

**ALLOCATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 1, 2018**

A meeting of the Allocation Committee was held on Thursday, February 01, 2018 at 1:02 p.m. at the District Office 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81001.

Vice Chairman Howard "Bub" Miller announced a quorum was present.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Howard "Bub" Miller – Vice Chairman

Tom Goodwin, Alan Hamel, Curtis Mitchell, and James Broderick

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

Carl McClure - Chairman

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ryan Hemphill, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Andy Colosimo, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) Director; Garrett Markus, Lee Miller, Kevin Meador, and Chris Woodka, District staff.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Vice Chairman Miller confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the November 2, 2017 minutes, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Tom Goodwin moved, seconded by Alan Hamel, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**FORT LYON PILOT PROJECT UPDATE**

Garrett Markus referred to a pamphlet titled, "Fort Lyon Canal Company Agricultural First Right of Refusal Pilot Project." The Fort Lyon Canal Company Pilot Project has operated for four of the five years exclusive to the Fort Lyon Canal and its shareholders. In those four years, District staff, Fort Lyon Canal Company (FLCC), Colorado Water Protective and Development Association (CWPDA), Lower Arkansas Water Management Association (LAWMA), Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District (LAVWCD), and Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) have worked through several issues ensuring the equitable utilization of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water Return Flows, identifying beneficiaries, and improving mechanisms of delivery.

The 2018 FLCC Pilot Project will mark the fifth and final year of operation of the pilot project and is proposed to continue to be exclusive to the Fort Lyon Canal and operate on a similar premise of the previous four years. In 2017, District staff had several discussions with stakeholders discussing current operations and how each group envisions in what way the program will take shape in the future. In 2018, these discussions will broaden to encompass the Division Engineers Office and other necessary groups to develop implementation strategies available to their situation that may help

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facilitate the agricultural first right of refusal under each of the other ditch systems. By fall, all the ditch companies that are interested in claiming their first right of refusal would have a vetted strategy that will be implemented in the 2019 allocation year.

Potential mechanisms are in place for Colorado Canal, Rocky Ford High Line Canal, Oxford Farmers Ditch and Catlin Canal. Excelsior Ditch and Las Animas Consolidated are operated entirely by augmentation. Mechanisms are still needed for Bessemer Ditch and Otero Canal.

**WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM AND ARKANSAS BASIN IMPACTS**

On January 23, 2018 a Winter Water meeting was held with ditch superintendents to assess the program and project operations. The Winter Water Storage Program operates annually from November 15 to March 14 storing agricultural Arkansas River water during winter months. Winter water can be stored in Pueblo Reservoir, John Martin Reservoir, Colorado Canal system reservoirs, Fort Lyon system reservoirs, Holbrook system reservoirs, and Great Plains reservoirs. With the higher than average rainfall in the fall of 2017, many of the Arkansas basin reservoirs were substantially full, resulting in a high producing Winter Water Storage Program, low available storage, and potential spills. The current system grand total was 88,055.52 acre-feet (AF), which was higher than average.

The storage conditions in Pueblo Reservoir have large impacts on many entities in the Arkansas Valley but in the District's attempt to analyze Fryngpan-Arkansas (Fry-Ark) Project storage facilities many of the non Fry-Ark facilities affect what water and when that water will be stored in Pueblo Reservoir.

There are four areas of storage conditions in the Arkansas Valley that factor into projections.

1. Fry-Ark Storage: With many of the municipal entities utilizing their Fry-Ark Project water storage, the conditions in Pueblo Reservoir are changing from previous years.
2. Storage below Pueblo: The large native flows in the Arkansas River this past summer allowed many storage rights to come into priority. A majority of the reservoirs were filled, and demand was low until late summer.
3. Winter Water Storage Program: Many of the storage vessels below Pueblo are part of the Winter Water Storage Program and filled during the summer. With the change in storage conditions, the typical storage amounts in Pueblo Reservoir will not be expected.
4. Spill Priority: One aspect to projecting storage conditions in the Arkansas Valley is to project spill in Pueblo Reservoir.

Pueblo Reservoir's estimated content on April 1, 2018 is 289,500 AF, known releases before April 1st are Aurora's release of 4,371 AF and last year's Winter Water in Pueblo Reservoir release of 29,308 AF to calculate a projected spill of 10,448 AF.

**ACTION ITEM:**

None

**INFORMATION ITEM**

None

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**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Vice Chairman Miller adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus

Water Resources Engineer