

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, June 9, 2010

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Grove Room, at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, at 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California, Wednesday, June 9, 2010.

Board Members and Alternates Present

Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman
James H. Bond
Terese Maria Ghio
Russell C. Kitahara
Bill D. Wright

David Elms, Designee
Department of Fish and Game

Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternates Absent

Thomas M. Erb
John V. Foley
James Cleo Hanks
Henry Merle Kuiper

W. D. "Bill" Knutson
James B. McDaniel
John Pierre Menvielle

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott
James M. Barrett
John Penn Carter
Ron Derma
Dave Fogerson
William J. Hasencamp
Mark L. Johnson
Richard Johnson
Michael L. King
Thomas E. Levy
Douglas B. Noble
David R. Pettijohn
Halla Razak
John L. Scott
Jack Simes
Ed W. Smith

Catherine M. Stites
Mark Stuart
William H. Swan
Joseph A. Vanderhost
Bruce Wilcox

Abbas Amirteymoori
J.C. Jay Chen
Christopher S. Harris
Sheryl Hein
Michael W. Hughes
Lori Jones
Lindia Y. Liu
Mark Van Vlack
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher, announced the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Fisher asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Hearing none, Chairman Fisher moved to the next item on the Agenda.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fisher requested the approval of the May 12th meeting minutes. Mr. Bond moved the May 12th minutes be approved. Mr. Kitahara seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the May 12th meeting minutes.

Fiscal Year 2010-11 Board Budget

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the 2010-11 budget was included in the Board folder for review by the Board members. Mr. Zimmerman requested approval of the final Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget and authorization for the Acting Executive Director to execute Standard Agreement No. 43. Upon the motion of Mr. Bond, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget, and authorized the Acting Executive Director to sign Standard Agreement No. 43 in support of the Board's activities in Fiscal Year 2010-11.

Mexico Tour of Earthquake Damage

Mr. Zimmerman reported that eighteen representatives from the U.S. had toured the damages from the April 4th earthquake in the Mexicali Valley. Representatives from the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) and Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA) provided most of the arrangements for the May 14th tour. A photographer, Mr. Steven Payer, from Department of Water Resources (DWR) took photographs during the tour. Mr. Zimmerman displayed some slides of the earthquake destruction.

Mr. Zimmerman showed a slide of a badly damaged canal and reported that during the tour. The guide, Mr. Francisco Bernal, mentioned that there was a lot of acreage in wheat that was harvested shortly after the quake because there was sufficient water available. However, many canals were damaged and it may be a year or two before the water distribution system is repaired to serve some of the acreage.

There were reports from some of those attendees that the ground surface appeared to be slightly undulated or rippled. There were reports of many sand boils and ground failures.

Noticeable surface undulations and the gradients of some of the canals had changed and some of them appear to have the gradient reversed. The canals will need to be resurveyed so water deliveries can be made. Chairman Fisher added that the agricultural lands will also need to be re-leveled (laser leveled) so that crops will be effectively irrigated.

Mr. Zimmerman showed a slide of where ground had collapsed in a straight line and reported that the underground Reforma Canal that delivers water to Tijuana had collapsed.

Ms. Jeanine Jones of DWR reported that there were numerous sand boils and evidence of liquefaction probably facilitated by high ground water levels while the ground was shaking.

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Mexico had changed its delivery schedule delaying the delivery of some of its water to the later part of the year.

Mr. Zimmerman reported that initial cost estimates to repair the canal system, according to present reported damage, are about \$600 million U.S. dollars. That doesn't include the local farm distribution system, or the required land leveling. This estimate also doesn't include building repairs/replacements.

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Mexico may not use their full entitlement this year and it is unknown whether the unused water will remain in Lake Mead or flow to the Gulf of California. Mexico had made a proposal to the IBWC expressing interest in arranging a deal with the U.S. within 90 days related to water delivery and storage.

AGENCY MANAGERS' MEETING

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Agency Managers were scheduled to meet after the Board meeting mainly to focus on discussions with Mexico and Mexico's latest comprehensive proposal.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Amirteymoori reported that as of June 1st, precipitation in the Basin was 88 percent of normal. The snowpack water equivalent was 60 percent of normal. The unregulated inflow into Lake Powell forecast for April through July was about 5.3 maf, or 67 percent of normal. The 2010 water year forecast unregulated inflow into Lake Powell was about 8.3 maf, or about 69 percent of normal.

