

**WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM**  
**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Annual Meeting**  
**October 17, 2008**

Chairman Bob Hamilton called the annual Winter Water Storage Program meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 10:45 a.m. The meeting was held at Otero Junior College in La Junta. Chairman Hamilton took a roll call of representatives for the Board of Trustees. Chairman Hamilton thanked those for attending.

<b>Participating Canal</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Amity Mutual Irrigating Co.	Randy Witt
Bessemer Ditch	Joe Pisciotta
Catlin Canal	Greg Williams
Colorado Canal, Lake Henry, & Lake Meredith	No Representative
Fort Lyon Canal Co.	Herb Reyher
High Line Canal Co.	Dan Henrichs
Holbrook Mutual Irrigating Co.	No Representative
Las Animas Consolidated	Jeff Baylor
Oxford Farmers Ditch	No Representative
Riverside Dairy Ditch	No Representative
West Pueblo Ditch	Alan Ward

**In attendance:** Bill Long, President SECWCD; Herb Reyher, Wesley Eck, Josh Weimer, Mike Downing, and Manny Torrez, Fort Lyon Canal; Glenn Wilson, Randy Witt and Jerry Howland, Amity Canal; Dan Henrichs, High Line Canal; Greg Williams, John Schweizer, Wayne Whittaker, Catlin Canal; Joe Pisciotta and Mike Hill, Bessemer Ditch; Jeff Baylor, Las Animas Consolidated Ditch; Russ Livingston, Livingston Professional Services-Hydro Sciences; Lonnie Spady, and Don Taylor, Division of Water Resources; Rick Kienitz, Aurora Water/Rocky Ford Ditch; Steve Witte and Joe Flory Division of Water Resources (DWR); Alan Ward, West Pueblo Ditch; Roy Vaughan, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Bob Hamilton, Jean Van Pelt and Margie Medina, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

**Minutes**

Dan Henrichs moved to approve the October 29, 2007 Winter Water Storage Program minutes, seconded by Randy Witt. Motion passed with all in favor to approve the October 29, 2007 minutes.

**2007-2008 Program Review**

Division Engineer Steve Witte presented a PowerPoint presentation reviewing last year's winter water program Nov 15, 2007 thru March 14, 2008.

System Grand Total:	153,034.86 AF	Last 5 year average:	106,728.00 AF
Previous Year 2006-07:	149,576.56 AF	Last 18 year average:	142,483.22 AF

Mr. Witte stated that thanks to the cooperation of the Bureau of Reclamation, Pueblo Board of Water Works and the Fryingpan Arkansas Project, winter water did not encroach into the joint use pool at Pueblo Reservoir. The Division Engineers office continues to inform the group of issues to aide in the program operation.

## **WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM Board of Trustees Annual Meeting**

October 17, 2008 Minutes - Page 2

### **2008-2009 Winter Water Storage Program Operations**

Mr. Witte reported that Scott Lorenz will no longer be working for the DWR. The contact for river operations will be Joe Flory. Emails can be sent to [rop@state.co.us](mailto:rop@state.co.us) for river operations. Again this year the combination of Fryingpan Arkansas Project water and winter water may cause the total contents of Pueblo Reservoir to invade the joint use pool. It is important for entities with off channel storage accounts to inform the Division Engineers office as soon as possible of changes so releases can be made appropriately within the time limits and water movement constraints.

### **Fry-Ark Operations (Winter Operations & Pueblo Reservoir Storage Availability)**

Roy Vaughan with the Bureau of Reclamation reported as of October 15, there was 175,890 acre-feet of water stored in Pueblo Reservoir, 117,585 acre-feet of Fryingpan Arkansas Project water, 39,820 acre-feet of water stored in If and When space and 18,690 acre-feet of Winter water.

There are currently 120,674 acre-feet of space in Pueblo Reservoir for winter water. Over the winter, Reclamation plans to move approximately 42,000 acre-feet of water from Twin Lakes and Turquoise Reservoirs to Pueblo Reservoir. With winter releases, evaporation and transit losses there should be approximately 87,000 acre-feet of space available for Winter water.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened at 11:50 p.m.

