

WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Annual Meeting
Friday, October 19, 2012 - *Draft*

10:30 a.m. Otero Junior College Student Center
2001 San Juan Avenue
La Junta, CO 81050

Acting Chairman, Bob Hamilton, called the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Winter Water Storage Program (Board) to order at 10:35 a.m. Introductions were made and roll call of Voting Members was taken.

Winter Water Board of Trustees Voting Members Present:

Glenn Wilson, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Mike Klun, Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company; Greg Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Scott Campbell, Colorado Canal Company; Wesley Eck, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Dan Henrichs, High Line Canal Company; Donny Hansen, Holbrook Mutual Irrigating Company; Jeff Baylor, Las Animas Consolidated Canal Company; Ray Smith, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; Tom Pope, Riverside Dairy Ditch; and, Steve Anselmo, West Pueblo Ditch.

Others in Attendance: Carl McClure, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District - Director; Kalsoum Abbasi, Colorado Springs Utilities; Roy Vaughan, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Pueblo Field office; John Tonko, Colorado Parks & Wildlife; Rick Kienitz and Tom Simpson, Rocky Ford Ditch/Aurora Water; Michael Hill, Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company; Kim Siefkas, Phil Hemphill, Mike Downey, and Manny Torres, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Bob Barnhardt, Holbrook Mutual Irrigating Company; Colin Thompson, Terry Howland, and Lane Malone, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Steve Witte, Lonnie Spady, Josh Kasper, John Van Oort, and Phil Reynolds, Colorado Division of Water Resources; and, Bob Hamilton, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Minutes:

Bob Hamilton asked if everyone had received the Minutes of the October 21, 2011 Board meeting and asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Wesley Eck made the motion, seconded by Dan Henrichs to approve the Minutes of the October 21, 2011 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Fry-Ark Operations – U. S. Bureau of Reclamation

Roy Vaughan reported in his PowerPoint Presentation that as of October 15, 2012 there was:

- 161,695 a/f stored in Pueblo
- 132,105 a/f of Project water
- 29,165 a/f of excess capacity water
- 879 a/f of Winter water
- 124,844 a/f of Project space in Pueblo
- 50,717 a/f of Project space in Twin and Turquoise
- 118,600 a/f of space available for Winter water

Project reservoir levels as of October 15, 2012 were - Turquoise - 55%, Twin Lakes - 86 % and Pueblo Reservoir – 117 %. The Bureau of Reclamation is currently moving 6 cfs from Twin Lakes to Pueblo Reservoir and will be moving 8 to 10 thousand acre-feet from October through March. Movement of water will be adjusted according to the forecasts and customer's needs.

Division of Water Resources – Division Engineer

Steve Witte distributed and reviewed the final report for 2011–2012 Winter Water Storage Program (WWSP).

There was extensive discussion on the challenges of the 2012–2013 WWSP especially due to the lack of water in the Arkansas River basin. The Otero Ditch, running water during the WWSP, could decrease the amount of water available to the participants. Steve Witte also mentioned the participants had the option to irrigate with their percentage of the WWSP water during the program.

Scott Campbell reported that the Colorado Canal wanted to start storing water as soon as practical. Their reservoir levels are below the rip-rap and the faces of the dams are exposed. They would like to raise the water in the reservoirs to a level where the rip-rap can protect the dams from wave action. Scott also mentioned that the Colorado Canal Company is interested in contracting with the other WWSP participants for storage of their Winter water in Colorado Canal reservoirs. The Fort Lyon Canal and Las Animas Consolidated Ditch said they were interested in the concept. Steve Witte asked the participant to keep his office informed.

Future Use of the Livingston Transit Loss Study

Steve Witte reported that his office is initially planning to continue to use the current “Livingston” Transit Loss Model, but may be able to transition to using the more recent developed Livingston “Transit Loss Application Program” (TLAP) for use during this year’s WWSP, and hopefully will have it operational in early December.

Aurora Rocky Ford Ditch Water Estimate of Return Flow Storage Availability

Tom Simpson informed the group the delivery of Rocky Ford Ditch’s and Leadville Ranches’ historic winter return flows by the City of Aurora will be delivered at Pueblo Reservoir. Aurora’s preliminary calculations indicate a total winter return flow obligation (2012-2013) is currently estimated to be at least 1,490 acre-feet. The amount may increase because Aurora’s accounting won’t be complete until October 31, 2012. Tom Simpson gave Bob Hamilton a letter with this information included.

Tom Simpson also told the participants that Aurora was working with the Arkansas Valley Roundtable’s Ag Fallowing Dialogue Committee to make recommendations to the Colorado Water Conservation Board and John Stulp to change the language in the State Statutes concerning ag fallowing. The current State Statutes only allow lands to be fallowed three years out of ten consecutive years, and after the ten years the land can never be used again for this program.

The Board adjourned for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

Continued Discussion on Future Use of the Livingston Transit Loss Study

Steve Witte reminded the Board that at the 2011 Board meeting he informed the Board that according to Paragraph “N.” of the Winter Water Storage Decree, that if the calculation of transit loss specifically from Las Animas gage to John Martin Reservoir is changed from the original Livingston Transit Loss Study, that change would have to be unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees of the Winter Water Storage Program. Steve believes that with some additional programming to TLAP, his office may begin using TLAP to calculate the transit loss from the Las Animas gage to John Martin Reservoir, subject to unanimous approval by the Board.

Dan Henrichs made a motion to approve the use of the Livingston's Transit Loss Application Program (TLAP) for calculating the transit loss from Las Animas gage to John Martin Reservoir during the Winter Water Storage Program, seconded by Mike Klun. Motion carried unanimously.

Bob Hamilton asked if there was any additional business to come before the Board, there was none, Bob Hamilton reminded the Board that the next annual meeting will be at the same location, on October 18, 2013 (the third Friday of October) at 10:30 a.m.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Robert W. Hamilton, Director of Engineering and Resource Management
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Date Approved: _____