

**ALLOCATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 7, 2019**

A meeting of the Allocation Committee was held on Thursday, March 07, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. at the District Office 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81001.

Chairman Carl McClure announced a quorum was present.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Carl McClure – Chariman, Howard “Bub” Miller – Vice Chairman  
Andy Colosimo, Tom Goodwin, Alan Hamel, and James Broderick

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

Curtis Mitchell

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Kalsoum Abbasi, Colorado Springs Utilities; Kent Ricken, Colorado Water Protective and Development Association (CWPDA); Emily Logan and Alan Ward, Pueblo Board of Water Works; Ryan Hemphill, Fort Lyon Canal; Kevin Karney and Bill Long, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) Directors; Garrett Markus, Lee Miller, and Chris Woodka, District staff.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman McClure confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the November 1, 2018 minutes, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Andy Colosimo moved, Jim Broderick seconded, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**2019 FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK**

The Fry-Ark Project utilizes the Boustead Tunnel to import Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water (Project water) for allocation each year. The 20-year average for Project water imports is 55,124 acre-feet (AF) and is highly dependent on snow pack. Snow pack reports are published weekly and display the four Snotel sites that are most relative to the Fry-Ark collection system. The snow pack reports also compare the current snow pack to the 30-year average of those four sites and to seven other years with the corresponding Fry-Ark Project water import for each year. The snow pack report associated Fry-Ark collection system on March 6, 2019 was at 139 percent of median. Even though Project water imports are highly dependent on snow pack, there are several key variables that highly effect the actual import amount. Several of those considerations are how fast the snow melts and whether we are legally and available to divert those amounts, excessive sublimation (evaporation of snow without runoff), weather during diversion season, local and basin wide river calls, and precipitation not associated with snow pack. The unofficial import forecasts from the Bureau of Reclamation was

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70,600 AF for February 1 and 67,200 AF for March 1. The March forecast was prior to the large snow fall accumulation that occurred during the first week in March.

**AGRICULTURAL FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL**

At the May 15, 2014 Board meeting the Board authorized the Fort Lyon Canal Company (FLCC) Pilot Project for the use of Fry-Ark Project water Return Flows (Return Flows) for a period of five years. The Fort Lyon Canal Company Pilot Project has operated for five years exclusive to the Fort Lyon Canal and its shareholders. In those five years, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) staff, Fort Lyon Canal Company, 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 Return Flows, identifying beneficiaries, and improving mechanisms of delivery.

For 2019, the Pilot Project will encompass more than the FLCC. Two ditch companies that have expressed interest in claiming their agricultural first right of refusal (AFRR) and have similar, broader benefits to each of their members. The Rocky Ford High Line and Oxford Farmers Ditch have company wells, or wells that pump into the ditch for all members to use. This would allow all members under the ditch company to utilize the AFRR, and ineligible land would be managed by the commingling plans that currently exist. Administration from the well augmentation group and the state would be less demanding given the single ownership of the wells.

**ACTION ITEM:**

**PROJECT WATER UTILIZATION FOR PUEBLO DAM HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT TESTING**

The Pueblo Dam Hydroelectric Project (PDHP) will require flows ranging between 35 to 810 cfs operational tests on the turbine equipment at the PDHP. The total duration of these flows will range from 30 minutes to 10 hours requiring less than 1,000 AF of water over a three-week testing period. By testing the equipment soon after March 15, we have the opportunity to use more native flows for test and have the facility ready for the higher Spring flows when we will have the ability to generate up to \$10,000 per day of revenue. In March, we would only be generating about \$750 to \$2,000 per day. The early testing timeframe also gives us time to remedy any needed repairs or adjustments before the higher flows are available. The Resource and Engineering planning Committee and Board of Directors authorized the use of Project water up to 1,000 AF for hydroelectric unit testing for the PDHP on January 17, 2019.

From a water resource perspective, the Project water would be provided from the District's 3,000 AF capacity emergency account. The flow testing would be non-consumptive at the PDHP but would need to be captured or consumed downstream, whichever is more beneficial to the Enterprise. Even though the testing is non-consumptive, the releases will be subject to transit loss and evaporation. District staff will be diligent in finding the most efficient way to deliver, capture, and reuse the Project water to minimize losses.

Tom Goodwin moved, seconded by Alan Hamel that the Allocation Committee recommend to the Board to approve District staff discretion to determine the most cost effective and efficient utilization

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of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water to complete non-consumptive hydroelectric unit testing for the Pueblo Dam Hydroelectric Project. Motion passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman McClure adjourned the meeting at 01:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.

Water Resources Engineer