### **Aurora Rocky Ford Ditch Return Flow Storage**

Bob Hamilton reported that under the Rocky Ford I & II decrees (cases 83CW18 and 99CW169) the City of Aurora has placed 1,254 acre feet of water into storage from the Rocky Ford Ditch water rights. Dan Henrichs moved, second by Alan Ward to store the water in Pueblo Reservoir. The motion passed with all in favor.

### **Transit Loss and Travel Time Study Update**

Bob Hamilton informed the group that the transit loss between Pueblo and John Martin Reservoir's are derived from a study published in 1978. He then introduced Dr. Russ Livingston who provided an update on conducting a more current study. Russ gave an in depth presentation regarding the following:

- Historical perspective
- Primary "features" of a re-investigation of transit losses and travel times, Pueblo Reservoir to John Martin Reservoir
- Most recent investigation: John Martin Reservoir to CO/KS Stateline
- Tools for reservoir-release management
- Travel time information improves reservoir-release management
- TLAP=Transit Loss Accounting Program
- Importance of better estimates of transit losses and travel times
- Summary and comparison
- Cost, work plan and products

Deliverables are:

- Mid-investigation progress report
- Final, comprehensive report
- PC-based, calibrated/verified stream-aquifer model
- PC-based TLAP to enhance use of model results (graphic user interface for input and output) and provide data for improved water administration

## WINTER WATER STORAGE PROGRAM Board of Trustees Annual Meeting

October 17, 2008 Minutes - Page 3

The cost of the two year study is \$120,000. Southeastern has received a grant from Colorado Water Conservation Board for \$60,000; Southeastern's contribution is \$20,000; Lower District's contribution \$20,000 totaling \$100,000. Bob Hamilton estimated that the remaining \$20,000 could be provided if each entity paid \$1,425 for 2009 and \$1,425 in 2010, the smaller entities (Oxford and the Las Animas Consolidated) could pay \$725 a year. Bessemer Ditch would be exempt because transit loss does not affect the ditch. Members from the Amity and Catlin canal's both said they would contribute their share.

Mr. Hamilton asked the entities to inform him of their commitment by December 1, 2008.

Clarification was needed to the relationship with the USGS regarding the above study and District staff will need to consult legal counsel.

### **Discussion on 80/20 Rule extension**

Mr. Hamilton informed the canal companies that the Board of Directors of Southeastern voted to extend the deadline for using 80% of allocated agriculture Project water from November 1, to November 15 to coincide with the start of the Winter water program.

### **Discussion on the use of Winter Water in Pueblo Reservoir for the proposed fallowing program**

Mr. Hamilton referred to the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) on the use of Winter water for the fallowing program. Project water stored for irrigation below Pueblo Reservoir in a case that went to the Supreme Court (Fort Lyon versus SECWCD), states the use of water can't cause injury to Division 2 or Kansas or create a significant change in the return flow program. These guidelines apply to the Super Ditch.

### **Website [www.secowaterwise.org](http://www.secowaterwise.org) and Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plants Plan**

Jean Van Pelt updated the group on the additions to the secowaterwise.org website. Changes have been made on the Evapotranspiration, Research, and weather information, crop ET reports, and satellite imagery pages of the site.

### **Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plants Plan (ARKWIPP)**

Jean reported that the ARKWIPP plan is complete. The website is 25 percent completed and expected to be done by the end of the year (arkwipp.org). Colorado Water Conservation Board has set aside four million within the next four years to address the tamarisk issues in Colorado. The ARKWIPP website will have several useful tools regarding education, research, grants, etc.

### **Next Meeting**

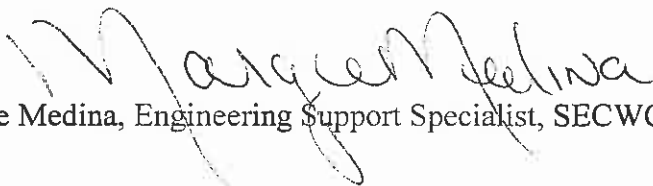
It was agreed at the 2007 meeting to set a perpetual date for future winter water meetings of the third Friday each month of October. The next scheduled meeting of the Winter Water Storage Program Board of Trustees Annual meeting will be October 16, 2009.

### **Other Business**

Bob Hamilton informed the group that the Board of Directors of SECWCD voted to oppose Amendment 52 at the October meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Margie Medina, Engineering Support Specialist, SECWCD

Date



October 16, 2009