

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 7, 2019

A meeting of the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) Committee was held on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District or SECWCD) office.

Chairman Bill Long announced a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Long - Chairman, Carl McClure, Kevin Karney, Dallas May, and Jim Broderick

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Howard "Bub" Miller – Vice Chairman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ken Langdon, citizen from Crowley County; Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek & Associates; Leann Noga, Kevin Meador, Garrett Markus and Chris Woodka, SECWCD staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Bill Long confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the October 18, 2018 minutes, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Kevin Karney moved, seconded by Carl McClure, to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Chris Woodka gave updates on the following AVC developments:

Regionalization: The Committee was updated on progress of the Regionalization task order. CDM Smith, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and District staff visited water facilities in Fowler, Rocky Ford, La Junta, Lamar, May Valley, and Las Animas on December 19-20, 2018 to determine what systems are in place until the AVC reaches those communities. There are varying degrees of readiness to connect.

Senate Joint Memorial: The Senate Joint Memorial, which calls on Congress and the federal government to fully fund the AVC, has passed the Colorado Senate

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and will have its first hearing in the House Rural Affairs and Agriculture Committee on February 11, 2019.

2019 Work Plan: Reclamation is completing final design on the 12-mile line from the eastern end of Pueblo Water's system to Boone, and a break-point chlorination treatment plant located near Boone. This incorporates a portion of the preferred alternative (from PuebloPlex to Boone), and new elements (the line from 36th Lane to PuebloPlex, and the break-point chlorination treatment plant).

Technical discussions: The District, Reclamation, and Pueblo Water had the second technical discussion for AVC contracts on January 22, 2019. It was agreed that a three-way service contract is needed to move water through Pueblo Water's system. A second contract between Reclamation and Pueblo Water is needed to provide credits for providing the service. Another contract between Reclamation and the District is needed for repayment, and operations, maintenance, and replacement costs.

Federal Funding: Christine Arbogast reviewed the current state of federal funding for the AVC. The position of the federal government appears to be that federal funding for AVC should be matched by participant funds. The AVC received no funding in the federal FY2019 budget.

The District has sent a letter to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to access loan money as a way of showing non-federal support for the AVC. The Committee discussed past funding strategies and determined there is a need to find ways to fund AVC in order to keep the project moving forward.

Jim Broderick reminded the Committee that we have so far found a way to build the first 25 miles of the AVC pipeline, by going through Pueblo, without a federal appropriation. Now the challenge is to find a way to put participant money, or state money through the CWCB, to show local support.

ACTION ITEMS:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

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OTHER BUSINESS:

None

NEXT MEETING

Not determined

ADJOURN

Chairman Bill Long adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Woodka,
Issues Management Program Coordinator