

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, April 10, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Vineyard Room, of the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California, Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Board Members and Alternates Present

Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman
Franz W. De Klotz
James Cleo Hanks
Michael T. Hogan
Henry Merle Kuiper
Glen D. Peterson

David R. Pettijohn
Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members Absent

John V. Foley
Terese Maria Ghio
James B. McDaniel

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott
Autumn Ashurst
James M. Barrett
Brenda Burman
John Penn Carter
J.C. Jay Chen
Dan Denham
Leslie Gallagher
Christopher S. Harris
William J. Hasencamp
Michael Hughes
Lisa Johansen
Lori A. Jones
Thmas E. Levy

Lindia Y. Liu
Doug McPherson
Jan P. Matusak
W.D. Bud Pocklington
Halla Razak
Jack Seiler
Tina L. A. Shields
Ed W. Smith
Gary E. Tavetian
Tanya M. Trujillo
Mark Van Vlack
Michael Yu
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Fisher asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished 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 asked if there was a motion to approve the March 13th minutes. Mr. Kuiper moved the minutes be approved. Seconded by Mr. Pettijohn and unanimously carried, the March 13th meeting minutes were approved.

New Board Member Materials

Ms. Trujillo reported that Board staff had prepared orientation materials information for the new Board members. Ms. Trujillo also introduced Ms. Lori Jones and Ms. Lisa Johansen of the Board office who can answer questions from an administrative perspective.

Ms. Trujillo reported that in addition to the administrative background information contained in the orientation binders, there was also information on the Board's ongoing programs. Ms. Trujillo reported that she received suggestions from Board members that detailed presentations on these programs would be appreciated. Ms. Trujillo reported that these presentations would be included in the agendas of future meetings.

Ms. Trujillo also reported that included in the binders were the last few River Reports by the Water Education Foundation that highlight activities along the Colorado River. The River Reports include reports on the U.S. and Mexico negotiations, the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program, the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and many others. Ms. Trujillo also reported that included in the binders was the current draft of the budget. Finally, there were some discussions regarding the filing of Form 700 and the ethics training.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that precipitation from October 1st to April 1st was 74 percent of average, and the snowpack was about 73 percent of average as of April 1st. The forecasted April through July 2013 unregulated flow into Lake Powell is 3.3 million acre-

feet (maf) or 46 percent of average. The forecasted 2013 water year unregulated flow into Lake Powell is 5.2 maf, or 48 percent of average.

Mr. Harris reported that, as of April 1st, the storage in Lake Powell was 11.65 maf, or 48 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,599.0 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 13.47 maf, or 52 percent of capacity, and water surface elevation was 1,118.6 feet. Total System storage was about 31.87 maf, or 53 percent of capacity. Last year's total System storage was 37.56 maf, or 63 percent of capacity.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation's projected consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada to be under its basic entitlement of 300,000 acre-feet (i.e., 262,000 af), and Arizona CU of Colorado River water to be slightly under its 2.8 maf apportionment (i.e., 2.758 maf), and California CU is projected to be slightly under its 4.4 apportionment (i.e., 4.218 maf). The CU in the Lower Basin is expected to be about 7.238 maf.

State and Local Water Reports

Ms. Jeanine Jones of Department of Water Resources (DWR) reported that it is the precipitation conditions in the State were below normal. This is going to be a dry year and last year was also dry. She explained the State had good storage, which has mitigated the effects of the low precipitation, and low storage in Water Year 2011. Even though that it is hydrologically dry this year, reservoir storage is pretty much either at, or just slightly above, average. The Eight Station Precipitation Index for the Sacramento River system and the Five Station Index for the San Joaquin system, set a record low for this year over the January, February, and March period going back to the 1920's. The snowpack in the Sierra system actually peaked rather early in March. The forecasted runoff throughout the Sierra Nevada is likely to be low since the snowpack is low. The runoffs actually range from a high of 74 percent on the Feather River down to 24 percent on the Tule River in the south end of San Joaquin Valley. Lake Oroville is above average for this time of the year. Lake San Luis water levels are also very low.

Ms. Jones described the Drought Prediction Workshop that DWR and Western States Water Council will hold from April 29th through May 1st in San Diego, California. The purpose of the workshop is to work with the federal science agencies to encourage them to put more resources and effort into developing more effective methods for predicting drought. She encouraged staff to attend.

Board Member Mr. Peterson reported that reservoir storage for the Metropolitan Water District is at 82 percent. The Colorado River Aqueduct is continuing a flow test. Colorado River supply is estimated to be 848,000 acre-feet for 2013. MWD's consumptions this year is below average, but consumption is going up quite a bit because of the dry weather. The February delivery was 195,000 acre-feet, which was 83 percent of the 248,000 acre-feet historically delivered.

