

UPPER ARKANSAS WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 8, 2022
1:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District was held Thursday, September 8, 2022, commencing at 1:30pm at the District offices, 339 East Hwy 50, Salida, Colorado, following the Water Activity Enterprise committee meeting, notice having been given by posting of Notice and Agenda on September 7, 2022, at the offices of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, 339 East Hwy 50, Salida, Colorado.

DIRECTORS PRESENT (IN PERSON)

Gregory W. Felt (acting chair)	Robert B. (Bill) Donley	Mike Shields
Tom French	Tim Payne	Warren Diesslin
Thomas Goodwin	Brett McMurry	Albert Eggleston
Richard Hilderbrand	Tony Telck	

DIRECTORS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)

Mannie Colon

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Franklin J. (Jay) Moore, (Honorary) Timothy C. Canterbury

DISTRICT OFFICIALS/STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Ralph L. (Terry) Scanga, General Manager	Kendall Burgemeister, Attorney
Ken Baker, Consultant	Gracy Goodwin, Projects Manager
Jord Gertson, Hydrologist	Jennifer A. Scanga, Administrative Assistant
Chris Manera, Engineer	

DISTRICT OFFICIALS/STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)

Denise Sanchez, Office Manager
Richard Brown, Legislative Consultant
Wendy Ryan, Engineer

DISTRICT OFFICIALS ABSENT

None

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

None

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)

Bill Tyner, Division Engineer
Dan Henrichs, Water Commissioner, District 12
Will Scott, Water Commissioner, District 11

STATE OFFICIALS ABSENT

Brian Sutton, Augmentation Coordinator

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Bill Canda, Custer County Commissioner

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCING)

None

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

John Roorda, Chaffee County Planning Manager
Brian Berger, Poncha Springs Town Administrative Officer
Shawn Williams, Buena Vista Public Works Director
Philip Puckett, Buena Vista Town Administrator
Dave Schneider, Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District Manager
Drew Nelson, City of Salida Administrator
Dwayne McFall, Fremont County Commissioner

GUESTS PRESENT

Joe Stone, Heart of the Rockies Radio News

GUESTS PRESENT (BY REMOTE VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERRNCING)

Nick Miller, GEI Consultants

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Felt led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were asked to introduce themselves.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF August 11, 2022

The minutes of the meeting of August 11, 2022, were approved upon motion by Director Donley with second by Director Telck.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon motion by Director Goodwin with second by Director Donley, the Board approved the monthly financial reports dated August 31, 2022.

PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

Nick Miller from GEI Consultants gave a brief overview of the engineering and hydrology analysis and general review and design of the DeWeese Reservoir Enlargement Study as well as a construction overview. His presentation included highlights of project background, field studies, design review and construction cost review. Mr. Miller's agenda also included an environmental survey.

Questions, and answers followed the presentation.

Based off of the Inflow Design Flood (IDF) routing graph displayed by Mr. Miller, Vice Chairman Felt noted that when a 4000 acre feet dam is drained in a 24 hour period there is 2000 cfs over that period and when it is narrowed down to 6 hours there is 8000 cfs. He expressed that it seems irrelevant when you're looking at 120,000 cfs. Mr. Miller stated that the study will reveal the relevance of those numbers.

Manager Scanga voiced concerns about debris being caught in the top of the dam structure where the design shows a bridge across the top of the dam and commented if it is being taken into account regarding pressure on the structure? Mr. Miller said it could become a concern but he is not anticipating any debris issues.

Director Donley asked how much damage would be caused to the existing structure by drilling holes to put dowels across the dam? Mr. Miller answered that it would not cause any significant damage at all, they create a bond to the interface.

Director French asked about the improvements to the outlet structures and controls. Mr. Miller said the valve stems will need to be replaced and the condition of the gates will be assessed as well as the casting and grouting repaired.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

Director Hilderbrand asked if there is any consideration to downstream effect going through Canon City? Mr. Miller said they the IDF is routed all the way through Pueblo Reservoir. He explained that 127,000 cfs is routed downstream plus the dam break and then take the incremental difference between the two.

Mr. Miller clarified for Manager Scanga that the process for moving forward will consist of a hydrologic hazard study, stability analysis, and seepage study of the old dam. Manager Scanga asked if there is a way of assessing the cost of mitigating environmental impacts if it is found that raising the dam would cause environmental issues? Mr. Miller said that there is a potential for mitigation and that will be determined through the evaluation.

