

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 15, 2017

A meeting of the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) Committee was held on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 12:20 p.m. at the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District office.

Chairman Long announced a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Long - Chairman, Howard "Bub" Miller - Vice-Chairman
Kevin Karney, Carl McClure, Dallas May and Jim Broderick

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Seth Clatyon, SECWCD board; Chris Woodka, Kevin Meador, and Lee Miller, SECWCD staff;
Christine Arbogast, SECWCD lobbyist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Long confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the April 20, 2017 minutes, and if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Carl McClure moved, seconded by Kevin Karney, to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Jim Broderick explained that a task force of the AVC Committee had not met on the status of the project since late 2015. A District task force formed at that time to attempt to negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in order to define the relationship with regard to the AVC between the District and Reclamation when the federal Administration transitioned after the 2016 election.

The MOA was not completed by the end of 2016, but the task force continued to work with Reclamation during the transition of the Trump Administration. In the meantime, District staff became concerned about the time and expense of reaching the eastern edge of Pueblo and began working on what is now termed the New Concept proposal for AVC.

The New Concept proposal would use more of Pueblo Water's infrastructure to reach points that align to the AVC route east of Pueblo, avoiding the need to pump water uphill to a point southwest of Pueblo and several miles of pipeline. The idea was shared with task force members before a series of initial meetings among District staff, Reclamation, and Pueblo Water.

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Pueblo Water suggested a phased approach that first would deliver 3 million gallons per day at the eastern end of the Airport Industrial Park at Pueblo. It would require a 6-mile pipeline to reach the AVC route. The initial phase could serve Otero County communities that are facing state enforcement for radionuclide contamination. Later phases would be developed that could meet the projected need of 20 million gallons per day by 2070.

Reclamation is receptive to the idea, although there are many questions that must be answered before the proposal can proceed.

Christine Arbogast reviewed federal developments on the AVC. There is \$3 million in the Administration budget request, but that is likely to be altered by Congress. In recent years, Reclamation has received “plus-up” money in its budget that could allow more funding to go to the AVC, although specific earmarks are no longer allowed. There may also be reprogramming funds (money left over from other projects) at the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Arbogast, Mr. Broderick, and Mr. Long will travel to Washington, D.C., next week to meet with staffers from the congressional delegation, staff of the congressional appropriations committee and Reclamation officials to discuss the New Concept proposal. One difficulty is that there is only one political appointee so far in the Department of Interior, the Secretary.

Chris Woodka explained the documents that are being used to explain the New Concept proposal to the public. These include a two-page letter, and a more in-depth 11-page paper that explains the New Concept proposal and deals with other updates of the AVC. Included in the 11-page paper are recent congressional testimony and correspondence on behalf of the AVC.

Kevin Meador explained the design-build concept, which is also seen as a way to reduce time and cost in AVC construction.

Mr. Broderick discussed Reclamation’s Request For Information for public-private partnerships (P3) that could be another way to expedite the AVC. The AVC was chosen as one of five Reclamation projects that Reclamation is looking at under a new P3 Initiative. It is not known how this could affect the AVC.

Chairman Long suggested that a meeting to share this information (along with any new information from the Washington, D.C., trip) with participants be scheduled as soon as possible. The afternoon of August 1 was tentatively selected for the participants meeting

ACTION ITEMS:

None

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INFORMATION ITEMS:

An AVC Updated Report was included in committee posting materials on the District web site and provided in packets at the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, August 1, 1:00 p.m. with AVC Participants

ADJOURN

Chairman Long adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Woodka

Issues Management Program Coordinator