

**ALLOCATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 9, 2020**

A meeting of the Allocation Committee was held on Thursday, July 09, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the District Office 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81001 via zoom virtual meetings.

Chairman Carl McClure announced a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carl McClure – Chariman, Howard “Bub” Miller – Vice Chairman
Andy Colosimo, Alan Hamel, Curtis Mitchell, and James Broderick

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Tom Goodwin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alan Ward, Pueblo Board of Water Works; Ann Nichols, Dallas May, Kevin Karney and Bill Long, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) Directors; Garrett Markus, Kevin Meador, Margie Medina, Lee Miller, Leann Noga, Patty Rivas, and Chris Woodka, District staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Garrett Markus confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the May 7, 2020 minutes, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Carl McClure moved, Curtis Mitchell seconded, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

2020 FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT WATER IMPORTS STATUS REPORT

Reclamation has forecasted an import basis for allocation of 62,000 AF based on the snowpack of May 1, 2020. With the additional 2019 unallocated Project water, 62,915 AF were made available for allocation.

The Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water imports for allocation year 2020 are still accruing but are dwindling and have not accrued to the May 1, 2020 Bureau of Reclamation forecast of 62,000 AF. As of June 30, 2020, the Fry-Ark imports were 49,672 AF, which is approximately 80 percent of the May 1, 2020 projection. The Project water imports above the initial release of 70 percent was distributed and made available in the Project water accounts July 1, 2020.

AGRICULTURAL FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL

The Fort Lyon Pilot Project began in 2014 to investigate the feasibility of a future District-wide plan to ensure that Return Flows are allocated equitably and to maximize utilization of all Fry-Ark Project water and Return Flows. By direction from the March 5, 2020 Committee meeting, Lisa Brown from

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Wilson Water Group (WWG) embarked on a “usage study” (Usage Study) to help the Committee understand the relative use of replacement water for sole source wells, supplemental wells, and efficiency ‘Rule 10’ acres on an acre-foot per acre basis.

Garrett Markus discussed the draft memo provided by WWG comparing the usage in relation to sole source wells, supplement wells, and efficiency rules (Rule 10). The Use Study Memo reveals:

- Average plan year wellhead depletions for in-District groundwater and comingled acreage is 0.55 ac-ft/ac. This varies significant between ditch service area, with average plan year depletions ranging from 0.16 ac-ft/ac for the Oxford Canal user area to 3.06 ac-ft/ac for the Excelsior Canal user area.
- Additional depletions (or accretions) within the H-I Model ditch service area that result from all irrigation improvements after January 1, 2011 (or from the installation of sprinkler or drip irrigation systems within the H-I Model area after October 1, 1999) are determined by Division 2 using the Irrigation System Analysis Model (ISAM).
- This table forecasts depletions and accretions that result from irrigation improvements for the 2020 plan year (May 2020-April 2021). Using the 2020 plan year provides the District with current values for pond seepage rates and other policy decisions that have changed through time. Additionally, the 2020 forecast uses an estimate of average hydrology, providing the most consistent results possible. Results for acreage that was transitioned from flood to sprinkler/drip irrigated acreage by ditch service area within District boundaries

The next steps will be a final memo and presentation by WWG to discuss in detail how the Usage Study was performed and how this information compares from ditch to ditch, and how “need” or “use” may influence the agricultural first right of refusal.

ACTION ITEM:

None

INFORMATION ITEM

None

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Chairman McClure adjourned the meeting at 01:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.

Water Resources Engineer