



Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise Board of Directors Meeting

Arkansas Valley Conduit Update Information Report

Date: June 16, 2022

Agenda Item: VI. A.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Information

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Information

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION AND/OR ACTIVITY:

The Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) is divided into two sub-projects. Reclamation is building the trunk line from Pueblo to Lamar. The Enterprise is building spur and delivery lines to the 39 water systems that will be linked by AVC.

ISSUE SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

Governance Meetings – Board President Bill Long and AVC Committee Chairman Kevin Karney and staff attended the following meetings in May.

1. La Junta, May 16, 2022
2. Crowley County, May 23, 2022
3. Otero County, May 23, 2022
4. Lamar, May 23, 2022
5. Prowers County, May 24, 2022
6. Pueblo County, May 24, 2022
7. Bent County, May 26, 2022
8. Kiowa County, May 26, 2022

The purpose was to invite the above listed counties and two home-rule cities to begin discussions on how the AVC will be governed at a joint meeting on June 15, 2022 at Otero College in La Junta. The Enterprise is proposing an authority which would make decisions on behalf of the AVC participants.

Counties generally have a broader range of authority, and home-rule cities (La Junta and Lamar) are autonomous under Colorado law.

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CDPHE Enforcement Orders – The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) issued updated Drinking Water Enforcement Orders to 18 AVC water systems on May 31, 2022, based on their ongoing water quality testing results and their responses from May 6, 2022 where they had to indicate how their communities intended to address their ongoing water quality violations.

All 18 of these systems are in violation of EPA drinking water standards for radionuclides in groundwater. The advisories relate to previous compliance orders which required alternative compliance strategies by December 31, 2022, if the water system is not to be connected to AVC by December 31, 2025.

The schedule of compliance has been updated in each of the systems, falling in line with the schedule for trunk lines and delivery lines reaching those communities. Those systems also are required to make necessary upgrades to their water systems in order to accept AVC water and to any other system improvements such as reducing water losses they may have in their existing systems. The Enterprise has advised them that GMS Consulting Engineers will be available for technical consultation on these issues.

Design Bids – The Enterprise closed its Request for Proposals (RFP) for design of AVC delivery lines to Avondale and Boone on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for designing AVC delivery lines for the remaining 37 water systems will close on Wednesday, June 15. The Avondale and Boone RFP is on an accelerated timeline in order to meet contract procurement dates using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds provided by Pueblo County. ARPA funding from other counties and/or cities will offset costs for the remaining designs.

GMS Services – Consultants for the Enterprise have been meeting with participants and preparing reports on each AVC participant to assess needs each water system has in connecting to the AVC. These reports also will look at the financial information associated with those water systems for loan applications.

So far, 90 percent of the water systems have been visited to obtain system data and 36 percent of the water system reports are final or under final review.

Repayment Contract – Reclamation will develop a Basis of Negotiation (BON), and negotiations are expected to begin by the end of 2022.

Reclamation AVC Project – Boone Reach 1 is being advertised for construction and Boone Reach 2 will follow within the next year while other segment design activities continue.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Information

ATTACHMENTS:

None