

ALLOCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES September 7, 2023

A meeting of the Allocation Committee was held on Thursday, September 07, 2023 at 11:15 a.m. at the District Office 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81001 and via Zoom virtual conference.

Chairman Andy Colosimo announced a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Colosimo Chair, Howard “Bub” Miller (remote) Vice Chair, Alan Hamel, Curtis Mitchell, Bill Long, and James Broderick (remote)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Matt Heimerich, and Tom Goodwin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dallas May (remote) and Pat Edelmann Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) Director; Garrett Markus, Margie Medina, Peter Levish, Beth Nosker (intern) and Leann Noga District staff.

Zoom participants: District staff Patty Rivas, Stephanie Shipley, and Lee Miller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Colosimo confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the May 4, 2023 Allocation Committee minutes and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Alan Hamel moved, Curtis Mitchell seconded, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

2023 WATER YEAR SUMMARY

Garrett Markus provided a PowerPoint presentation looking at how the 2023 water year related to historic years for Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Water (Project Water) imports, Project Water Carryover, Winter Water Storage Program, and Excess Capacity Storage. For the 2023 water year, the water sales and surcharges were 1.51 percent above 2023 budget.

2023 Project Water Sales and Surcharges Final Allocation							
	<i>PW</i>	<i>WAE</i>	<i>SOD</i>	<i>ESS</i>	<i>Well</i>		
						Total Net Sales	
Total Enterprise Actual						\$ 1,382,695	1.51%
Total Enterprise Budget						\$ 1,373,537	\$ 20,777.45
Actual	\$ 646,395.24	\$ 320,318.85	\$ 176,843.08	\$ 193,866.01	\$ 17,597.45		
Budget	\$ 691,611.00	\$ 445,915.50	\$ 203,164.50	\$ 231,213.00	\$ 13,926.00		
Diff	\$ (45,215.76)	\$ (125,596.65)	\$ (26,321.42)	\$ (37,346.99)	\$ 3,671.45		
	<i>PW</i>	<i>WAE</i>	<i>SOD</i>	<i>ESS</i>	<i>Well</i>	*billed on a quarterly basis, not all revenue	

ALLOCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 7, 2023

AGRICULTURAL FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT WATER CARRYOVER STORAGE PILOT PROJECT REVIEW

Mr. Markus summarized on September 15, 2022, the Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise approved the District staff to initiate the Agricultural Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Water Carryover Storage Pilot Project, investigate initial parameters of the storage conditions, and allow agricultural Project Water to be stored May 1, 2023, thru April 30, 2024, if storage parameters are met.

Parameters:

- Project Water will accrue evaporation after April 30 in the Carryover account.
- Any Project Water balance in the Carryover account will be charged the Carryover cost of \$4.52/AF
- Conditions for Ag Project Water Carryover will be dependent on storage levels in Pueblo Reservoir and the “risk for spill” per the Bureau of Reclamation operations.

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- Eminent Risk of Spill (Spill likely of the Joint Use Pool)
 - 80% of Ag Water would be used by November 15 of the allocation year.
- Likely Risk of Spill (Spill likely of the Conservation Pool prior to April 15)
 - Ag Project Water can be stored during off-season (winter) but not be used by April 15
- Marginal Risk of Spill (Spill may but not likely occur of the Conservation Pool prior to April 15)
 - Ag Project Water can be stored during off-season (winter) but must be used by May 1
- Unlikely Risk of Spill (Spill unlikely as of May 1 following the allocation year)
 - Ag Project Water can be stored during off-season (winter) and stored in Project Water Carryover after May 1

As of August 15, 2023, the storage level in Pueblo Reservoir is at 18,900 AF below the top of the conservation pool on April 15, 2024. Currently the risk of spill is “Unlikely Risk of Spill” meaning spill is unlikely as of May 1 following the allocation year. Ag Project Water can be stored during off-season (winter) and stored in the Project Water Carry over after May 1.

Through the pilot project the main goal is to have a “more effective use of Project Water.” A concern for the future is the timing in which Agriculture is notified in case the spill risk turns to different levels.

EMERGENCY SECOND ALLOCATION FOR 2023 AUGMENTATION DEFICIT SUMMARY

The Executive Committee approved an emergency second allocation up to 3,000 AF on March 13, 2023, for Sugar City, Swink, AGRA and LAWMA.

The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was notified of a depletion of the river by augmentation and the State-line accounting by both Lower Arkansas Water

ALLOCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 7, 2023

Management Association (LAWMA) and Arkansas Groundwater and Reservoir Association (AGRA) on February 21, 2023. District staff reached out to LAWMA, AGRA, and Division 2 Division Engineers Office for information on the issue and if the District was able to assist in the situation. LAWMA's accounting was specific to the State-line depletions and needed more information to determine their need and the District's ability to help. AGRA's accounting showed that most of their depletion deficit could be fulfilled through municipal back payments under the Rule 14 Plans, however, Sugar City and Swink didn't have enough Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Water in their Project Water account to meet their obligation. The Division 2 Division Engineer's office needs the water to be paid to the injured senior water right, the Winter Water Storage Program, by March 14, 2023, at the risk of "red tagging" (no pumping order) the wells in AGRA's Rule 14 Plan. LAWMA's situation was not limited to the Winter Water Storage Program but the 10-year rolling average of State-line depletions by wells within the District's Boundaries.

As a summary, the District has allocated on an emergency second allocation basis 2,215 acre-feet of Project Water through the emergency Project Water account in Pueblo Reservoir. Allocated to Sugar City 496 AF, Swink 159 AF, AGRA 860 AF and LAWMA 700 AF.

This fell under an emergency second allocation and was charged the associated Project Water costs. LAWMA's emergency second allocation credited in-District depletions that already accrued to the State-line compact calculations and needed to be delivered to the Offset Account in John Martin. The District oversaw and consented to a water trade with Colorado Springs Utilities and LAWMA that allowed fully consumable east slope water of Colorado Springs Utilities to be traded to LAWMA and delivered to the Offset Account. LAWMA traded Colorado Springs Utilities the Emergency Second Allocation Project Water in Pueblo Reservoir.

ACTION ITEM:

None

INFORMATION ITEM

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

October 5, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

Chairman Colosimo adjourned the meeting at 12:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.

Water Resources Engineer