

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

**SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
MINUTES**

September 16, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) was held on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 9:38 a.m., at the District office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado. The ZOOM platform was also made available for Board members and visitors. Mr. Long asked Patty Rivas for a roll call.

President Long established that a Quorum was present.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Alan Hamel	Carl McClure(remote)	Pat Edelmann
Andy Colosimo	Curtis Mitchell	Patrick Garcia
Ann Nichols	Dallas May	Seth Clayton
Bill Long	Mark Pifher	Tom Goodwin

DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Kevin Karney, Howard “Bub” Miller, and Greg Felt

DISTRICT OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Executive Director James Broderick; General Counsel Lee Miller; Senior Policy and Issues Manager Chris Woodka; Principal Engineer Kevin Meador; Water Resource Engineer Garrett Markus; Administrator of Finance and Administration Leann Noga; Administrative Support Specialist Margie Medina; Accountant Stephanie Shipley; Accounting Specialist Support Lynette Holt; Administrative Support Associate Patty Rivas; and Kogovsek and Associates Christine Arbogast.

VISITORS PRESENT:

Barbara Crockett (remote) Jacobs Engineering; Bill McDonald, McDonald Water Policy; Bill Tyner (remote) Colorado Division of Water Resources; Brett Graceley (remote) LRE Water; Curtis Thompson AECOM; Jeffery Deherrera Pueblo West Metro; Jenny Bishop Colorado Springs Utilities; Jerry Pena (remote) Kennedy Jenks; Joseph Staderman and Rebecca Buist Colorado Parks & Wildlife (remote); Kevin Salter and Rachel Duran (remote) Kansas Department of Agriculture; Krystal Brown USGS (remote); Mark Scott (remote) Providence Infrastructure Consulting; Mike Holmberg, Sam Braverman, Tara Kinsey (remote) USBR; Rick Kienitz (remote) Aurora Water; Tom Waters (remote) Arkansas Headwaters; Toni Gonzales (remote); Warren Paul and Patrick McLaughlin Mott MacDonald; Will Landon HDR Engineering.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:

President Long welcomed the visitors to the meeting.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Long said the minutes of the August 19, 2021, Board meeting were posted to the Board website for review and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Mr. Garcia moved, seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer Nichols reported the financial statements for August 2021, were posted to the Board website for review. Ms. Nichols moved, seconded by Mr. Clayton for acceptance of the August 2021 financial statements and payment of the September 2021 bills. Motion unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

President Long recessed the District meeting and called to order the Enterprise meeting @ 9:43 a.m. so that Christine Arbogast could present her Federal Legislation update.

President Long recessed the Enterprise meeting and reconvened the District meeting @ 9:54 a.m.

STORAGE RECOVERY

Mr. Woodka provided some background information before Mott MacDonald (Consultants) presented their PowerPoint.

The purpose of the Report is to look at historical loss of storage space in Pueblo Reservoir due to sedimentation, and to forecast future potential loss of storage.

From this baseline, the Southeastern District and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will be informed as to future measures to protect storage in the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. Additionally, the information will allow the District to assist stakeholders in planning for future changes in storage.

The Consultants are recommending further studies to refine the assessment. These include:

- Updated bathymetric and surveying programs using LIDAR and Multibeam survey methodology.
- Geomorphologic and hydrological analyses to assess sediment loading and distribution within the Upper Arkansas River Basin.
- Numerical modeling to refine the storage capacity estimates provided in the Report.

The Consultants recommend these steps be completed as part of guidance to assess the impacts of Pueblo Reservoir storage capacity loss to Fryingpan-Arkansas Project storage, operations, and storage contracts.

Staff, in cooperation with Reclamation, will analyze the impact storage space will have on both Project and Excess Capacity accounts in Pueblo Reservoir, and present this information to the Board at a future meeting.