Commissioner Canda asked the life expectancy of the current dam? Mr. Miller answered that in general most dams are designed to last 50-100 years and dams these days are approaching and exceeding those values as long as they are maintained and improved as they age. Mr. Canda questioned whether it is more cost effective to replace or repair a dam at the same time in the long run?

Engineer Miller gave a detailed plan view of the proposed design for the new dam and the already existing dam.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

None

PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT- Gracy Goodwin

PM Goodwin provided a summary of grants in progress for Board members to review. She gave a power point update on August projects in progress which included Round Mountain Reservoir Feasibility Study and Construction Grant, DeWeese Enlargement Feasibility Study, as well as a brief oral report on the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Water Conference in Steamboat Springs. PM Goodwin displayed photos of the Monarch Project which included the Homestake Diversion Rehabilitation Project and Otero Pump Station.

CONSULTANT REPORT – Richard Brown

A current Legislative Update was presented by Legislative Consultant Brown. He provided an oral update of status of Bills of interest, newly enacted laws, and the status of the Water Resources Review Committee (WRRC) annual water conference.

Legislative Consultant Brown stated that the highlight of legislation concerns 9 bills that were recently drafted from the WRRC and there were no bill sponsors because half of the WRRC won't be back next year. He added that the Legislative Counsel has not sent out an official blue book.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

RESUME REVIEW COMMITTEE

August Resume was not available at time of meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Terry Scanga

Manager Scanga presented to Board members the Colorado Airborne Snow Observatory Expansion Plan Executive Summary for review.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Chris Manera, Colorado River Engineering (CRE)

Chris Manera summarized the DeWeese Reservoir Enlargement Study. He said the two part study included a quantification of the inflow design flood discussed later in the GEI program presentation and the second part included the hydrology study which determined how much water would be available to fill an enlargement.

Mr. Manera explained that DeWeese Dye Reservoir is located on Grape Creek near Westcliffe and it is approximately 27-miles from the DeWeese Dye Ditch which are both owned by the DeWeese Dye Ditch & Reservoir Company and water is stored in the reservoir in the winter and released as needed and as

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

available to supply the ditch. The majority of the 27 miles is located on BLM lands with very little private property in between and DeWeese is the only water right in the 27 mile stretch.

Engineer Manera stated that the analysis determined there is physical flow at the reservoir and the point of the study is to determine exchangeable flows.

Mr. Manera displayed the stream gage monthly breakdown of acre-feet amounts and annual water year average flow rates from 1970-2018.

Engineer Manera put into cubic feet per second (cfs) perspective by placing the monthly and yearly acre foot amounts into CFS, the stream gage indicated that during peak run off in May of 1987 there was on average of over 380 cfs going past the gage. He added that on average during that year, Grape Creek was sending 100 cfs past the gage. Mr. Manera further stated that during low flow years the gage indicated that upstream senior irrigation water rights were already diverting and depleting what was available and how little water goes down the system during winter months.

Mr. Manera clarified for Manager Scanga that there is an average of 34 cfs during the 1970-2018 period. Engineer Manera clarified for Director Shields that there were no diversions in 2002 because available inflow cannot be relied on from year to year and why a hydrology analysis is so important.

Engineer Manera displayed two enlargement scenarios. He said the District has 10 acre-feet of a firm storage amount within the vessel and the if and when accounts operate on when there is space available in the reservoir the company will lease the space to other entities. Mr. Manera stated that the biggest user is the BLM which is facilitated through the District, and they are able to exchange water into the reservoir after it is filled and when it starts to draw down and create available space, there are exchangeable flows from the spring runoff to put water back in. He expressed that this is how the enlargement would work. He further added that the BLM primarily use their water to make releases during the winter period to provide environmental, fish, and habitat flows in Grape Creek. Mr. Manera explained that the DeWeese Dye Reservoir water right is part of the winter water storage program and starting in November after irrigation calls begin they are able to divert the entire flow of Grape Creek to fill their water storage right.

Engineer Manera stated that the results of the study displayed in Scenarios 1 and 2 revealed that during some years there was over 20 to 30 thousand acre-feet of flow that made it through the reservoir, beyond Grape Creek and back to the Arkansas River for available storage. He said the years shown were between 2000-2021. He also said the average disclosed around 11-12,000 acre-feet of storage available per year.

Director Donley asked how much water DeWeese is legally allowed to store of their own water? Engineer Manera answered that they have 4,300 acre-feet they can store and they have 3 priorities starting in 1900, 1914 and 1931. He explained that under the winter water storage program senior direct flow irrigation water rights cannot divert all winter long as they once did and now enables upstream reservoirs to fill from November 15th to March 15th.

