow transfer is 946.97 AF (83CW018) and 618 AF (99CW169) delivered to the WWSP at Pueblo Reservoir pursuant to both of Aurora's Rocky Ford Ditch decrees and and at the direction of the WWSP – Board of Trustees.

Other Business

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Ag Updates

Garrett Markus reviewed the deadlines in order to apply for Project water. All membership lists were due into the District, in December RRA forms are sent to the canal companies; deadline to have forms returned to the District is February 15; Project water applications mailed March 2, 2020; due March 31, 2020. Bureau of Reclamation provides projected allocation amount May 1. Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board approves allocation at May Board meeting.

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Financial & Rate Study

Chris Woodka reported on the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Financial Strategy and Sustainability Study providing timeline. Projects currently being done are extraordinary maintenance and replacements, asset valuation, condition assessment and reserve account. Pointing out future needs. Rate history is such that Project water rate have been \$7.00 per AF since 1998; Return Flow rate has been \$6.00 per AF since 2000.

Leann Noga provided an overview of the team involved in the study; communication provided through four workshops, policies recommendations and final report. Information handouts can be accessed via the SECWCD web site at <https://secwcd.org/content/finance-strategy-and-sustainability-study>. Workshop 1 covered the Finacial Plan; Workshop 2 covered Reserves – Summary; Workshop 3 was Cost of Service Analysis; and, Workshop 4 covered Rate Design Analysis which showed an aggressive, moderate, and gradual phase in scenarious. The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District board of directors will take action on the Rate Design Analysis at the November Board meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting

Mr. Markus reported the next meeting would be October 16, 2020. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Margie Medina, Administrative Support Specialist, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Date Approved: