

**WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM**  
**Board of Trustees Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**October 16, 2020, Friday (10:30 a.m.)**

Acting Chairman, Garrett Markus, called the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Winter Water Storage Program (WWSP) to order at 10:33 a.m. via Zoom virtual meetings. Introductions were made then roll call of voting members was taken.

**Winter Water Board of Trustees Voting Members Roll Call:**

Terry Howland, Amity Mutual Irrigation Company; Mike Hill, Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company; Greg Williams, Catlin Canal Company; Bruce Hughes, Colorado Canal Companies; Jerred Hoffman, Fort Lyon Canal Company; Darren Grap, High Line Canal Company; Jeremy Dutton, Holbrook Mutual Irrigating Company; Jeff Baylor, Las Animas Consolidated Ditch Company; Von Lieber, Oxford Farmers Ditch Company; no representative for Riverside Dairy Ditch; and Alan Ward, West Pueblo Ditch.

**Others in Attendance:** - Tom Rusler, Bessemer Ditch; George Hanzas, Catlin Canal; Stacey Sober and Matt Heimerich, Colorado Canal; Donny Hansen, Holbrook Mutual; Brandy Cole, John Van Oort, Philip Reynolds, Lonnie Spady, Rachel Zancanella, and Doug Hollister, Colorado Division of Water Resources; Kalsoum Abbasi, Katie Mazurowski, and Justin Zeisler, Colorado Springs Utilities; Mike Holmberg, Terry Dawson and Roy Vaughan - U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Pueblo Field office; Emily Logan, Board of Water Works Pueblo; Rena Griggs and Jon Erickson, Colorado Parks & Wildlife; Ryan Duensing; Kevin Salter, Kansas Department of Agriculture; Austin Malotte, Bishop-Brogden Associates; Jim Broderick, Garrett Markus, Margie Medina, Patty Rivas, Lee Miller, Leann Noga and Chris Woodka - Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

**Minutes**

Mr. Markus asked if everyone had received the minutes of the October 18, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting and asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Alan Ward motioned, seconded by Mike Hill to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mike Holmberg reported in a PowerPoint presentation on the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) as of October 13, 2020 there was:

- 178,014 AF stored in Pueblo
- 132,470 AF of Project water
- 42,752 AF of excess capacity water
- 2,959 AF of Winter water
- 109,944 AF of Project space in Pueblo
- 30,368 AF of Project space in Twin & Turquoise

Project reservoir storage as of October 13, 2020 were: Turquoise, 88 percent; Twin Lakes, 90 percent; and Pueblo Reservoir, 113 percent. Bureau of Reclamation anticipates moving 26,700 AF down from the upper reservoirs beginning mid-November netting 24,000 AF in Pueblo Reservoir. Winter water ends March 15, use of the Joint Pool ends April 15. After April 15 all Winter water will be stored up to 70,000 AF, plus what room is available after Project water and spill four water is accounted for. Winter

and Project agricultural water will be out by May 1. Movement of water will be adjusted according to the forecast and customers needs. April 15 contact is expected to be at 1,991 AF spill, taking content of 247,364 (new Project water, Project water, municipal inflow) decucting 17,150 (no releases in anticipation of a spill included) and evaporation.

Out before May 1 will be 2020 Winter water of 2,959 AF and 2020 ag Project water of 3,104 AF. Estimating 259,402 – 245,373 leaving 4,072 AF, no spill.

### **Division of Water Resources – Division Engineer’ Office 2019-2020 Program Review**

Phil Reynolds of the Division Engineer’s Office reviewed 2019-2020 final WWSP numbers totaling 116,840.08 AF. Mr. Reynolds identified timeline and actions:

- Fort Lyon Canal started diverting on November 16 and continued through February 19
- Colorado Canal started diverting on November 16 and continued through December 10
- There were no diversions to the Holbrook nor Great Plains
- The river through Pueblo maintained 100 cfs through the season

There was a shortfall in John Martin Reservoir (JMR) with trouble getting enough water to JMR resulting in Amity having all the storage in JMR and still had to have 6,381 AF in Adobe Reseroviv, that was even with the Fort Lyon stopping on February 19.

### **2020-2021 Winter Water Storage Program Operations**

John Van Oort reviewed different storage levels. John Van Oorts prediction for this years WWSP is estimated at 99,862 AF, using data from the Catlin Canal divisions prior year and WWSP data from previous years. Bill Tyners prediction at 75,000 AF and Phil Reynolds at 70,000AF.

November 15 is the end of the irrigation season at 00:00, all WWSP participants close their headgates, winter storage begins and Pueblo Reservoir is reduced to 80 cfs (100 cfs w\Fish Hatchery), and Fort Lyon Storage Canal sweeps the river.

Division of Water Resources is starting pond enforcement this fall. Also, looking at the distance from the point of diversion to measuring device this next irrigation season.

### **Aurora Rocky Ford Ditch Water Estimate of Return Flow Storage Availability**

City of Aurora was on a furrow day and unable to attend so Garrett Markus provided the information. based on projected storage amounts accredited to Aurora in 2020, the 2020/21 total winter return flow obligation is projected to be 1,544.19 AF. An exact number will be provided November 15, 2020. The November 15, 2020 winter return flow obligation is 1,537.29 AF. The water will be made available to the WWSP at Pueblo Reservoir as directed by the WWSP Board of Trustees.

### **Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Ag Updates**

Garrett Markus discussed the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District water rates status as

2020 was the year rates increased. In 2020 the surcharge rates were studied, staff is not recommending any changes in the surcharge rates at this time.

The District is working on Fry-Ark Storage Recovery Study Phase 1 with Mott MacDonald, regarding sedimentation and ways to recover lost storage. Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District approved a subcommittee from the Resource and Engineering Planning Committee to discuss options and future goals with the Storage Study.

In 2020, the asset management program began looking at all the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project features to start a long term asset management program. The Phase II portion of condition assesment has started to determ vialbility of the 50 year old infrastructure.

The agricultural first right of refusal is still in progress. Ag organizations are required to submit their shareholder/member lists to the District to be eligible for 2021 Project. In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation is working with the District on a comprehensive Water District Review.

**Next Scheduled Meeting**

Mr. Markus reported the next meeting would be October 15, 2021. Motion to adjourn was made by Alan Ward, seconded by Matt Heimerich, no further discussion and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Margie Medina, Administrative Support Specialist,  
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District  
Date Approved: