

RESOURCE AND ENGINEERING PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 1, 2022

A meeting of the Resource and Engineering Planning Committee was held on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 10:01 a.m. at the District Office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado and via Zoom virtual meeting.

Chairman Mitchell announced a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Curtis Mitchell – Chairman, Seth Clayton– Vice Chairman, Andy Colosimo, Pat Edelmann, and Jim Broderick

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Tom Goodwin, and Bill Long

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chris Woodka, Mark Scott, Kevin Meador, Garrett Markus, Margie Medina, (via Zoom) Patty Rivas and Leann Noga, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Mitchell asked for approval of the Joint Resource and Engineering Planning and Allocation Committee minutes for May 5, 2022, and if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Pat Edelmann moved, seconded by Seth Clayton, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

JAMES W. BRODERICK HYDROPOWER PLANT UPDATE (JWBHP)

Kevin Meador updated the Committee on the James W. Broderick Hydropower Plant (JWBHP) starting with the current operations for the month of August 2022. Flow range was between 200-350 cfs, energy deliveries at 1,552 MWHRS with 80 percent of average of scheduled deliveries. The actual generation was 400 MWHRS.

On July 26, a major malfunction occurred in the North Outlet Work's cone valve. The cone valve operates in conjunction with the hydropower plant to always maintain flows to the river. At about 2:30 p.m. on July 26, during a dam release flow change, the cone valve failed in the fully open position. A flowmeter error reading at the hydropower plant caused an alarm condition and shut down the turbines. Since the top priority is to maintain flows to the river, one of the large dam gates was opened to allow river releases in lieu of the cone valve or hydro turbines. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) determined the cause of the cone valve failure and immediately began the procurement process for replacement parts. However, the hydropower plant was not allowed to run in manual mode unless the plant was staffed 24 hours a day and the dam gate release was maintained. An analysis of the potential hydro revenues compared to the available river release flows determined that the operating costs of the hydro plant would be more than the revenue generated by running the turbine. On August 19, Reclamation and Colorado Division of Water Resources approved operation of

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the hydro plant with full flows going through the plant if the plant was staffed. Since August 22, the plant has been operating during normal working hours.

The cone valve was repaired on August 24 and tested and fully operational on August 25; the hydro plant operations can resume in fully automatic operation mode. A full analysis of the mechanical malfunctions and operational lessons learned will be prepared in the next two months to determine what happened and if future occurrences can be prevented or mitigated.

ACTION ITEMS:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.

Water Resources Engineer