

ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 4, 2019

A meeting of the Allocation Committee was held on Thursday, April 04, 2019 at 01:05 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; Tom Goodwin; Alan Hamel; and James Broderick

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Curtis Mitchell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Emily Logan and Alan Ward, Pueblo Board of Water Works; Kalsoum Abbasi, Colorado Springs Utilities; Kent Ricken, Colorado Water Protective and Development Association; Ryan Hemphill, Fort Lyon Rule 10, Bill Long, Kevin Karney, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) Directors; Garrett Markus, Lee Miller, and Chris Woodka, District staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman McClure confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the March 7, 2019 minutes, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Bub Miller moved, Alan Hamel seconded, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

2019 FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

The Fry-Ark Project utilizes the Boustead Tunnel to import Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water (Project water) for allocation each year. The 20-year average for Project water imports is 55,124 acre-feet (AF) and is highly dependent on snow pack. Snow pack reports are published weekly and display the four Snotel sites that are most relative to the Fry-Ark collection system. The snow pack reports also compare the current snow pack to the 30-year average of those four sites and to seven other years with the corresponding Fry-Ark Project water import for each year. The snow pack report associated Fry-Ark collection system on April 3, 2019 was at 151 percent of median. Even though Project water imports are highly dependent on snow pack, there are several key variables that highly effect the actual import amount. Several of those considerations are how fast the snow melts and whether we are legally and available to divert those amounts, excessive sublimation (evaporation of snow without runoff), weather during diversion season, local and basin wide river calls, and precipitation not associated with snow pack. The unofficial import forecasts from the Bureau of Reclamation was 70,600 AF for February 1, 67,200 AF for March 1, and 91,500 AF for April 1. The April forecast increase was a result of the large snow fall accumulation that occurred during the first week in March.

ALLOCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 4, 2019

ACTION ITEM:

AGRICULTURAL FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL

In earlier discussions the Committee approve the agricultural first right of refusal for the Rocky Ford High Line, Oxford Farmers Ditch, Fort Lyon Canal Company under the Fort Lyon Pilot Project and extend the Fort Lyon Pilot Project one additional year for the 2019 allocation season.

The Fort Lyon Canal Company Pilot Project has operated for five years exclusive to the Fort Lyon Canal and its shareholders. In those five years, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) staff, Fort Lyon Canal Company, Colorado Water Protective and Development Association (CWPDA), Lower Arkansas Water Management Association (LAWMA), Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District (LAVWCD), and Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) have worked through several issues ensuring the equitable utilization of Return Flows, identifying beneficiaries, and improving mechanisms of delivery. For 2019, the Pilot Project will encompass more than the FLCC. Two ditch companies that have expressed interest in claiming their agricultural first right of refusal (AFRR) and have similar, broader benefits to each of their members. The Rocky Ford High Line and Oxford Farmers Ditch have company wells, or wells that pump into the ditch for all members to use. This is a new and exciting model for AFRR. Policy discussion is needed in order to work with the Rule 10 and Rule 14 administration. The Financial Strategy and Sustainability Study will have useful information to assist with policy in this Pilot Program.

Bub Miller moved, second by Alan Hamel that the Allocation Committee recommend to the Board to approve the agricultural first right of refusal for the Rocky Ford High Line, Oxford Farmers Ditch, Fort Lyon Canal Company under the Fort Lyon Pilot Project and extend the Fort Lyon Pilot Project one additional year for the 2019 allocation season.

INFORMATION ITEM

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Garrett Markus updated the committee regarding the Pueblo Dam Hydroelectric Project relating to last month's action item allowed for Project water use for hydro plant testing. Garrett presented the plan he has taken to CWPDA and AGUA.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Chairman McClure adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.

Water Resources Engineer