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Patrick McLaughlin from Mott MacDonald presented:

Phase II scope of Work Overview

Goal and Objectives:

- Assess the impacts of Pueblo Reservoir storage capacity loss on District storage and operations and provides estimates as to when storage loss becomes critical to limiting Fryingpan-Arkansas operations.
- Can be used by the District and its Storage Recovery Committee and Mott MacDonald team to facilitate the development of future storage recovery tasks.
- Provides updated information for the District and its Storage Recovery Committee to communicate with stakeholders and make proactive decisions for mitigating future storage loss within Pueblo Reservoir.
- Future phases of work include obtaining an updated survey, numerical modelling, and assessing impacts from the Upper Arkansas River Basin

Data Collection:

In coordination with the District, Mott Macdonald requested the following data from Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau):

- 1993 and 1974 survey data (not received)
- 2012 contour data (received)

Hybrid approach taken by Mott MacDonald to develop sedimentation & storage capacity projections:

- Digitize the 1974 and 1993 transects provided in USBR, 1993. Create surfaces using smoothing, interpolation, and extrapolation to fill data gaps.
- Use digitized surveys with 2012 contour data to project future sedimentation and storage capacity losses conjunction with the operations data.
- Storage loss predictions have larger confidence bands due to uncertainty in 1974 & 1993 data.

Survey Data Analysis, from 1974, 1993 and 2012:

- Sedimentation in upper delta
- Sedimentation in thalweg
- Sedimentation near dam

Forecasting methodology (1)

1. Develop forecasting curves at each point in surface.
 - Use 1974, 1996 and 2012 to develop linear regression fits throughout reservoir
 - Spatially varying results used to project future elevations throughout reservoir
2. Use curves to project future sedimentation and reservoir elevations.
 - Forecast reservoir elevations to 2046
3. Use historical water surface elevation data & future sedimentation to develop a range of future capacities.

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Results (1) Yearly Sedimentation Movie was provided

Results (2) Projected Sedimentation

1. Spatial reservoir elevations over time
2. Projected capacity loss due to sedimentation
3. Capacity estimates show 10%, 50%, and 99% exceedance values

Results (3) Projected Storage Capacity Results.

1. A chart was provided to show “projected Storage: Active Conservation

Next Steps & Recommendations:

1. Updated Bathymetric & Topographic surveys: Q4 2021 – Q1 2022
 - Purpose: Critical to conduct updated bathymetric and topographic surveying programs:
 - Uses: Used to refine storage allocation estimates & conduct numerical modeling assessments (See recommendation 2)
2. Numerical Modeling: Q4 2021 – Q1 2022
 - Purpose: Numerical modeling recommended to refine the storage capacity estimates provided in this document.
 - Uses: Refine storage allocation projections & optimize any storage recovery (dredging) designs to minimize future sedimentation and prolong the useful life of the dredging project.
3. Upper Arkansas River Basin Hydrology & Geomorphology Assessment Q1 2022 – Q2 2022
 - Purpose: Quantify sediment load from unregulated tributaries upstream of the Pueblo Reservoir.
 - Uses: Used to identify “problem” tributaries and develop sediment sustainability measures

DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD FOR 2021 BUDGET PUBLICATION

Mrs. Noga discussed that the District has now earned the award for the tenth time for the 2021 Budget Publication. The 2021 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is presented to the Finance Team of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District. The Finance Team is made up of Jim Broderick, Leann Noga, Chris Woodka and Stephanie Shipley.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program to encourage and assist state and local governments in preparing budget documents with a very high quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on state and local budgeting and the GFOA’s best practices on budgeting. In addition, to then recognize these individual governments with the success in achieving this goal.

The guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity’s budget serves as; a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. The GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. More information can be found at <http://www.gfoa.org/budgetaward>.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Noga presented an action item regarding the appointment of a Budget Officer. This happens annually in order to be in compliance with Colorado State Budget Law.

The first action the governing board must take under the Budget Law is to designate or appoint a Budget Officer to prepare and submit a proposed budget (Section 19-1-104, C.R.S.).

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Mr. May moved, seconded by Mr. Clayton, that the Board of Directors appoint Leann Noga, Administrator of Finance and Administration as the Budget Officer for the 2022 District budget preparation. Motion unanimously carried.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mrs. Noga presented an action item regarding a public hearing for the 2022 Proposed Budget. This is done annually to be in compliance with Colorado State Law C.R.S – 29-1-108 (1).

A copy of the letter that will be sent to the newspapers for publication, and the Notice as to 2022 Proposed Budget was provided to the Board.

Mr. Garcia moved, seconded by Mr. Hamel that the Board of Directors set November 18, 2021 a.m. for the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District to hold the Public Hearing of the 2022 Proposed Budget. Motion unanimously carried.