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the water supply outlook for June 1, 2010 showed that most of the sub-basins within the Colorado Watershed are below normal. The only one of significance that was near normal was the Green River Basin. Mr. Zimmerman reported that the graph of the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center - Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell (116 NRCS Snotel Sites) indicated that the current year snow water equivalent for the year tracked below the average until about May, then the drop off was fairly close to the long

term average.

Mr. Amirteymoori reported that water storage in Lake Powell was 14.4 million acre-feet (maf), or 59 percent of capacity. The Lake Powell water surface elevation was about 3,625.9 feet above sea level. Water storage in Lake Mead was about 11.0 maf, or 42 percent of capacity. The Lake Mead water surface elevation is 1,094.3 feet above sea level. Total System storage is 33.2 maf, or 56 percent of capacity, at this time last year the System storage was 33.9 maf, or 57 percent of capacity. The total storage has decreased about 0.7 maf from last year.

Mr. Amirteymoori reported that Reclamation's projected consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada is under its entitlement of 300,000 acre-feet (264,000 acre-feet); and for Arizona the CU is projected to be under its entitlement of 2.8 maf (2.737 maf); and for California the CU is also projected to be slightly under its entitlement of 4.4 maf (4.331 maf). The Lower Basin projected CU for 2010 is estimated to be 7.333 maf.

State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Stuart, of the California Department of Water Resources, reported on the climate conditions in California. For selected climate stations in Southern California precipitation ranges from a low in San Diego of about 64 percent of average to a high in Blythe of about 175 percent of average. From 233 precipitation stations reporting the average is about 115 percent of average. However, the runoff is about 80 percent of average. The Sacramento River Index precipitation eight station average was about 110 percent of average. Mr. Stuart discussed a pixel plot of California indicating the current precipitation as percent of normal. Much of the State was above normal but there were a few areas that were below normal. For instance, the watershed above Lake Oroville was below normal, whereas, the Lake Shasta watershed is above normal and Lake Shasta is near full.

Mr. Stuart reported that the snowpack in the northern part of the State, as of June 1st, was 84 percent of the April 1st normal. The central part of the State was about 62 percent of the April 1st normal, and the southern part of the State was about 54 percent of the April 1st normal.

Mr. Stuart reported that the State Water Project (SWP) storage north of the delta was about 2.6 maf or 71 percent of average, or about 400,000 acre-feet more than this time last year. The SWP storage south of the delta was about 1.3 maf or 70 percent of capacity or about 200,000 acre-feet more than this time last year. The current SWP projected deliveries was 45 percent of Table A Entitlements.

Mr. Bill Wright of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) reported that as of June 1st, the storage in Diamond Valley Lake was about 397,000 acre-feet or about 49 percent of capacity. Lake Mathews was about 124,000 acre-feet or 68 percent of capacity and Lake Skinner was about 42,000 acre-feet or about 95 percent of capacity. MWD's combined reservoir storage was about 562,000 acre-feet or about 54 percent of capacity.

Mr. Bill Wright reported that during the month of May the inland feeder to Diamond Valley Lake was operated at five to six hundred cubic feet per second (cfs). Storage in

Diamond Valley Lake increased by about 14,500 acre-feet while about 15,000 acre-feet passed through Diamond Valley Lake for delivery to the San Diego County Water Authority. Mr. Wright reported that with the increase of the SWP deliveries from 5 to 45 percent MWD expects to divert an additional 200,000 acre-feet into long term storage.

Mr. David Pettijohn, of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), reported that it had been cold in the Eastern Sierra and the snow pack has remained close to the April 1st levels. It is anticipated that an additional 100,000 acre-feet will be available from the Eastern Sierra, than last year.

Colorado River Operations

2011 Annual Operating Plan

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the meeting to begin development of the 2011 Annual Operating Plan (2011 AOP) was scheduled for June 25th. As in the 2010 AOP it is anticipated that the initial draft of the 2011 AOP will call for an 8.23 maf release from Glen Canyon Dam. Also, as in the 2010 AOP, there is a high probability for the reservoir conditions to call for equalization releases mid-year.

