

RESOURCE AND ENGINEERING PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 5, 2020

A meeting of the Resource and Engineering Planning Committee was held on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 10:02 a.m. at the District Office, 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado via Zoom virtual meeting.

Chairman Mitchell announced a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Curtis Mitchell – Chairman, Seth Clayton – Vice-Chairman, Andy Colosimo, Pat Edelman, Tom Goodwin, and James Broderick.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lisa Brown, Wilson Water Group; Tammi Renninger, ElephantFish; Alan Hamel, Dallas May, Howard “Bub” Miller, and Mark Pifher, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) Board; Kevin Meador, Garrett Markus, Margie Medina, Lee Miller, Leann Noga, Patty Rivas, and Chris Woodka, District staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Mitchell asked for approval of the October 1, 2020 minutes, and if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Pat Edelman moved, seconded by Andy Colosimo to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

JAMES W. BRODERICK HYDROPOWER PLANT UPDATE

Kevin Meador reported James W. Broderick Hydropower Plant (JWBHP) generated at 36 percent of full rated capacity in October 2020. The average generation in October was 0.92 MWh (scheduled) and 0.75 MWh (delivered) per day compared to the average expected output for October 2020 of 2.0 MWh per day or 46 percent and 38 percent of average capacity. Flows during October were in the range of 90 – 105 cubic feet per second (cfs). Flows are predicted to remain low in November in the 65 – 100 cfs range. Revenue generated in October 2020 is estimated at \$33,739 compared to an average October generation of \$75,755 or 45 percent of average. Cumulative revenue through October was \$1,325,934 compared to average budgeted revenue of \$1,155,185 or 115 percent of average.

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SECWCD BOUNDARY REHABILITATION PROJECT

Garrett Markus introduced Lisa Brown with Wilson Water Group and Tammi Renninger with ElephantFish for contactors on the SECWCD Boundary Rehabilitation Project. Lisa Brown started with how it all began using the original 1958 District boundary, and inclusions over the years. The District required a polished product that can be distributed to entities and individuals, displayed on the website, easy to maintain (update annually), trace changes in boundary to corresponding inclusion documents maintaining a legal basis for every parcel in the District. Initially the boundary was based on Public Land Survey System (PLSS) section/township/range format. The original boundary was 1,711 square miles, largest county is Otero at 332 sq miles, smallest county is Kiowa at 0.4 square miles.

Boundary inclusions over the years involved decree information, title search, historic and current data. Geographic data is used to assist with the digitization process that predominately came from county, city, or utility employees. Tammi Renninger reviewed all nine counties. Those that required research were Bent, El Paso, Fremont, Prowers, and Pueblo. Those with no current inclusions were Chaffee, Crowley, Kiowa, and Otero. Information was provided about the data behind the data. The outcome of all this data compiling formed a series of GIS layers, corresponding attribute data, digital copies of legal documents and source data. Attribute tables provide the information for each inclusion which are stored in the GIS shapefile and may be updated at any time. Legal documents have been scanned, which include but not limited to decrees, resolutions, assent, and legal descriptions in a highly organized approach.

The User's Manual will provide a step-by-step process to update the SECWCD boundary as new inclusions are received. The manual also captures lessons learned during the GIS boundary construction project and instructions for yearly updates.

NEXT STEPS FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS RECOVERY OF STORAGE REPORT

Chris Woodka presented Phase II steps regarding recovery of storage which included:

1. Appoint a Storage Recovery Strategy Committee (SRSC) within the District.
2. Redefine the Phase II Fry-Ark Storage Capacity Study Area within the Upper Arkansas River Basin
3. Conduct a pre-screening assessment of alternatives/methodologies for storage recovery and/or sustainability within the Upper Arkansas River Basin
4. Conduct a detailed alternatives analysis of pre-screened alternatives
5. Develop a scope of work for data collection programs and develop an implementation strategy prior to feasibility-level design
6. Collect data, identify preferred alternatives, and scope full environmental and engineering feasibility study.

The Storage Recovery Strategy Committee (SRSC) will be appointed by President Long, Chaired by Pat Edelmann the first meeting will be held January 7, 2021. Phase II anticipated cost and schedule (Steps 1-6) was provided from 2021 through 2024.

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2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

Garrett Markus updated the Committee on the 2021 proposed budget with projects and programs associated with the Resource and Engineering Planning Committee. The Pueblo Dam Hydroelectric Powerplant is projected to have revenue of \$1,330,333, expenses of \$1,043,612, and Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) loan proceeds of \$172,200. The Ruedi insurance operations and maintenance cost of the 10,825 Project that is funded by the Environmental Stewardship surcharge. The Regional Resource Planning Group (RRPG) is the agreement with the USGS to establish a water quality baseline for mainstem reaches of the Arkansas River basin. Cooperating participants are City of Aurora, Board of Water Works-Pueblo, Colorado Springs Utilities, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, Upper Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District (UAWCD), and Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District. The budget item to ensure Fry-Ark Project water rights can be reasonably developed and protected to cover diligence and appropriate studies. The District also supports the UAWCD COAgMet monitoring program. The Recovery of Storage Program that was kicked off in 2020 with Mott MacDonald and will continue into the future. Asset Management Program began in 2020 with the Phase I Feature Valuation moving into Phase 2 Feature Condition Assessment Planning and Prioritization. Streamflow forecasting has morphed from initially studying new representative USDA Snotel sites in the Fry-Ark collection system tributary to looking at all available technology to better predict Fry-Ark imports. Support for the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District in its COAgMet Monitoring was reviewed. The Restoration of Yield (ROY) is the six party IGA to recover foregone exchanges curtailed by the Pueblo Recreation In-Channel Diversion. The USGS Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) is paid through the Enterprise and is funded through the Water Activity Enterprise surcharge. The JFA monitors four stream gaging stations: St. Charles River at Vineland, Huerfano River near Boone, Timpas Creek at the mouth near Swink, and Arkansas River tributary new Fountain Creek confluence. This year a gage change was made regarding the St. Charles location. There are also USGS water quality monitoring sites which are participant funded by Enlargement, Arkansas Valley Conduit, and Excess Capacity Master Contract participants. Finally, the Fountain Creek Transit Loss Program that allows the District to capture and track Project water down Fountain Creek.

ACTION ITEMS:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be January 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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ADJOURN

Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.
Water Resources Engineer