Board Member Mr. Pettijohn of LADWP reported that deliveries of water from the LA Aqueduct may be the Lowest in the history of the system due to the dry winter

conditions. There is water going out onto Owens Lake bed and other environmental mitigation projects in Owens Valley. There will be less than 100,000 acre-feet of water coming from the aqueduct this year. The City of Los Angeles will be buying more water from MWD than in a normal year. LADWP anticipates buying an additional 100,000 acre-feet from MWD this coming year.

COLORADO RIVER OPERATIONS

Coachella Valley Water District Names James Barrett as General Manager-Chief Engineer

The Board acknowledged the selection of James Barrett as the new General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Coachella Valley Water District.

Status of the Development of the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan and the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Technical Work Group Meeting on April 3, 2013

The National Park Service and Reclamation have released a draft of the Performance Criteria for Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) EIS. Ms. Trujillo provided an update on this activity. The Basin States have submitted a proposed alternative for operation of Glen Canyon Dam. It provides an adaptive management approach to dam operations, evaluation of impacts of water releases on species and sediment build-up downstream of the dam. The states have appointed a technical committee that works closely with a science team and the Department of the Interior (DOI). This summer Reclamation and the National Park Service, who are the co-leads for the EIS, will hold a workshop to provide more input regarding the development of the alternatives. DOI submitted proposed alternative evaluation criteria and the states are in the process of submitting comments on those criteria.

On April 3, 2013, the Glen Canyon Dam Technical Work Group held a webinar meeting. Several routine technical matters were discussed, including budget proposals and updates from the science panels. The next AMWG meeting was scheduled for May 8 by webinar.

In response to a question from Chairman Fisher, Ms. Trujillo explained that there is an intensely technical dialogue going on regarding the LTEMP EIS. The states are concerned about DOI's proposal to utilize a process called structured decision-making to analyze potential outcomes of various scenarios. It is not clear exactly how that is going to work because the issues involved are complex. For example, there may be competition between world class trout fishery and the long-term survival of the endangered humpback chub. The comments that the states are putting together will try to improve the overall process.

Basin States Discussions

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report Next Steps

The Basin States continue to work with Reclamation and additional stakeholders on the development of a plan for moving forward with the next steps associated with the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study. Workshops were held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on March 25th and in Phoenix, Arizona, on March 26th. A three-hour webinar was conducted on April 3rd by Reclamation staff who gave a more in-depth presentation of the existing elements in the Basin Study. Over 200 people signed on to the webinar. It will be transcribed and posted on their website. There will be work groups associated with municipal and agricultural conservation to document the existing work that has occurred to date and to review additional opportunities for water conservation and savings. The states want to continue to focus on potential augmentation projects. California requested a more in-depth overview of the existing assumptions in the Basin Study relating to agricultural conservation, and Reclamation scheduled a telephone conference/webinar for April 19, 2013.

Minute 319 Updates and Next California Steps

Ms. Trujillo commented that a series of work groups have been set up. She attended a small work group meeting on April 9th in Yuma, Arizona, relating to environmental projects, and the pilot program that is contemplated by Minute 319. There was a tour of some of the proposed restoration sites along the Colorado River in Mexico. One of the main focuses from the U.S. perspective will be to make sure that the delivery plan for the pulse flows and base flows for environmental purposes makes sense to our water managers here in the U.S. In addition, a focus will be on monitoring the sidelines and the parameters of what was agreed to in Minute 319. There have been additional small group meetings related to topics, such as the proposed All-American Canal turn-out that Imperial Irrigation District (IID), has been working on together with Mexico. Mexico is interested in the opportunity to take water from the All-American Canal at a turn-out location close to IID's property.

DWR Board Member, Ms. Jeanine Jones, commented that they have been approached by both the Reclamation and NOAA about expanding the CIMIS program, which is a system that serves up irrigation schedule information in California. The expansion of CIMIS throughout the west, including the other Basin States and/or in Mexico, is in discussion.

In response to a question, Ms. Trujillo explained that the Minute 319 U.S.-Mexico releases for the pulse flows and base flows will be Mexican water acquired and designated for these purposes. There will be a need to establish agreed-upon side boards for the deliveries. Reclamation's Yuma Area Office is involved and they are monitoring to make sure there will be no adverse impacts to users on the U.S. side. The goal is to try to have environmental benefit for the Mexican delta area from the pulse flows and the base flows, but not at the expense of adverse implications on the U.S. side.

Basin States Technical Committee Meeting, April 17, Las Vegas, Nevada

A Basin States Technical Committee meeting will be held on April 17, 2013. Updates will be received from Reclamation associated with current and projected hydrologic conditions in the Colorado River Basin. There will be some state-specific reports, including a California report on the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA).

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013, 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. Upon the motion of Mr. Pettijohn, seconded by Mr. Kuiper, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned 11:00 a.m. on April 10, 2013.

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Tanya M. Trujillo
Executive Director