

WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM
Board of Trustees Annual Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2021, Friday (10:30 a.m.)

Acting Chairman, Garrett Markus, called the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Winter Water Storage Program (WWSP) to order at 10:39 a.m. held at Otero College Banquet Room 2001 San Juan Avenue, La Junta CO 81050.

Winter Water Board of Trustees Voting Members Roll Call:

Glenn Wilson, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Tim Hund, Bessemer Ditch Company; Greg Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Stacey Sober, Colorado Canal & Reservoir Company; Wes Eck, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Darren Grap, High Line Canal Company; Donny Hansen, Holbrook Mutual Irrigation 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: - President Bill Long, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District; Terry Howland and Neil Thompson, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Dennis Caldwell, High Line Canal Company; Kirk and Paula Lamphier, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; George Hanzas and Casey Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Jeremy Dutton and Paul Casper, Holbrook Mutual Irrigation Company; Jeanette Myers, John Van Oort and Philip Reynolds, Colorado Division of Water Resources; Jim Blasing, Pueblo West Metro District; Rick Kienitz, Rocky Ford Ditch Company; Heather McCallay, City of Aurora; Kim Siefkas, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Justin Zeisler, Colorado Springs Utilities; Mike Holmberg, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Pueblo Field office; 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 16, 2020, Board of Trustees meeting and asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Alan Ward motioned, seconded by Tom Pope to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2020, 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). There was 28,499 acre-feet (AF) of Winter Water stored from 2020-2021 which is less than the average of 41,070 AF. As of October 11, 2021, there was:

- 179,973 AF stored in Pueblo
- 126,285 AF of Project water
- 46,319 AF of excess capacity water
- 5,308 AF of Winter water
- 119,088 AF of Project space in Pueblo
- 34,721 AF of Project space in Twin & Turquoise

Project reservoir storage as of October 11, 2021 was: Turquoise, 75 percent; Twin Lakes, 98 percent; and Pueblo Reservoir, 113 percent of average. Bureau of Reclamation anticipates moving 22,500 AF down from the upper reservoirs beginning October to Pueblo Reservoir; however, releases will be adjusted according to the forecast and customer's needs. With the projected Project water imports, Winter Water Storage, and evacuation of the Joint Use Pool on April 15, there will not be an anticipated

spill of Pueblo Reservoir. May 1, the 5,308 AF of 2020-2021 Winter Water and the 1,963 AF of 2021 Project water will need to be use.

There was concern regarding the Colorado River water shortage, Jim Broderick explained that Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District is monitoring the situation and will inform stakeholders should issues arise.

Division of Water Resources – Division Engineer’ Office 2020-2021 Program Review

Phil Reynolds of the Division Engineer’s Office reviewed 2020-2021 WWSP by identifying program timeline and actions:

- Fort Lyon Canal started diverting on November 16 and continued through January
- Colorado Canal started diverting on January 6 and continued through March 15
- There were no diversions to the Holbrook nor Great Plains
- The river as measured “Above Pueblo”
 - 11/15 – 11/30 108 cfs
 - 12/1 – 1/13 125 cfs
 - 1/14 – 1/26 92 cfs
 - 1/27 – 3/14 76 cfs

Current Winter water carryover balances in Pueblo Reservoir are Catlin Canal at 4,660 AF, Colorado Canal 473 AF, Oxford 115 AF, Riverside 50 AF, and West Pueblo 8 AF.

2021-2022 Winter Water Storage Program Operations

Phil Reynolds reviewed different storage levels for Turquoise, Twin Lakes, Clear Creek Reservoir, Pueblo and John Martin Reservoirs. Prediction for this year’s WWSP for John Van Oort is 85,030 AF, Bill Tyner’s prediction at 96,000 AF and Phil Reynolds at 75,000AF. On November 1, 2021, at 00:00 John Martin Reservoir gate will be closed. The PWWSP and Conservation Storage split is determined by measuring the baseline flows (conservation portion) from 11/1 thru 11/15. Enhanced flows (PWWSP portion) are determined from 11/16 thru 11/30. November 15 at 00:00 end of the irrigation season, all PWWSP participants close their headgates. Winter storage begins, Pueblo Reservoir is reduced to 80 cfs (100cfs w\Fish Hatchery), and Fort Lyon Storage Canal starts sweeping the river.

Phil Reynolds reiterated that all storage requests from the participants will need to be made via email to john.vanoort@state.co.us or Philip.reynolds@state.co.us.

PWWSP versus Conservation Storage in John Martin Reservoir

Phil Reynolds provided graphs showing this year’s 2020-21 PWWSP at 95,000; John Martin Reservoir for 2020-21 at 12,000 AF and the average of 19,830 AF. Addressing the question, “Should precipitously

low storage in John Martin cause concern?” Garrett Markus address paragraph J. of the Winter Water Storage agreement:

J. If in the opinion of the Division Engineer, acting as the operation secretary of the Arkansas River Compact Administration, the winter inflow quantity to the John Martin Reservoir conservation pool in the winter period significantly departs from the 1950-1975 winter inflow quantity, he will advise the winter storage chairman, who shall convene the Board of Trustees to make findings as to the cause of such departure from historic patterns, Winter water that is delivered to John Martin Reservoir for storage in accounts in John Martin Reservoir shall not be included in the inflow quantity to the John Martin Reservoir conservation pool.

Chairman Garrett Markus explained the abnormally dry hydrology addresses this provision.

Aurora Rocky Ford Ditch Water Estimate of Return Flow Storage Availability

Rick Kienitz reported based on projected storage amounts accredited to Aurora this year the 2021/2022 total winter return flow obligation is project to be 1539.63 AF to be held in Pueblo Reservoir, with minor adjustments made by November 15.

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Ag Updates

Garrett Markus informed the group that Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District is working on concluding the Ag First Right of Refusal, which will cause a change to the District’s Return Flow policy.

Next Scheduled Meeting

Next meeting would be October 21, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

Date Approved