Upper Colorado River Designated as an Endangered River

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the American Rivers organization recently placed the Upper Colorado River on its top ten list of “Endangered Rivers”. The rationale for the designation was two new proposals to divert water from the West Slope to the East Slope of Colorado for municipal, industrial and agricultural purposes. The American Rivers maintains that environmental and ecological needs of the river system must be considered.

Basin States Discussion

Status of Negotiations and Discussions Associated with Joint Cooperative Projects and Programs with Mexico

Mr. Zimmerman reported that with the recent earthquake damage in Mexico, the U.S. is willing to allow Mexico to store up to 200,000 acre-feet in the U.S. reservoir system as a one-time program. In 2011 Mexico would be allowed to order the delivery of the stored and its normal amount of water, up to 1.7 maf. Mexico had responded with a proposal for a comprehensive agreement to be memorialized in a new Treaty Minute (Minute Number 318). A binational meeting was scheduled for June 23rd and 24th.

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Mexico’s proposed Minute 318 would include five major elements:

- Creation and storage of Intentionally Created Mexican Unused Apportionment (ICMA) in U.S. reservoir system.
- U.S. investment in repair of damaged infrastructure in Mexicali irrigation districts.
- U.S. investment in binational water conservation and desalination projects.
- U.S. investment in binational environmental projects.
- Temporary U.S. use of Mexican treated wastewater at international wastewater

treatment plants (e.g., Nogales, AZ, and San Diego, CA).

Colorado River Environmental Activities

Grand Canyon Trust Memorandum

Mr. Harris reported that the Grand Canyon Trust recently released a memo arguing that implementation of seasonally adjusted steady flows from Glen Canyon Dam would: 1) benefit the ecology of the riverine section of Grand Canyon National Park; 2) benefit native endangered species; and 3) would not affect annual release volumes from Glen Canyon Dam pursuant to the “Law of the River”. Mr. Harris discussed graphs depicting the annual flow regime of the current releases from Glen Canyon Dam and the proposed seasonally adjusted steady flow regime. In contrast, he discussed the pre-historic natural flows through the canyon.

WATER QUALITY

Salinity Control Forum Meeting

Mr. Harris reported that the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) and Advisory Council (Council), held meetings in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on June 2-4, 2010. The Forum and Council received reports from participating federal agencies: Reclamation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The Forum received a report from the Forum’s Work Group regarding the kickoff of the 2011 Triennial Review Report preparation process. The Council reviewed the federal agency’s responses to the Council’s report to Congress.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation provided a status report on the Paradox Basin brine injection facility. There is concern that the existing facility may have a short life-span remaining. The operation is energy intensive and has faced some significant engineering challenges as well as equipment failures. Even when the operation is at full capacity, there is still approximately 25,000 to 30,000 tons of salt still entering the mainstream of the Colorado River. If the Paradox facility were to fail, approximately 100,000 plus tons of salt would begin entering the Colorado River System. Reclamation was urged to consider adding another brine injection well and explore other salt removal and remediation alternatives as soon as possible.

Mr. Harris reported that the Council is working closely with Reclamation to prepare a new charter for the Council pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. There are philosophical differences in the perspectives of the state and federal agencies. The charter will facilitate the state and federal agencies to reach agreement on the appropriate level of authority and responsibility in providing meaningful advice to the Secretaries of the federal agencies. The intent is for the Basin states and Reclamation to have the new charter in place before the next Forum and Council meeting in November.

Mr. Harris reported that the Forum and Council elected new officers for the next two-year period. The Forum and Council elected Mr. Dennis Strong of the Utah Division of Water Resources as the new Chairperson and Ms. Perri Benemelis, Arizona Department of

Water Resources, as the Vice-Chairperson. The next meeting of the Forum and Council was scheduled for November 17-19, 2010 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California.

There being no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wright moved the Board meeting be adjourned. Mr. Kitahara seconded the motion, unanimously approved the Board meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m. on June 9, 2010.

/S/ Gerald R. Zimmerman

Gerald R. Zimmerman
Acting Executive Director