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY REPORTS:

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REPORT

Mr. Mike Holmberg provided a written report reviewing the following, as of September 9, 2021:

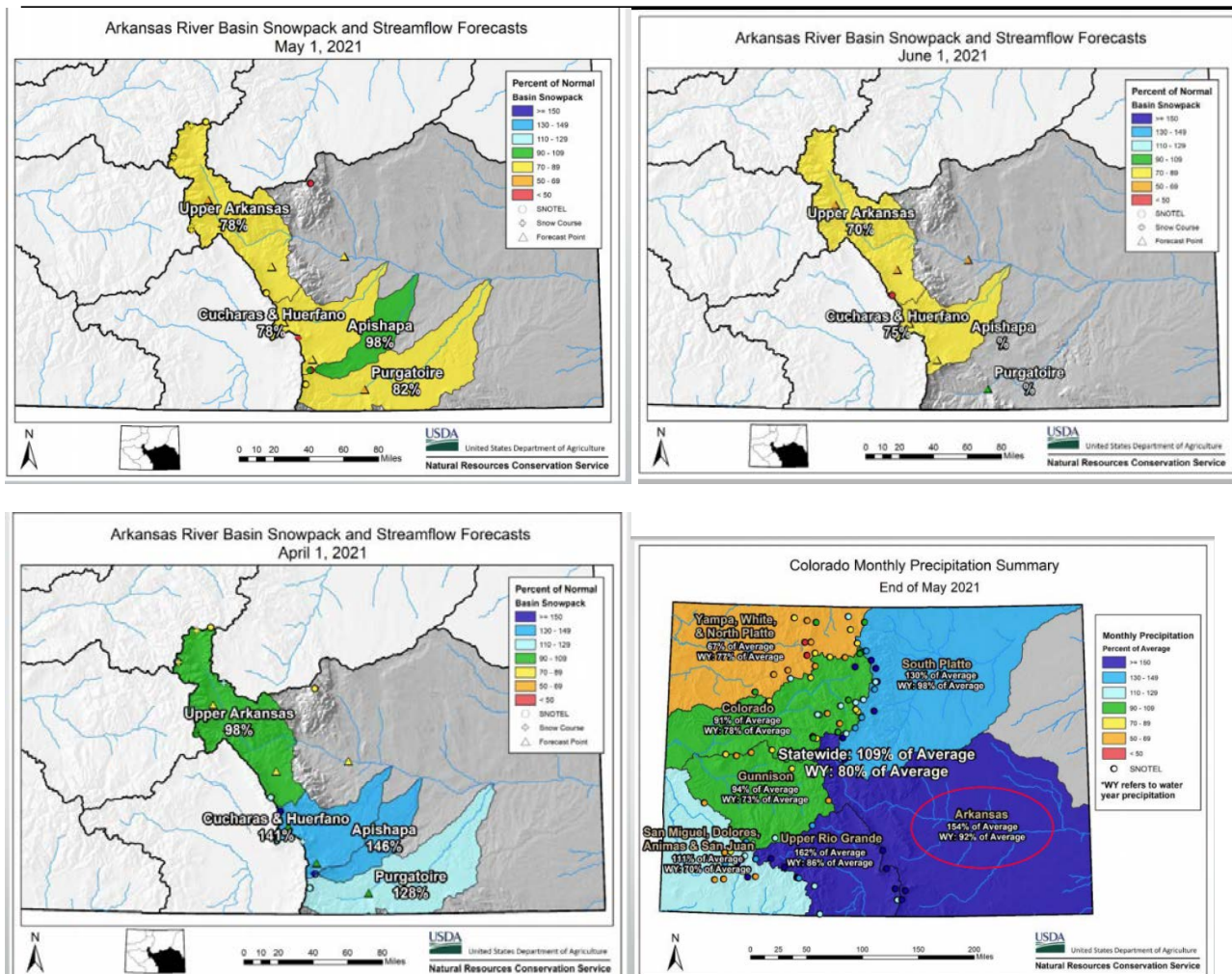
- There were 186,100 acre-feet stored in Pueblo Reservoir; 128,052 acre-feet of Project water; 50,397 acre-feet of Excess Capacity water; 5,966 acre-feet of Winter water.
- There is currently 117,321 acre-feet of Project space in Pueblo Reservoir and 33,355 acre-feet of space in Turquoise and Twin Lakes Reservoirs
- Charts illustrating storage amounts in Turquoise, Twin Lakes, and Pueblo Reservoir
- Project Reservoirs: Turquoise 74%, Twin Lakes 99%, Pueblo 113% as of September 9, 2021
- Bousted Stored Cumulative Imports
- Total M&I PW in the system:
 - a. East 22,908
 - b. West 9,674
 - c. Pueblo 17,502
 - d. Other 4,139
 - e. FVA 72,198
 - f. CSU 52,762
 - g. Fountain 6,662
 - h. Security 5,046
 - i. Stratmoor 2,173
 - j. Widefield 5,555

