

WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM

Board of Trustees Annual Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2024

Acting Chairman, Garrett Markus, called the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Winter Water Storage Program (WWSP) to order at 10:35 a.m. on October 18, 2024, at Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District 31717 United Avenue Pueblo CO. Welcoming those in attendance and informed them lunch was available after the meeting. Roll call of trustees was taken then introductions.

Winter Water Board of Trustees Voting Members Roll Call:

Josh Reinert, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Mike Hill, Bessemer Ditch Company; Greg Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Stacey Sober, Colorado Canal & Reservoir Company; Wesley Eck, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Darren Grap, High Line Canal Company; Donny Hansen, Holbrook Mutual Irrigation Company; Von Lieber, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; Tom Pope, Riverside Dairy Ditch; and Alan Ward, West Pueblo Ditch.

Others in Attendance: - Brett Sabott, Bessemer Ditch; Casey Williams and George Hanzas - Catlin Canal Company; Jeremy Dutton, Holbrook Mutual Irrigation Company; Neil Thompson, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Bethany Arnold, Lonnie Spady, Steve Stratman, and Brian Lenherr - Colorado Division of Water Resources; Curtis Sniff, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Ryan Dalton, West Pueblo Ditch; Israel Ortega, City of Aurora/Rocky Ford Ditch Company; Randy Havens, Rocky Ford Ditch; Dan Tucker, AGRA; Nick Harris and Justin Zeisler – Colorado Springs Utilities; Mike Holmberg and Jeff Bolling - U. S. Bureau of Reclamation; Leann Noga, Garrett Markus, Margie Medina, Michelle Tocydlowski, and Chris Woodka - Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Zoom: Brandy Cole, Jessi Harris, Rachel Zancanella, Division of Water Resources; Rena Griggs, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Rachel Duran, Kansas Division of Water Resources; Jack Goble, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District; Tim Hund, Bessemer Ditch; Patty Rivas and Peter Levish – Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Minutes

Mr. Markus asked if everyone had received the minutes of the October 20, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting and asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Wesley Eck motioned, seconded by Stacey Sober to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2023, 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 17, 2024, there was:

- 194,773 AF stored in Pueblo
- 144,637 AF of Project water
- 50,589 AF of excess capacity water
- 12,273 AF of Winter water
- 100,736 AF of Project space available in Pueblo
- 8,963 AF of Project space in Twin & Turquoise

There was 32,237 acre-feet (AF) of Winter Water stored from 2022-2023, the average is 40,700 AF.

Project reservoir storage as of October 16, 2024; Turquoise, 90 percent; Twin Lakes, 84 percent; and Pueblo Reservoir, 63 percent of average.

Last year there was a dual outage at the Mt. Elbert Powerplant, so water wasn't moved from the conduit from Turquoise Lake to Mt. Elbert Forebay, which is the main path for release from Turquoise. Due to the good neighboring agreement with Lake County Reclamation tried not to release more than 400 cfs. The unit outage that was planned turned out unplanned for maintenance. A clearance was placed in December, Unit 2 back online in mid-April. Unit 2 had a catastrophic failure in late April. Unit 1 is not planned to be back online until Summer. The Spill Priorities were reviewed.

Mike Holmberg introduced Realty Specialist Jeff Bollman with the Bureau of Reclamation. Jeff is working with Reclamation on the Arkansas Valley Conduit and updated the group on the progress. Jeff thanked the canal companies that he spoke with or attended their board meetings for their cooperation regarding the Conduit. If he hadn't spoken to a canal, they should contact him if there were any concerns.

Division of Water Resources – Division Engineer' Office

Brian Lenher, Reservoir Operations Specialist showed last year's final totals for the winter program was 30,000 above last year's program. ARKPEUCO measurements shown indicating when Ft. Lyon and Colorado Canals started and stopped diverting water. Winter water trends through the years show a steady decline.

Lonnie Spady then reviewed available storage in Turquoise, Twin Lakes, Clear Creek, DeWeese, Pisgah, Skagway, Pueblo, Colorado Canal System, Holbrook, Fort Lyon Canal System, Great Plains, and John Martin. Predictions for 2024-25 PWWSP were 110,500, 10,000 90,000AF, and 87,000 AF.

November 1 at 00:00, John Martin Reservoir gates will be closed. PWWSP and conservation storage split is determined in November. Baseline flows (conservation portions) are determined from November 1 thru 15th. Enhanced flows (PWWSP portion) are determined from November 16 thru 30th.

November 15th is the end of the irrigation season all PWWSP participants closed their headgates. Storage preferences were requested to aid with the movement of water contact Lonnie Spady or Brian Lenherr.

Aurora Rocky Ford Ditch Water Estimate of Return Flow Storage Availability

Garrett Markus informed the WWSP participants that Israel Ortega reported based on projected storage amounts accredited to Aurora this year, the total winter return flow obligation is projected to be 1,600AF to be held in Pueblo Reservoir.

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Ag Updates

Garrett Markus introduced District staff, Executive Director Leann Noga, Administrative Manager

Michelle Tocydlowski, Senior Policy and Issues Manager Chris Woodka and Administrative Assistant Specialist Margie Medina.

Garrett Markus reported currently there is a marginal risk of spilling regarding the May 1 date to carry over under the agricultural pilot program. Spill meetings will start in spring and to be added to those meetings contact Lonnie Spady or Brian Lenherr.

The District is working on a Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) true up, adopting the Division of Water Resources acres regarding RRA reporting.

Garrett also thanked the canals for working with Reclamation and Gordon Dillon regarding the Arkansas Valley Conduit. The District will approve the water rate at the November board meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting

Next meeting would be Friday, October 17, 2025. A vote was taken to adjourn the meeting by Alan Ward, seconded by Donny Hansen. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Margie Medina, Administrative Support Specialist
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Date Approved