

**ALLOCATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 5, 2018**

A meeting of the Allocation Committee was held on Thursday, April 05, 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
Alan Hamel, and Curtis Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Carl McClure – Chairman, Tom Goodwin, and James Broderick

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Niles, AGUA; Bill Tyner, Division of Water Resources; Jack Goble, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District; Jenny Bishop, Colorado Springs Utilities; Kent Ricken, CWPDA; Kortney Kelly, Fountain Valley Authority; Mark Pifher and Greg Felt, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District); Garrett Markus, Leann Noga and Chris Woodka, District staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice Chairman Miller confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the February 1, 2018 minutes, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Alan Hamel moved, seconded Curtis Mitchell, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

ARKANSAS BASIN OUTLOOK

Garrett Markus provided a PowerPoint presentation, reviewing snowpack relative to the collection system, termination of the Winter Water season, and April 15 evacuation of the Joint-Use Pool regarding potential spill. The collection system snowpack graphics were reviewed and as of April 5, 2018 the system was at 74 percent of median and peak. Compared to previous years and their respective imports, there is potential to import significantly more water than average or significantly less water than average depending on precipitation late spring. However, drought conditions across southern Colorado and the southwest portion of the United States of America appear to be expanding and covering more area later into the season. But given the current snow pack conditions, Bureau of Reclamation’s unofficial forecast for April 1, 2018 was 40,100 acre-feet (AF).

In relation to Pueblo Reservoir, the Winter Water Storage Program stored 60,588 AF stored in Pueblo Reservoir resulting in the third highest storage year on record. In addition to the record high Winter Water carryover storage, water in Pueblo Reservoir was at risk of spill. Meetings were held once a

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week with stakeholders with water in annual and long-term excess capacity accounts to discuss water movement to estimate potential spill. However, Pueblo Reservoir is anticipated to be 2,000 AF under the Joint-Use Pool by April 15, 2018 primarily due to basin wide dry conditions and entities evacuating water at risk to spill. Mr. Markus continued to review the spill priorities as defined by the Fry-Ark Operating Principles, emphasizing Project water will not spill.

FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT WATER EFFECT ON AUGMENTATION

Garrett Markus introduced Bill Tyner with the Division of Water Resources (DWR) to discuss the augmentation process. Fryingpan-Arkansas (Fry-Ark) Project water and Project water Return Flows (Return Flows) are allocated on an annual basis at the May Board Meeting. Many of the District's stakeholders use Project water for augmentation purposes, both municipal and agricultural. On the other hand, augmentation plans are submitted to DWR by March 1 each year, approved by April 1, providing a temporary approval period until allocations numbers are confirmed by June 1. The submissions must include prior year Return Flows and upcoming year Return Flows.

In 2004 the District began the time forward allocation for agriculture, which means, that the District will allocate the full amount of water even though it accretes back to the river over a longer period. The DWR's Ground Water Accounting Model (GWAM) accounts for accretions and depletions for 20 years or 240 months, and a majority of the action occurs in the first seven years. This is considered as the prior year Return Flows and augmentation entities utilize these Return Flows from previous year allocations regardless of the current year's allocation.

The DWR predicts the current year's allocation based on Bureau of Reclamation's preliminary import forecasts. Then the actual allocation is approved, the DWR will finalize the augmentation plans with Board approved allocation. The allocation can vary significantly from the initial numbers but can also vary significantly from actual imports later in the year. Mr. Tyner discussed that dynamic and how DWR manages those plans from that perspective.

ACTION ITEM:

None

INFORMATION ITEM

None

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Vice Chairman Miller adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.

Water Resources Engineer