DIVISION ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Bill Tyner presented a report titled, *Rainfall Runoff, An Important Component of Arkansas Basin Water Supply*, topics of discussion:

- Quick look back at conditions in 2021
- Change in May 2021
- Impacts of improved runoff for water administration

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- Unlike the past few years, the Arkansas Basin received much needed rainfall to bolster a snowmelt runoff supply that had grown anemic during the months of April and May
- Streamflow and water supply from rain events is frustratingly difficult to predict, however some tools are helpful

Charts were provided on:

- Buena Vista Precipitation 2020-2021
- USGS 07091200 Arkansas River Near Nathrop, CO
- Trinidad Precipitation 2020-2021
- USGS 07124200 Purgatoire River at Madrid, CO
- USGS 07128500 Purgatoire River near Las Animas, CO
- Colorado Streamflow Forecasts Summary for June 1, 2021
- Predicting summer rain – Tucson dewpoint Tracker
- WPC Archive of the national forecast chart from July 18, 2021
- Long range forecasts by National Weather Service

Mr. Tyner’s report concluded with a summary that read:

- Rain Can Dynamically Change Water Supply Conditions

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- Arkansas Basin Water Rights React Effectively to Supply from Rain Events

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE(CPW)

Mr. Joe Staderman provided a report on “*Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program at Pueblo State Park*” which covered:

Sampling and Monitoring

The state follows a three-tier sampling protocol targeting the three life cycles of the zebra or quagga mussel:

1. Conducting plankton tows to find the veligers,
2. Deploy and check substrates to find the juvenile “settlers” or attached adult mussels, and
3. Conduct surveys along the shoreline and existing structures for settled juveniles or attached adults.

The state requires three steps to identify, verify and confirm a detection of zebra or quagga mussel veligers (1) visual analysis of plankton tows using a cross-polarized light microscope, (2) DNA verification utilizing polymerase chain reaction [PCR] and (3) DNA confirmation utilizing gene sequencing.

2021 Snapshot Statewide

- 155 mussel boats intercepted in Colorado statewide
- 78% of the boats intercepted in Colorado in 2020 have come from Lake Powell
- Statistics are current as of September 1st, 2021

How did we get here

- November 15th, 2017 to March 1st, 2018 Lake Pueblo went to pre-inspection
- Hours changed from 5AM - 6PM to 8AM - 4PM
- Water entities and BOR were not in favor of pre-inspection and believed it created too much risk to the water and infrastructure
- CPW was unwilling to limit public access by closing inspection stations or limiting inspection hours
- CPW believes that Lake Pueblo provides unique winter hunting, fishing and recreational boating opportunities because of it’s unusual warmer winter climate.
- CPW and the water entities entered into cooperative agreement to help protect the water resources and infrastructure through shared funding

Existing Agreement

- Water Entities
 - a. Colorado Parks & Wildlife
 - b. Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
 - c. Colorado Springs Utilities
 - d. Pueblo Board of Water Works
- Signed in January 31st, 2019
- One year deal with an option of two additional one year terms
- Expires 12/31/2021
- Total \$59,250/Year
 - a. \$19,750/Partner each year
- Paid for winter seasonal ANS wages
- Avoided pre-inspection, closing of boat ramps and cutting hours of service

2021 ANS Funding at Lake Pueblo

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- CPW
 - \$425,000 Wages
 - \$25,000 Operating
 - Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, \$19,750
 - Pueblo Board of Water Works, \$19,750
 - Colorado Springs Utilities, \$19,750
- Grand Total \$509,250

Why is Lake Pueblo in this situation and other locations not?

