

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 24, 2024

A meeting of the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) Committee was held at 10:05 a.m. October 24, 2024, at District offices and via electronic and telephonic means.

Chairman Kevin Karney announced a quorum was present for the AVC Committee.

AVC COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Karney – Chairman, Howard “Bub” Miller – Vice Chairman, Matt Heimerich (via Zoom) Bill Long Dallas May (Via Zoom), and Leann Noga

AVC COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Justin Di Santi

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alan Hamel, Mark Pifher (via Zoom), SECWCD Board members; Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek & Associates; Brian Bell and Adam Baker, Pate Construction; Kevin Meador, Gordon Dillon, Chris Woodka, Garrett Markus, Lee Miller (via Zoom), Margie Medina, Peter Levish (via Zoom), Michelle Tocydlowski, and Patty Rivas (via Zoom), SECWCD staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Howard “Bub” Miller moved, and Matt Heimerich seconded approval of the September 26, 2024, AVC Committee meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Leann Noga presented a budget update for the AVC in 2025. Revenues are projected to be \$4,682,203, and expenditures \$6,229,438. Participant payments are projected to be \$450,760. These have increased slightly for the past several years, as AVC Project activity increases. Those contributions cover development costs and water quality studies. Expenditures from grants and loans are budgeted at \$3,528,529 and will cover spur and delivery line construction. Expenditures from the Fund Balance are budgeted at \$1,547,145 and will cover design of spur and delivery lines.

Mrs. Noga said the budget represents spending capacity and no debt would be taken on through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) until all agreements are in place.

Mrs. Noga added that Director Mark Pifher has shared some suggestions with her and Bill Long that will be brought to the Committee in 2025.

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Chris Woodka gave an overview of the presentation plan for the AVC Participants Meeting to be held later in the day on October 24, 2024 in Rocky Ford. Purposes for the meeting include:

1. June meeting recap – Leann Noga
2. Federal Sub-Project: Update Reclamation progress on construction, design and funding – Derek Mickle and Jeff Rieker
3. Enterprise Sub-Project:
 - A. Design of spurs and delivery lines – Kevin Meador
 - B. Construction to date – Gordon Dillon
 - C. Group 1 funding update – Kevin Meador
4. Participants:
 - A. Group 2 & Group 3 improvements – Kevin Meador and Gordon Dillon
 - B. Funding Guidance Toolbox – Kevin Meador
5. Meetings with participants resuming in 2025.

Christine Arbogast reviewed the status of federal legislation that the Enterprise has requested to lower the interest rate and extend repayment time on the AVC Federal Project. The mark-up for the legislation is scheduled for November 2024.

Kevin Meador explained the Funding Guidance Document that has been developed to help AVC participants investigate funding sources for internal improvements to their systems (termed Group 2 and Group 3 improvements). The Document contains background information, funding sources, funding application and contact links, funding application support services and other considerations. There are links in the Document for both web sites and emails of people who can help.

There was a discussion about Emerging Contaminants funding, when and how much would be available. The Enterprise is moving on a two-track funding plan: using Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) grant funds to pay principal on SRF loans or paying some of the costs for spurs and delivery lines using Emerging Contaminant (EC) funds. Mr. Meador and Gordon Dillon have been attending state meetings on EC funds, which would be 100 percent grants and could be used for Group 2 and Group 3 improvements in many communities.

There was discussion about whether AVC information is getting to the right people. The Committee agreed that communication is important, and that new people have moved into positions within the participating water companies.

Gordon Dillon gave the Committee an update on the progress of construction on the Reclamation Trunk Line AVC Project.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Karney announced that action items for contract amendments for design of spur and delivery lines to AECOM Technical Services Inc. and Kennedy Jenks Consultants Inc. would be tabled until the next Committee meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 23, 2025, 10 a.m.

ADJOURN

Kevin Karney adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Woodka
Senior Policy and Issues Manager