

WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM
Board of Trustees Annual Meeting
Minutes
Friday, October 16, 2015

10:30 a.m. Otero Junior College Student Center
2001 San Juan Avenue
La Junta, CO 81050

Acting Chairman, Garrett Markus, called the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Winter Water Storage Program (WWSP) to order at 10:41 a.m. Roll call of voting members was taken.

Winter Water Board of Trustees Voting Members Roll Call:

Glenn Wilson, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Danny Genova, Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company; Greg Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Scott Campbell, Colorado Canal Companies; Jerred Hoffman, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Vernon Proctor, High Line Canal Company; Donny Hansen, Holbrook Mutual Irrigating Company; Jeff Baylor, Las Animas Consolidated Canal Company; Alan Ward, West Pueblo Ditch; Kirk Lamphier, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; and, Thomas Pope, Riverside Dairy Ditch.

Introductions of those in Attendance: Director from the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Carl McClure (Crowley County); Jeff Baylor, Las Animas Consolidated Ditch; Bob Mills, High Line Canal Company; Bob Barnhart, Holbrook Canal; John Van Oort, Phil Reynolds, Lonnie Spady, Jeanette Myers, Becky Nichols, Colorado Division of Water Resources; Kalsoum Abbasi, Colorado Springs Utilities; Von Lieber, Oxford Ditch; Michael Hill, Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company; Roy Vaughan and Terry Dawson, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Pueblo Field office; Glen Wilson and Terry Howland, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Danelle Berg, Otero County; Blake Osborn, Colorado Water Institute; Phil Hemphill and Josh Weimer, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Rick Kienitz and Tom Simpson, Rocky Ford Ditch/Aurora Water; Chris Woodka, Pueblo Chieftain; Jim Broderick, Garrett Markus, and Margie Medina Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Minutes:

Mr. Markus asked if everyone had received the Minutes of the October 17, 2014 Board meeting and asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Scott Campbell made the motion, seconded by Glenn Wilson, to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Fry-Ark Operations – U. S. Bureau of Reclamation

Terry Dawson reported in her PowerPoint presentation on the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) as of October 12, 2015 there was:

- 187,671 AF stored in Pueblo
- 112,923 AF of Project water
- 52,101 AF of excess capacity water
- 22,723 AF of Winter water
- 48,670 AF of Project space in Pueblo

- 8,514 AF of Project space in Twin & Turquoise

Project reservoir storage as of October 12, 2015 were - Turquoise - 107%, Twin Lakes - 105% and Pueblo Reservoir – 138%. Bureau of Reclamation anticipates moving around 55,000 AF down from the upper reservoirs beginning mid-November to net 49,500 AF in Pueblo Reservoir moving 46,000 AF before mid-March. Assuming Long-term account space will be almost filled. Long term forecasts for a wet late winter and spring. Winter water storage ends March 15 and use of Joint Pool ends April 15. All winter and Agricultural Project water must be used by May 1. Anticipating room for 70,000 AF of Winter water unless John Martin fills and east slope rights come into priority. Movement of water will be adjusted according to the forecast and customers’ needs.

Current content	187,671	
New Winter Water	50,000	
Project Water	44,000	
M&I Inflow	24,500	
-Total Releases	-17,150	
-Evaporation	-1,940	
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	297,081-245,373=	51,708 over top of conservation pool
Out Before May 1	2014 Winter Water	-22,750
	2014 Ag Project Water	-2,650
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		71,681-245,373=26,308 over top of conservation pool

*Per Article 13 of the repayment contract there will be 70,000 AF of winter water space available.

Use of the Joint use pools is still in discussions with Corps of Engineers. Aurora’s options to move water will be in Great Plains Reservoirs with leases with Colorado Parks and Wildlife as it is likely that their water might spill.

Division of Water Resources – Division Engineer’ Office

2014-2015 Program Review

Phil Reynolds of the Division Engineer’s Office began his presentation with the 2015 recap of the Winter Water Program as the best season since 2010, total stored is 129,103 AF. Pueblo Reservoir stored 51,949AF; Lake Meredith stored 22,334AF; Fort Lyon stored 38,989AF; and John Martin stored 15,375AF. The average for the past 5 years is 108,801AF, which dropped 4,200AF from last year because 2010 was such a good year. The past 20 year average is 132,359AF, dropping 1,200AF because 1995 was such a good year.

Colorado Canal stopped diverting, March 4, 2015, as they maxed out their storage capacity. Fort Lyon diverted via their storage canal through February 18, 2015. By mid-February Winter water was heavy at the top and increased releases out of Pueblo Reservoir but were limited by the construction on the dike through Pueblo. Mr. Reynolds charted the historical storage (2004-2015) for Pueblo, Lake Meredith, Adobe, and John Martin. The Pueblo Water Conservancy District has not informed the Division Engineers office regarding operations for the dike, which can effect movement of reservoir water.

2015-2016 Winter Water Storage Program Operations

John Van Oort’s discussed off-channel storage, consisting of Lake Henry, Meredith, Dye, Holbrook, Adobe Creek, Horse Creek John Martin, and Great Plains reservoirs.

	Available space 11/14/15	Est. AF 11/15/15	Est. AF Space
Colorado Canal System	27,300	32,000	20,000
Holbrook	300	2,000	7,300
Fort Lyon Canal	6,900	62,000	46,000
Great Plains	0	6,700	140,000
John Martin	6,200	198,000	132,000

Article III accounts in John Martin Reservoir

	Estimated account balance	Maximum allowed in account	Space available in account
Fort Lyon Canal	0	20,000	20,000
LA Consolidated	360	5,000	4,640
Amity Canal	32,831	5,000	17,169
Total available Space in Article III accounts:			41,809

X-Factors and things to watch out for are that Fort Lyon and Amity will be highly dependent on use of Fort Lyon Storage Canal and the delivery system to Great Plains reservoirs. Cold weather could ice up off-channel diversion canals. Fall precipitation could increase return flows to the river.

	Nov 2006-Mar 2007	Nov 2007-Mar 2008	Nov 2009-Mar 2010
Adobe	57,050	59,495	57,072
John Martin	21,461	22,155	23,336
Lake Meredith	17,564	17,580	19,108
Pueblo	52,939	53,237	50,012
Total Storage	149,600	153,000	150,100

In January the Division Engineers office will be taking requests on the participants Winter Water arrangements.

Flow data comparison is as follows:

APR-SEP	920,348	85.0%
AUG-SEP	90,234	8.3%
AUG-OCT	90,234	8.3%
APR-MAR	1,082,762	
Year	2015-2016	

Garrett Markus reported the Bureau of Reclamation, DWR and participants have been collaborating on Winter Water strategies to maximize operations.

Aurora Rocky Ford Ditch Water Estimate of Return Flow Storage Availability

Rick Kienitz of Aurora Water reported that the estimated amount of the Rocky Ford Ditch return flow transfer is 1,320.37 acre feet delivered to Pueblo Reservoir.

Other Business

John Van Oort inquired about the Aurora water account balance of 2,000AF and its operational use.

Mr. Markus asked if there was any additional business to come before the Board, Mr. Campbell asked if the meeting could be moved up earlier in the month. The meeting date is not part of the Winter Water Decree; in 2007 the trustee's voted for the third Friday of October to hold the meeting as a perpetual date. The next annual meeting will be at the same location, on October 21, 2016 (the third Friday of October) at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise agreed upon.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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

Date Approved: *October 21, 2016*