

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, September 14, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Vineyard Room, at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, at 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California, Wednesday, September 14, 2011.

Board Members Present

Dana B. Fisher, Jr. Chairman
John V. Foley
W. D. 'Bill' Knutson
James B. McDaniel
Henry Merle Kuiper
John Pierre Menvielle

John Palmer Powell, Jr.
Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members Absent

Terese Maria Ghio

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee
Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott
James H. Bond
John Penn Carter
Dave Fogerson
Leslie M. Gallagher
Andrew Fisher
Ned Foss
William J. Hasencamp
Richard Johnson
Michael L. King
Carrie Oliphant
Dan Parks
Glen Peterson
David R. Pettijohn
Halla Razak
Steven B. Robbins

Tom J. Ryan
John Eldon Seiler
Tina L. Anderholt-Shields
Ed W. Smith
Joseph A. Vanderhorst
Fred A. Worthley
Bill D. Wright

J.C. Jay Chen
Christopher S. Harris
Lindia Y. Liu
Gary E. Tavetian
Mark Van Vlack
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 agenda item.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fisher requested the approval of the July 13th meeting minutes. Mr. Knutson moved the July 13th minutes be approved. Mr. Kuiper seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the July 13th meeting minutes.

Status of Governor's Proposal to Elimination of the Colorado River Board

Chairman Fisher reported that the status of the Governor's Proposal to Eliminate the Colorado River Board will be discussed at the Six Agency Meeting following the Board meeting instead of during the Board meeting.

AGENCY MANAGERS' MEETING

Mr. Harris reported that the Agency Managers have not met since after the last Board meeting, July 13th. The Agency Managers are scheduled to meet with Reclamation immediately following the Six Agency meeting to discuss the QSA.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that from October 1st to September 6th, precipitation was 123 percent of normal, and that there was no measureable snowpack water equivalent. The observed April through July inflow into Lake Powell for Water Year 2011 was 12.9 maf, or 163 percent of normal. The projected 2011 Water Year unregulated inflow into Lake Powell was about 16.9 maf, or about 140 percent of normal.

Mr. Harris reported that as of September 6th, the reservoir storage in Lake Powell was 17.82 million acre-feet (maf), or 73 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,654.8 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 12.78 maf, or 49 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 1,114.0 feet. Total System storage was 38.9 maf, or 65 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, there was 33.7 maf of water in storage, or 56 percent of capacity. Total System storage was over five maf greater than the storage at this time last year.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation's estimated consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada is about 263,000 acre-feet; and for Arizona, the CU is projected to be slightly over its basic entitlement of 2.8 maf (i.e. 2.801 maf); and for California the CU is also projected to be under its apportionment of 4.4 maf (i.e. 4.301 maf). The total projected CU in the Lower Basin is expected to be about 7.365 maf.

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin Storage curve reflected the increase in storage from the current water year runoff.

State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Harris, reported on the storage conditions of the State Water Project (SWP) in California. As of September 1st, storage north of the Delta was about 3.4 maf or 93 percent of capacity. Storage south of the Delta was about 1.5 maf or 81 percent of capacity. Total storage of the SWP was about 4.9 maf, or 89 percent of capacity. Mr. Harris reported that SWP deliveries were 80 percent of the Table A Entitlements.

Ms. Jeanine Jones added that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center is preparing their preliminary prediction of the 2012 water year. They've observed signs in the Pacific Ocean associated with a La Niña condition which indicates a dryer than normal season for southern California. Last year was also thought to be a La Niña condition and hence a dry year, but that of course wasn't the case. However, most blame it on the Arctic Oscillation. Ms. Jones added that the NOAA Climate Prediction Center will make their formal prediction in November.

Mr. Foley, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that, as of September 1st, storage in Diamond Valley Lake was over 775,500 acre-feet, or 96 percent of capacity. The total combined storage of Diamond Valley Lake, Lake Mathews, and Lake Skinner was about 971,800 acre-feet, or 94 percent of capacity. Storage in Lake Mathews was about 158,900 acre-feet, or 87 percent of capacity, and the storage in Lake Skinner was about 37,300 acre-feet, or 85 percent of capacity. Mr. Foley added that the 971,800 acre-feet represents in-region storage, and that MWD has out-of-region storage in Lake Mead, and groundwater basins in the Central Valley, as well as storage in San Luis Reservoir.

