# COLORADO RIVER AND WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Thursday, July 16, 2020** 

A meeting of the Colorado River and Water Supply Committee was held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 11:10 a.m. via Zoom Meetings.

Chairman Tom Goodwin announced a quorum was present.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tom Goodwin - Chairman, Kevin Karney – Vice-Chairman, Seth Clayton, Pat Edelmann, Mark Pifher, and Jim Broderick

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

None

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Bill Long, Curtis Mitchell, Andrew Colosimo, and Alan Hamel, Southeastern Board members; Brett Gracely, LRE Water; Toni Gonzales, Lee Miller, Garrett Markus, Leann Noga, Patty Rivas, Margie Medina, and Chris Woodka, District staff.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Tom Goodwin confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the November 21, 2019 minutes, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Mr. Karney moved, seconded by Mr. Pifher, to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

### **PRESENTATION:**

Lee Miller provided an update on Colorado River issues. He explained that the presentations are normally done in executive session, because of confidentiality agreements. However, there is no confidential information to share at this time.

Mr. Miller discussed two topics:

- 1) The state's Demand Management (DM) feasibility investigation
- 2) The upcoming meeting of the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC)

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### **DM Feasibility Investigation**

The Colorado General Assembly cut \$750,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) budget due to the COVID-19 situation. Mr. Miller said it is unclear how that will affect the ongoing investigation.

The 2019 DM work groups reports were provided to the Committee as part of the meeting packet. The CWCB discussed the work group reports at its July 15, 2020 meeting, and is planning a workshop in September to determine steps forward.

The work group reports varied in how the information was presented, so it was hard to get an "apples-to-apples" comparison.

Mr. Pifher asked if there is a timeline moving forward.

Mr. Miller said there is not. Comments from the outside range from "the process is taking too long" to "investigate everything under the sun and take as long as you need."

Mr. Clayton, who sat on the DM finance work group, said the DM process was necessary, and agreed with Mr. Miller's assessment that some work groups met prematurely. Mr. Woodka, who sat on the DM outreach work group, also agreed.

CWCB and the state Attorney General's office has shifted personnel during the process, making the DM discussions more challenging.

The District will continue to monitor the DM process.

# **UCRC Virtual Work Meeting**

The UCRC will meet in a virtual meeting on August 7, 2020. The meeting is not open to the public, but Mr. Miller will attend as a member of the UCRC legal committee. Five issues will be discussed.

- 1) Update on Intra-state Demand Management Activities
- 2) UCRC Demand Management Grant
- 3) Status of Reclamation's 2007 Interim Guidelines "7.D Review Report"
- 4) Renegotiation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines
- 5) Presentation on Utah's Proposed Lake Powell Pipeline and Status of NEPA Process

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## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

None

# **NEXT MEETING**

The date and time of the next meeting is to be determined.

## **ADJOURN**

Chairman Goodwin adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Woodka Senior Policy and Issues Manager