

**ALLOCATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
August 1, 2024**

A meeting of the Allocation Committee held on Thursday, August 01, 2024 at 11:01 a.m. at the District Office 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81001 and via Zoom virtual conference.

Chairman Andy Colosimo announced a quorum was present.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Andy Colosimo Chair (via Zoom), Howard "Bub" Miller Vice Chair (at 11:16 a.m. on Zoom), Alan Hamel, Curtis Mitchell, Matt Heimerich, Tom Goodwin (via Zoom), and Leann Noga

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

Justin DiSanti and Bill Long

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Pat Edelmann and Curtis Mitchell Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District); Mike Holmberg, Bureau of Reclamation; Dan Tucker, AGRA; Garrett Markus, Chris Woodka, and Margie Medina, District staff.

Zoom participants: Lee Miller, District

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Colosimo confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the May 2, 2024 Allocation Committee minutes and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Alan Hamel moved, Matt Heimerich seconded, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**WATER RESOURCES AND OPERATIONS REPORT**

Garrett Markus presented a PowerPoint reviewing the 2024 water year and allocation year. The May 1<sup>st</sup> forecast was 60,600 AF, but the collection system has produced 67,488 AF as of July 22, 2024. The presentation looked at the Boustead Tunnel hydrograph and how it interacted with the Thomasville streamflow requirements, compared average precipitation and temperature over the diversion season, and lastly showed the drought conditions at allocation timeframe and current. On the Arkansas River side of the mountain, graphs showed river operations from Arkansas at Empire to Arkansas at Lamar. The Wellsville gage, Above Pueblo gage, and La Junta gage were looked at specifically to show how river operations such as exchanges and releases affect the native component of the river flow. Lastly, the James W Broderick Hydro Power graph shows flows from Pueblo dam and a contiguous 35 days run at max production.

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### ACTION ITEM:

#### PROJECT WATER ALLOCATIONS AND AGRICULTURAL CARRYOVER STORAGE

To determine the possible potential for a second Project Water allocation and the criteria for the Agricultural Project Water Carryover Pilot Program, staff first completes an analysis of current and projected levels of Pueblo Reservoir. Pueblo Reservoir storage levels are a major driving force in staff recommendations.

As of July 15, the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) modeling estimates that Pueblo Reservoir could be at 299,651 AF by April 15, 2025, if Ag Winter Water of 38,547 AF and Ag Project Water 34,116 AF is not used. If this water is used by May 1, 2025, Pueblo Reservoir could be at 226,988 AF which is below spill. This would fall under the "Marginal Risk of Spill Category" below.

Risk of Spill Guidelines - Conditions for Ag Project Water Carryover will be dependent on storage levels in Pueblo Reservoir and the "risk for spill" per the Bureau of Reclamation operations.

- Eminent Risk of Spill (Spill likely of the Joint Use Pool)
  - 80% of Ag Water would be used by November 15 of the allocation year
- Likely Risk of Spill (Spill likely of the Conservation Pool prior to April 15)
  - Ag Project Water can be stored during off-season (winter) but not be used by April 15
- **Marginal Risk of Spill (Spill may but not likely occur of the Conservation Pool prior to April 15)**
  - **Ag Project Water can be stored during off-season (winter) but must be used by May 1**
- Unlikely Risk of Spill (Spill unlikely as of May 1 following the allocation year)
  - Ag Project Water can be stored during off-season (winter) and stored in Project Water Carryover after May 1

As new modeling and operations in Pueblo Reservoir take place, the Risk of Spill determinations can change. Agricultural entities expressed the need for projected spill information earlier in the summer to help make operational decisions during the growing season. One effort in the Pilot Program is to give notice to ag entities as early in the season as possible providing modeling determinations so each ag entity can plan accordingly.

Garrett met with Reclamation to determine the unallocated water above the May 1, 2024, Reclamation forecast. There is roughly 7,000 AF of unallocated Project Water in the Fry-Ark system. The unallocated Project Water is also intended to cover the evaporation on First-Use Project Water and the dead pools in the Fry-Ark system reservoirs until 2025 allocation year. 7,000 AF is not a large amount of water given the unquantified evaporation obligations projected till next year.

In 2015 the District and Division Engineers Office identified a list of difficulties with processing a second allocation of Project Water. These issues are related to reservoir accounting, groundwater accounting, groundwater lagging, 20-year modeling, and Project Water requests.

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A future item for this Committee would be to develop guidelines when a second allocation is necessary. Given the reservoir storage conditions and the anticipated reduction in the risk of spill in the spring of 2025, the impacts of not having a second allocation are also mitigated. At this point staff strongly recommended not providing a second allocation.

Winter Water assumptions going into the April 15 spill was 299,000 AF above the 245,000 AF taking into account the ag winter water releases of 38,000 and the Project water 34,000 if it is all used, we are down to 220,00 AF this is under Project spill. Agriculture received 72-74 percent of this year's allocation. Marginal risk of spill guideline monitored up to April 15<sup>th</sup>. Second allocation in the spring 7,000 AF Project Water, 3,000 in emergency allocation used for Swink, Sugar City, AGRA and LAWMA used last year. Staff needs to develop criteria/guidelines on how a second allocation can be done. Is it better to store for another year, is there a need late in the year, using the best values. The timeline for the white paper is April 2025.

Alan Hamel moved, Matt Heimerich seconded that the Allocation Committee recommend the Enterprise Board of Directors implement the Spill Criteria for the Agricultural Project Water Carryover Pilot Project as presented and do not initiate a second allocation of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Water. Motion passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is September 5, 2024 at 11 a.m.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Colosimo adjourned the meeting at 11:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.

Principal Water Resources Engineer