Mr. Harris reported that MWD staff sent an additional graph indicating that 2011 deliveries to MWD member agencies was about 893,000 acre-feet as of August 1st, or 75 percent of the ten-year average of 1.2 maf.

Colorado River Operations

2012 Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River System Reservoirs

Mr. Harris reported that the final consultation meeting for the draft 2012 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River System Reservoirs (2012 AOP) was held August 30th in Las Vegas, Nevada. Based on the August 24-Month Study, the Most Probable Inflow into Lake Powell is estimated to be 17.08 maf, or 142 percent of average. Contained in the 2012 AOP is the Secretarial determination that the estimated inflow into Lake Powell is sufficient to warrant utilizing the Upper Elevation Balancing Tier to govern operations at Glen Canyon Dam. The

projected annual releases from Glen Canyon Dam are 13.6 maf. Intentionally Created Surplus Conditions will govern releases for downstream uses in Arizona, California, and Nevada. In addition, Mexico will be able to schedule 1.5 maf for 2012. The Draft 2012 AOP is posted at Reclamation's website: http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/AOP2012/AOP12_draft.pdf

Mr. Knutson, Board Member, asked if Reclamation will be able to divert all of the required equalization releases through the turbines at Glen Canyon Dam. Mr. Zimmerman reported that Reclamation has modified its release schedule, and deferred some maintenance on some of the turbines in an attempt to increase the capacity through the turbines at Glen Canyon Dam. Mr. Zimmerman reported that the August 24-Month Study indicates that Reclamation will not be able to move the amount of water needed to achieve equalization by the end of the calendar year. Mr. Zimmerman reported that a meeting was scheduled for October 5th among the Colorado River Technical Group and Reclamation to discuss this issue.

Flaming Gorge Pipeline Project

Mr. Harris reported that Western Resource Advocates recently released a report on the "Economic and Financial Impacts of the Proposed Flaming Gorge Pipeline" (Report). The Report indicates that preliminary estimates of the costs of the proposed Flaming Gorge Pipeline Project could result in costs of water to end-users that range from two to ten times more expensive than from other similar projects. The costs of this project water could be as high as \$4,700 per acre-foot per year for end-users along Colorado's Front Range. The Executive Summary of the Report and two related news articles were included in the Board folder.

BASIN STATES DISCUSSIONS

Status of Binational Discussions – U.S. and Mexico

Mr. Harris reported that a meeting was held on August 30th among the U.S. representatives to begin formulating the elements of a proposed comprehensive Minute to the 1944 Water Treaty that would address, among other things, the following: 1) creation and delivery of Intentionally Created Mexican Apportionment (ICMA); 2) Conversion of ICMA to Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) for use in the United States; 3) Surplus and Shortage sharing; and 4) Pursuit of new water and environmental projects. Mr. Harris reported that Lower Basin representatives met on September 9th to discuss and attempt to reach agreement on elements in a proposed Binational package.

At 10:30 am Chairman Fisher recessed the Board meeting to Executive Session.

Chairman Fisher reconvened the Board meeting at 11:54 am.

Chairman Fisher announced that during the Executive Session the Board received a detailed briefing from Mr. Zimmerman regarding negotiations with Mexico, the components of the negotiations, referred to as an "exploratory cooperative package".

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Basin States representatives met with Reclamation and the Project Team of the “Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report” (Basin Study), September 8-9 in San Diego, California. Mr. Zimmerman reported that, during the meetings, Reclamation gave a status report of the Basin Study. The Basin Study is slightly behind schedule, but Reclamation is expecting to finish by July 2012, and release the final report of the Basin Study. Mr. Zimmerman reported that the current trends in water demands are being finalized and that there are some inconsistencies in the California data to be modeled and analyzed in the study. Mr. Zimmerman asked the Agencies to forward the reconciled data so that Reclamation can begin to develop scenarios using Reclamation’s demand scenario developer tool. This tool will be sent to the States and each of the Agencies. Mr. Zimmerman reported that the initial draft of the scenarios will be discussed at the next Project Team meeting scheduled on October 13th in Las Vegas, Nevada.

OTHER BUISNESS

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, starting 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. Mr. Menvielle moved that the Board meeting be adjourned. Mr. Knutson seconded the motion, and with unanimous approval, the Board meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m. on September 14, 2011.

Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director