

**ALLOCATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 3, 2019**

A meeting of the Allocation Committee was held on Thursday, October 03, 2019 at 01:04 p.m. at the District Office 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81001.

Chairman Carl McClure announced a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carl McClure, Chairman; Howard “Bub” Miller, Vice Chairman; Andy Colosimo; Alan Hamel; and Curtis Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Tom Goodwin and James Broderick

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alan Ward, Pueblo Board of Water Works; Garrett Markus, Margie Medina, Leann Noga, and Chris Woodka, District staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman McClure confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the August 1, 2019 minutes, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Curtis Mitchell moved, Bub Miller seconded, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

STORAGE CONDITIONS

Garrett Markus provided a PowerPoint, *Storage Conditions*. This presentation looks at the 2019 water year storage conditions, changes in storage, and ultimately what to expect during the 2019-2020 Winter Water Storage Program (WWSP) and the 2020 water year. As of October 1, 2019, Pueblo Reservoir had 23,029 acre-feet (AF) more content than the previous year. This places Pueblo Reservoir just on the edge of the wet category of a dry-average-wet diagram analysis.

However, the storage conditions in Pueblo Reservoir are not the only factor in the WWSP. The other storage facilities looked at were the Colorado Canal system, Holbrook Canal system, Fort Lyon Canal System, Great Plains Storage, and John Martin Reservoir (JMR). There is roughly 40,832 AF less storage for WWSP than last year not including JMR. JMR had a reduction of 56,939 AF of storage but has limited effects on the WWSP. As for WWSP projections, the wet spring should help increase winter time flows but the dry fall will hinder winter time return flows. Even with an average WWSP, Pueblo Reservoir is relatively full and water is still at risk for spill.

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STORAGE STUDY

Chris Woodka reported the District has identified several methods for increasing storage within the Arkansas River basin, and understands it is the desire of the Board to develop a comprehensive program to evaluate which of the needs should be developed as part of the Capital Improvement Plan.

It is suggested that the program be broken down into projects and programs that have been identified in the last 20 years. These are outlined below:

- **Recovery of Storage:** Sedimentation in Pueblo Reservoir has reduced the available storage space by 20,000 acre-feet over the past 45 years. Additional reductions may be shown at Turquoise Reservoir and Twin Lakes, but we are awaiting results of Reclamation surveys to be certain of the amount. A Recovery of Storage program would look at methods such as dredging, enlargement, or alternative storage to regain the amount of Project Storage that has been lost.
- **Expansion of Storage:** A 1998 Needs Assessment identified the enlargement of Pueblo Reservoir as the best way to meet future M&I storage needs within the Arkansas River basin. Since 2000, nearly 100,000 acre-feet of long-term excess-capacity contracts have been issued in Pueblo Reservoir, so increasing the available storage is even more critical. Enlargement is a program within the Water Activity Enterprise.
- **Lower Basin Storage:** The District has a 4.76 percent interest in the Restoration of Yield (ROY) Program developed as a result of the six-party Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) in 2004. The IGA protects flows from Pueblo Dam through Pueblo to Fountain Creek. The ROY program allows participants to capture forgone flows for exchange to Pueblo Reservoir or other uses. As a participant, the District is obligated to fund its share of the ROY program.
- **Upper Basin Storage:** The Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District is developing multi-use projects that could provide storage opportunities for the Southeastern District. These have not been fully investigated, but are included in the Business Plan.

ACTION ITEM:

None

INFORMATION ITEM

AGRICULTURE FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL PROGRAM CONTINUATION

Garrett Markus informed the Committee the District is working with the Division of Water Resources and Wilson Water Group to model multiple variations of the Agricultural First Right of Refusal Program. This modeling will help determine what affects each policy has on each stakeholder and the best way to maintain equity and a policy that can be executed in the real world.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

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NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Chairman McClure adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.

Water Resources Engineer