This problem is unique to Lake Pueblo because of a number of factors including:

- Warm winters leave water open to boating year round
- Most locations are open March 1st to November 30th
- Unique agreement with the United State Bureau of Reclamation
- CPW parks managed under “The West Slope Agreement” are able to use USBR match money to fund ANS inspection staff costs
- Pueblo is under its own management agreement with USBR managed out of the Eastern Colorado Area Office
- Eastern Colorado Area Office says that USBR funds cannot be used to pay ANS wages.

What happens if another agreement is not signed?

Options:

1. Go back to pre-inspection, least ideal option for everyone
2. Shorten hours, CPW wants to protect the unique recreational opportunities
3. Close one of the two boat ramps
 - a. Possible but seems that one marina would be favored over the other
 - b. CPW not in support of closing public access whenever possible
4. Work together to find the funds to keep public access

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

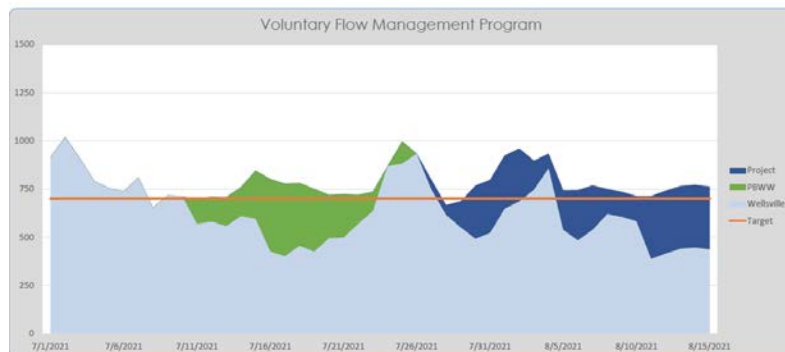
Mr. Tom Waters provided a report to update the Board on the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. Graphs were provided on:

- Visitation
- Campground Capacity
- Camping Revenue
- Park Revenues



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The presentation concluded with a graph to update the Voluntary Flow Management Program.



STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE

Mr. Lee Miller provided an update to the Board by reporting, the schedule has been set for the remaining two meetings of the 2021 Water Resources Review Committee (WRRC), which have been scheduled for September 14 and October 27, 2021, at the State Capitol. No agenda for either meeting has been provided at this time.

The first WRRC session, held on August 25, 2021, in conjunction with the Colorado Water Congress Summer Meeting, focused on the Department of Natural Resources report on strengthening the state's anti-speculation in water laws. The report made no recommendations on changes to the existing law; however, it did detail the proposals the work group considered. A copy of the report may be found at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e3AgL3Ycvey3_qiObUWLX8r2RSakmhRk/view

The remainder of the first WRRC session was focused on updates on Colorado River issues. More discussion on this topic will be included in the Colorado Issues Report.

COLORADO RIVER ISSUES STATUS

Mr. Lee Miller reported During the August 25, 2021, Water Resources Review Committee (WRRC) addressed two issues regarding the Colorado River: (1) Measurement Rules, and (2) Demand Management. Regarding measurement rules, State Engineer Kevin Rein reported to the WRRC on the August 19, 2021, webinar held to begin the rulemaking process. A recording and the presentation slides from the webinar are available here: <https://dwr.colorado.gov/news-article/webinar-on-measurement-device-rules-west-slope-water-issues>.

Regarding Demand Management, Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Director Rebecca Mitchell reported that during May and June 2021, the CWCB scheduled several virtual events to ask questions and provide input on the Framework, culminating in a Demand Management Public Listening Session on June 29, 2021. CWCB staff tracked the input received and presented findings to the Board during the July 21, 2021, CWCB meeting. CWCB Staff's memo and summary findings were attached to last month's report. CWCB held a CWCB Member workshop for August 18, 2021, as follow up to this presentation. At the August workshop, the CWCB discussed a roadmap presented in the July 21, 2021, meeting and worked through a few hypotheticals showing what certain elements of a program may look like, including monitoring & verification and consideration of environmental impacts and benefits.

SECWCD
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