

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 2, 2023

A meeting of the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) Committee was held at 11:15 a.m. Thursday, March 2, 2023 at District offices and via electronic and telephonic means.

Chairman Kevin Karney announced a quorum was present for the AVC Committee.

AVC COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Karney – Chairman (via Zoom), Howard “Bub” Miller – Vice Chairman (via Zoom), Dallas May (arrived at 11:52), Matt Heimerich (via Zoom) and Jim Broderick (via Zoom)

AVC COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Bill Long

OTHERS PRESENT:

Pat Edelmann, Curtis Mitchell, and Seth Clayton, SECWCD Board members; Leann Noga, Chris Woodka, Garrett Markus, Mark Scott, Margie Medina, SECWCD staff; Krystal Brown, Brandon Forbes, Erin Hennesy and Andy Creighton, U.S. Geological Survey; and Mike Holmberg, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Zoom participants: Mark Pifher, SECWCD Board member; Curtis Thompson, AECOM; Jerry Pena, Kennedy Jenks; Gordon Dillon, Kleinfelder Engineering; Lee Miller, Kevin Meador, Patty Rivas and Peter Levish, District staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Howard “Bub” Miller moved, and Jim Broderick seconded approval of the November 10, 2022 AVC meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Chris Woodka reported that the GMS reports on each of the 39 participants have been received and are being reviewed and compiled. The reports contain both technical and financial information that will allow the participants to make decisions about water system upgrades related to the AVC. The reports will be ready for committee review in April. Mark Scott added that the data is specifically organized so that participants can use the information when applying for various grants through the State and other agencies.

Enterprise staff had one technical meeting with Avondale Water and Sanitation in February to review Avondale’s design related to Pueblo County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. A second meeting with Otero County Commissioners in February reviewed the Otero County Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to serve as Fiscal Agent for Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) grants, updated Commissioners on AVC progress and to discuss a potential

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT COMMITTEE

March 2, 2023

governance agreement. More meetings with participants and county commissioners are being planned.

Mr. Scott also reported that the Boone and Avondale delivery designs are 99 percent complete, and the Request for Proposal to obtain construction bids will be going out in the near future.

On the federal side, the federal notice to proceed was issued for the initial Boone Reach contract, Mr. Scott reported. The Contractor (WCA) has submitted their first order of pipe (30-inch HDPE for 10,000 linear-feet) for the Boone reach and it will be manufactured and delivered by May 31. Reclamation has chosen HDPE as the pipe that will be used for this initial reach of the trunk line. He also added that the next Boone reach contract will be full-and-open and with no small business set-asides.

Pat Edelmann asked where the governance board discussions are. Lee Miller said the process is moving slowly.

Mark Pifher asked about the relationship between Otero County's role as Fiscal Agent and upcoming contracts. Mr. Miller responded that more discussions are needed with Otero County on the process that will be used.

Curtis Mitchell asked about progress on the AVC repayment contract. Mr. Miller responded that Bureau of Reclamation has indicated that it will be about a month until a contract is delivered, and there are signs with other contracts that the "logjam is moving."

ACTION ITEMS:

Engineering Design Contract for Spurs and Delivery Lines

Kevin Meador reviewed the design process for AVC spur and delivery lines for all participants east of Pueblo County.

AECOM Inc. (AECOM) and Kennedy Jenks, Inc. (KJ) were chosen in a Request for Qualifications in 2022 to design spur and delivery lines. The design packages were broken into two groups: Otero County (which has 24 of the remaining 37 participants); and Crowley, Bent, Prowers and Kiowa Counties.

The recommendation to the Committee was to award Design Package 1 (Otero County) to KJ for \$3,075,000; and Design Package 2 (other counties) to AECOM for \$3,800,000; and a \$370,000 contingency for a total of \$7,245,000, which is under the projected \$7,300,000. Designs will be coordinated and build upon work already performed by Reclamation (surveying, hydraulic modelling, etc.) and GMS (Boone and Avondale Delivery line designs). All designs are projected to be complete by December 2024 with the initial work in 2023 focused on using the available ARPA funds and thereafter incorporating the CWCB funds once available. Construction on all of the lines is anticipated in 2025 and 2026.

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT COMMITTEE

March 2, 2023

Matt Heimerich moved, and Dallas May seconded the following motion:

“A motion to recommend to the Enterprise Board the approval of engineering design contracts with the engineering firm of Kennedy Jenks, Inc. for Design Package 1 in the amount of \$3,255,000 and AECOM, Inc. for Design Package 2 in the amount of \$3,990,000.”

Motion passed unanimously.

First Amendment to the Fiscal Agent IGA with Otero County

Lee Miller reviewed the Fiscal Agent IGA with Otero County, which was approved in February by Otero County Commissioners. The IGA allows Otero County to administer up to \$30 million in CWCB grants on behalf of the Enterprise for AVC construction. The CWCB approved an additional \$20 million grant in November 2022, in addition to a \$10 million grant approved as part of a \$100 million finance package by the Colorado General Assembly in 2020. The General Assembly will consider a CWCB Projects Bill in 2023 that will include the additional \$20 million, as well as approving the authority of Otero County to serve as Fiscal Agent.

Dallas May moved, and Bub Miller seconded the following motion:

“I move that the Committee recommend that the Enterprise Board authorize execution of the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement Between Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, acting by and through its Water Activity Enterprise, and the County of Otero allowing for Otero County to serve as the fiscal agent to receive Colorado Water Conservation Board grant funding for use in construction of AVC spur and delivery lines.”

Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 6, 2023, following the Resource & Engineering Planning Committee and Allocation Committee meetings.

ADJOURN

Kevin Karney adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Woodka,
Senior Policy and Issues Manager