

**ALLOCATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 6, 2020**

A meeting of the Allocation Committee was held on Thursday, February 06, 2020 at 01:07 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 James Broderick

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

Tom Goodwin and Curtis Mitchell

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Bill Long, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) Board; Wesley Eck, Fort Lyon Canal; Kevin Niles, Arkansas Groundwater Users Association; Alan Ward, Pueblo Water; Lisa Brown, Wilson Water Group; Kent Ricken, Colorado Water Protective and Development Association; Jack Goble, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District; 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 November 7, 2019 minutes, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Bub Miller moved, Alan Hamel seconded, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**AGRICULTURAL FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL PILOT PROJECT**

Garrett Markus introduced Lisa Brown with Wilson Water Group. Mrs. Brown gave a presentation providing a scope of scenarios of possible long-term outcomes of the Agricultural First Right of Refusal (AFRR) Pilot Project. Garrett Markus explained how the Fort Lyon Pilot Project began in 2014 to investigate the feasibility of a future District-wide plan to ensure that return flows are allocated equitably and to maximize utilization of all Fry-Ark Project water and Return Flows. The scenarios provided are presented to aid in policy decisions. The three metrics that each of the scenarios are compared against are 1) Beneficiaries, who is able to benefit from the Return Flows in relation to the District’s irrigated acreage; 2) Equitability, how many Return Flows per acre are allocated by utilizing the AFRR and who loses access to their Return Flows; 3) Administration, what accounting and modeling is required for each scenario and understand the feasibility and complexity of administration for each scenario.

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Lisa Brown then presented the process of the scenarios. There are two major inputs, average Return Flow volume generated by each ditch is based on the District’s records of a 20-year average authorized allocation. The second is the 2019 irrigated acreage from the DWR. The assumptions are limited to participating acreage to the District boundaries and incorporate all acreage under each ditch, as tracked by DWR, including sole-source wells.

Scenario Overview

Scenario ID	Description	Scenario ID	Description
Scenario 0	Even Split: Return flows are allocated to augmentation providers based on acreage. Accounting at the ditch level.	Scenario 0 Plus Rule 10	Rule 10 lands can receive return flows.
Scenario 1	Fort Lyon Pilot Project: Return flows generated by any land under Fort Lyon can only be used for augmentation by Fort Lyon.	Scenario 1 Plus Rule 10	Rule 10 lands can receive return flows.
Scenario 2	Alternative Fort Lyon Pilot Project: Return flows under Fort Lyon can only be used by the land that generated the return flows. Other Fort Lyon return flows are re-distributed. This approach adheres to District policy.	Scenario 2 Plus Rule 10	Rule 10 lands change the split between what is re-distributed and what is used by Fort Lyon. Rule 10 lands can receive return flows.
Scenario 3	All ditches run a “Fort Lyon Pilot Project” style administration	Scenario 3 Plus Rule 10	Rule 10 lands can receive return flows.
Scenario 4	All ditches run a “Alternative Fort Lyon Pilot Project” style administration	Scenario 4 Plus Rule 10	Rule 10 lands change the split between what is re-distributed and what is used by individual ditches. Rule 10 lands can receive return flows.
Scenario 5	Even Split: Accounting at the Farm Unit level.	Scenario 5 Plus Rule 10	Rule 10 lands can receive return flows.

For the next meeting, Garrett Markus will prepare policy discussions and modeling of how the last six years of the Fort Lyon Pilot Project was approved and managed. The Division of Water Resources was not able attend and Mr. Markus will give them the presentation before the next Committee Meeting.

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**ACTION ITEM:**

None

**INFORMATION ITEM**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman McClure adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.

Water Resources Engineer