Manager Scanga asked if Round Mountain and CPW has to book over 30% of their water? He answered that they pay a fixed amount and the 3482.40 is included in the book over. Mr. Manera said that the if and when contract improves the net yield.

Engineer Manera displayed a stakeholder assessment of existing storage, releases, and enlargement storage needs in acre feet. The chart gave a breakdown of enlargement storage needs by assuming the demands for BLM, Round Mountain, UAWCD and CPW.

Engineer Manera also displayed an exchange model regarding exchangeable flows for enlargement.

LEGAL REPORT – Law of the Rockies, Kendall Burgemeister

Opposition updates, transactional matters, applications, and updates were included in the Law of the Rockies legal report made available to all Board members prior to the meeting.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

Director Goodwin asked if Cottonwood and Triview were still negotiating in the Triview Exchange Case? Atty Burgemeister stated that they keep dragging it out but have offered that they will stipulate provided that the District will insert a provision that they can come back during their retained jurisdiction period and argue about the location of the return flows.

CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

Manager Scanga clarified the protocol for leading Board meetings when the Chairman and Vice Chairman are both absent. He stated the meeting would be led by officers next in line such as the Secretary, Treasurer, etc.

Director Shields mentioned to Board members the discontentment of Custer County over the State enforcement of draining of ponds. He stated that the District is being blamed and wanted to bring it to the Board's attention in case of confrontation from people with ponds. Director Shields said he has been approached on two separate occasions and he directed those individuals to Manager Scanga so he can work with those individuals on what to do with those ponds.

Director French asked Engineer Manera if transit loss varies in Grape Creek. Mr. Manera stated that transit loss is determined by evaporation and the function of the stream system. He said for this particular study, the focus was on transit loss during low flows at a fixed amount.

NOTICES & MEETINGS

USGS Meeting-1:30pm, September 22, UAWCD Boardroom

Arkansas Basin Round Table Meeting, 12 noon, September 14, Pueblo Community College

IBCC Meeting, October 25, Time and Place, TBD

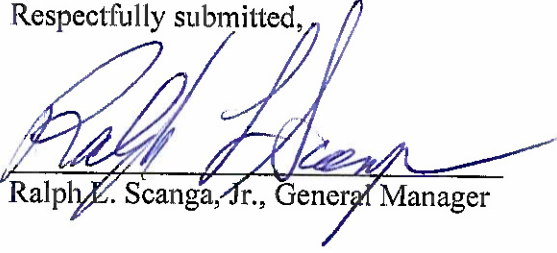
ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board or Enterprise and upon motion by Director Donley seconded by Director Colon and approval of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:16pm.

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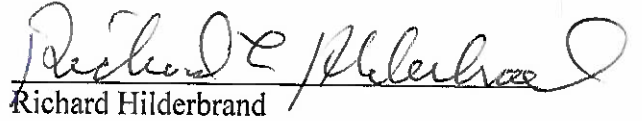
RECORD OF PROCEEDING

Respectfully submitted,


Ralph L. Scanga, Jr., General Manager

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Timothy C. Canterbury

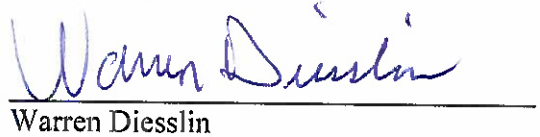
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Thomas Goodwin, Treasurer

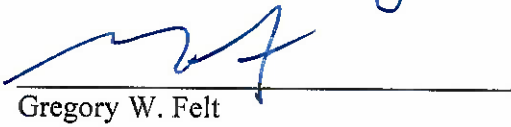

Richard Hilderbrand

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Mannie Colon

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Albert Eggleston

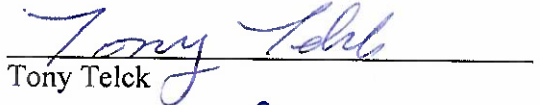

Robert B. Donley


Warren Diesslin

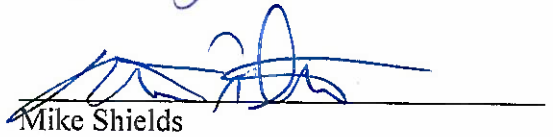

Gregory W. Felt

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Tim Payne


Tom E. French


Tony Telck


Brett A. McMurry


Mike Shields