

**WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM**  
**Board of Trustees Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**October 21, 2022, 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 10:40 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; Mike Hill, Bessemer Ditch Company; Greg Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Bruce Hughes, Colorado Canal & Reservoir Company; Wes Eck, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Darren Grap, High Line Canal Company; Donny Hansen, Holbrook Mutual Irrigation Company; no representative for Las Animas Consolidated Ditch Company; Von Lieber, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; no representative for Riverside Dairy Ditch; and Alan Ward, West Pueblo Ditch.

**Others in Attendance:** Terry Howland and Neil Thompson, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Kirk Lamphier, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; Casey Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Jeremy Dutton, Holbrook Mutual Irrigation Company; Bethany Arnold, Lonnie Spady, Noah Friesen, Brandy Cole, Philip Reynolds, and Rachel Zancanella, Colorado Division of Water Resources; Ryan Dalton, West Pueblo Ditch; Abba Ahmed and Israel Ortega, City of Aurora/Rocky Ford Ditch Company; Curtis Sniff, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Justin Zeisler, and Kelly Roesch, Colorado Springs Utilities; Stacey Sober and Matt Rouleau, Colorado Canal; Kevin Salter, Kansas Division of Water Resources; Mike Holmberg, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Pueblo Field office; Sam Embersole, Embersole Media; 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 15, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting and asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Alan Ward motioned, seconded by Glenn Wilson to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2021, 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 16, 2022, there was:

- 177,377 AF stored in Pueblo
- 121,078 AF of Project water
- 45,470 AF of excess capacity water
- 4,001 AF of Winter water and Winter carryover
- 124,295 AF of Project space in Pueblo
- 34,527 AF of Project space in Twin & Turquoise

There was 32,616 acre-feet (AF) of Winter Water stored from 2021-2022 the average is 40,884 AF. Project reservoir storage as of October 16, 2022; Turquoise, 82 percent; Twin Lakes, 106 percent; and Pueblo Reservoir, 111 percent of average. Bureau of Reclamation anticipates moving 25,000 AF down from the upper reservoirs beginning October netting 22.5 KAF in Pueblo Reservoir. There is not a

concern this Winter Water year regarding spill of Pueblo Reservoir.

Mike Holmberg discussed the fixed cone valve at Pueblo Dam, installed as part of the Southern Delivery System (SDS) project on the North Outlet Works. The cone valve has a carrying capacity of 1,100 cfs, and currently acts as a bypass for the SDS pipeline as well and the James W. Broderick Powerplant. In addition to the main release mechanism during lower flow conditions. The outage of the valve lasted almost a month; manufacture turnaround time was over two months just for fabrication. The Bureau of Reclamation managed to get the valve back in service on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

Phil Reynolds of the Division Engineer’s Office reviewed 2021-2022 WWSP by identifying program timeline and actions. Last year’s final total was 92,223.39AF higher than estimated.

- Fort Lyon Canal started diverting on November 15 and shut down March 1
- Otero started diverting on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 73 cfs
  - Dropped to 40 cfs mid-December
  - Dropped to 0 cfs January 1
  - Went up to mid-30 cfs January 18
  - Went up to 60 cfs February 12
  - Went up to 90 cfs March 4
- Colorado Canal turned on January 3 thru March 14
- No diversions to the Holbrook nor Great Plains
- The river as measured “Above Pueblo”
  - 11/15 – 01/03            103 cfs
  - 01/04 – 02/03            90 cfs
  - 02/04 – 02/10            111 cfs
  - 02/11 – 3/14              100 cfs

Current Winter water carryover balances in Pueblo Reservoir are Catlin Canal at 3,218 AF, Colorado Canal at 537 AF, Riverside Dairy at 50 AF and Oxford at 40 AF.

Phil Reynolds informed those at the meeting he will be retiring the end of the year and was thankful for working with everyone and appreciated the hard work that went into agriculture. Mr. Reynolds also recognized and commended the progress regarding the Arkansas Valley Conduit.

### **2022-2023 Winter Water Storage Program Operations**

Lonnie Spady reviewed different storage levels for Turquoise, Twin Lakes, Clear Creek, DeWeese, Pisgah, South Slope Reservoirs, Skagway, Brush Hollow, Pueblo Reservoir’s, Colorado Canal System, Holbrook Canal System, Fort Lyon Canal System, Great Plains, and John Martin Reservoirs. Prediction

for this year's WWSP for Spady is 73,342 AF, Tyner's prediction at 87,000 AF and Reynolds at 82,000 AF. On November 1, 2022, 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 through 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 maybe less (100cfs w\Fish Hatchery), and Fort Lyon Storage Canal starts sweeping the river.

Email storage preference to [lonnie.spady@state.co.us](mailto:lonnie.spady@state.co.us) or [Philip.reynolds@state.co.us](mailto:Philip.reynolds@state.co.us).

### **Aurora Rocky Ford Ditch Water Estimate of Return Flow Storage Availability**

Israel Ortega reported based on projected storage amounts accredited to Aurora this year the total winter return flow obligation is project to be 1,618 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 the Arkansas Valley Conduit and Pueblo Reservoir Sediment Study. The Agricultural 1<sup>st</sup> Right of Refusal is now policy, and this is the first year in operation.

The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District board of directors authorized agricultural off-season carryover specifically for Project Water. Ag is allowed to store 100 percent of allocated water to May 1, 2023. This ag carryover will be a pilot program allowing carryover project water given Pueblo Reservoir conditions. Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District will investigate the parameters of the program and will have those criteria by spring 2023.

Garrett Markus mentioned this winter there will be following up with canals on the commingling plan strategies.

Jim Broderick discussed work on drought, average and wet years that will affect Project Water storage for agriculture. Lonnie Spady mentioned that Bill Tyner is also retiring and Phil Reynolds so there will be a transition with the Division of Water Resources and is working on their replacements.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

Next meeting would be Friday, October 20, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Date Approved