

**ALLOCATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 4, 2024**

A meeting of the Allocation Committee was held on Thursday, April 04, 2024 at 11:45 a.m. at the District Office 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81001 and via Zoom virtual conference.

Chairman Andy Colosimo announced a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Colosimo Chair, Tom Goodwin, Alan Hamel, Curtis Mitchell, and Leann Noga

Zoom participants: Howard “Bub” Miller Vice Chair and Matt Heimerich

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Bill Long

OTHERS PRESENT:

Margie Medina, Garrett Markus, and Chris Woodka Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) staff.

Zoom participants: Patty Rivas, Peter Levish, District staff, Noah Friesen, Division of Water Resources Division 2, Roy Vaughan, H2O Consulting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Colosimo confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the November 2, 2023 Allocation Committee minutes and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Tom Goodwin moved, Alan Hamel seconded, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Garrett Markus provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the Upper Colorado River Basin soil moisture and snow conditions, also a Colorado monthly snowpack and precipitation summary. The Committee was provided updated graphs of the Fry-Ark collection basin snowpack vs annual basin average with associated Fry-Ark imports along with the four-collection site average, all of which are above 100 percent. The Fry-Ark Bureau of Reclamation forecast for February 1, was 51,700 AF; March 1, was 60,300 AF; and April 1, was 60,400 AF. Reiterating that May 1 is the official forecast where considerations are based on not just SNOTEL sites alone, 70 percent of actual imports come from snowpack presented by SNOTEL sites, and 30 percent of actual imports come from precipitation from May 1 to September 30.

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AGRICULTURAL FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT WATER CARRYOVER STORAGE PILOT PROJECT
On September 15, 2022 the Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise approved the District staff to initiate the Agricultural Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Water Carryover Storage Pilot Project, to investigate initial parameters of the storage conditions and allow Agricultural Project Water to be stored May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 if storage parameters are met.

The parameters consist of 1.) Project Water will accrue evaporation after April 30 in the Carryover account. 2.) any Project Water balance in the Carryover account will be charged the Carryover cost (currently \$4.52/AF. 3.) Conditions for Ag Project Water Carryover will be dependent on storage levels in Pueblo Reservoir and the “risk for spill” per Bureau of Reclamation operations.

Conditions for Ag Project Water Carryover will be dependent on storage levels in Pueblo Reservoir and the “risk for spill” per Bureau of Reclamation:

- Eminent Risk of Spill (Spill likely of the Joint Use Pool)
 - 80% of Ag Water would be used by November 15 of the allocation year
- Likely Risk of Spill (Spill likely of the Conservation Pool prior to April 15)
 - Ag Project Water can be stored during off-season (winter) but not be used by April 15
- Marginal Risk of Spill (Spill may, but not likely occur of the Conservation Pool prior to April 15)
 - Ag Project Water can be stored during off-season (winter) but must be used by May 1
- Unlikely Risk of Spill (Spill unlikely as of May 1 following the allocation year)
 - Ag Project Water can be stored during off-season (winter) and stored in Project Water Carryover after May 1

Pueblo Reservoir was at risk of spill approaching April 15, 2024. However, as agricultural entities released Carryover Winter Water and 2023 Project Water, District staff began to see how pushing 2023 agricultural Project Water forward in date didn’t help the potential spill. This gave good stress tests to the above parameters to consider in the Pilot Project.

WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM

Garrett Markus took the Allocation Committee through the March 14 Winter Water Report and explained what information is in the report and why. As Mr. Markus discussed Winter Water operations, the reservoirs used in the Winter Water Storage Program, and the administration required to follow the decree, the report gave more information than expected. District Staff also discussed with the Committee how John Martin Conservation Storage interacted with the Winter Water Storage Program and the implications of dry hydrology.

ACTION ITEM:

None

INFORMATION ITEM

None

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OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

May 2, 2024, at 11:00 am

ADJOURN

Chairman Colosimo adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett J. Markus, P.E.

Principal Water Resources Engineer