

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, October 9, 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, October 9, 2013.

Board Members and Alternates Present

Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman

Franz W. De Klotz

James C. Hanks

Michael T. Hogan

Henry Merle Kuiper

Glen D. Peterson

David R. Pettijohn

W.D. "Bud" Pocklington

Jeanine Jones, Designee

Department of Water Resources

Board Members Absent

John V. Foley

James B. McDaniel

Terese M. Ghio

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee

Department of Fish and Wildlife

David Vigil, Designee

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott

John Penn Carter

J.C. Jay Chen

Robert Cheng

Dan Denham

Christopher S. Harris

William J. Hasencamp

Michael Hughes

Lisa Johansen

Eric Katz

Lindia Y. Liu

Jan P. Matusak

Carrie Oliphant

Autumn Plourd

Halla Razak

Tom Ryan

Jack Seiler

Tina L. A. Shields

Ed W. Smith

Joanna Smith

Mark Stuart

Tanya M. Trujillo

Mark Van Vlack

Doug Wilson

Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 August 14 minutes. Mr. Kuiper moved the minutes be approved. Seconded by Ms. Jones and unanimously carried, the August 14 meeting minutes were approved.

Announcement from San Diego County Authority (SDCWA)

General Manager, Ms. Halla Razak, announced she will no longer be at the Board meetings and has accepted a job with the City of San Diego and that Mr. Dan Denham will be providing support of the Board, and director Mr. Doug Wilson will probably be joining the Board in the near future.

Announcement from Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Mr. Abbott announced that the new Assistant General Manager is Mr. Robert Cheng.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that October 1 was the beginning of the new Water-Year 2014. For Water-Year 2013, the year finished below normal at 91% of average. With respect to storage in the two large mainstream reservoirs, Mr. Harris reported that as of October 1, 2013, the water level at Lake Mead was at 1,107 feet with 12.4 million acre-feet (maf) of storage, or 48 % of capacity, while the water level at Lake Powell was at 3,591 feet with 10.9 maf of storage, or 45 % of capacity. Due to recent storms in mid-September, the storage in Lake Powell increased by approximately 150,000 acre-feet since September 1, 2013. Mr. Harris also reported that the total System active storage as of October 1, 2013 was 29.9 maf, or 50 % of capacity, which is 4.1 maf less than one year ago when the System storage was at 57 % of capacity.

Mr. Harris reported that recent storm events in the Upper and Lower Basins have provided benefits to the Colorado River system. During the month of September, the

Upper Basin experienced record-breaking storm events, and although the majority of the precipitation fell outside of the basin, Lake Powell did receive approximately twice as much inflow as it was forecasted to receive. Significant rain events also occurred in the Lower Basin that caused flooding in the Imperial Valley and led to some decreases in water orders for September.

Mr. Harris reported that as of September 30, 2013, the Lower Division states' consumptive use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2013 was forecasted by Reclamation to be 7.32 maf with Arizona using 2.78 maf; California using 4.30 maf; and Nevada using 256,000 acre-feet.

State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Stuart, with DWR's Southern District, provided the Board with a brief report of conditions within California. Mr. Stuart reported that the Los Angeles area would end the water year at about six inches of annual precipitation, or 38% of average, which is well below the 15 inches that region receives on average. He stated that the last five of seven years were below normal. Statewide the conditions during the water-year were approximately 60% of normal, with only the northern Sierra near normal.

Mr. Stuart also reported that the Oroville Reservoir currently contained 1.6 million acre-feet, or 46% of capacity, and down about 340,000 from the same period last year. Mr. Stuart reported that San Luis Reservoir was currently at 26% of capacity, or 280,000 acre-feet. State Water Project deliveries for 2013 were at 35%, and DWR is hoping that the coming water year will be better for the system.

Finally, Ms. Jeanine Jones reported that DWR had co-hosted a drought workshop with the National Water Research Institute in Orange County, California on October 8. During the workshop DWR reported that because of current reservoir conditions in State Water Project reservoirs that the initial State Water Project allocations to contractors would likely be low, but that the allocations could be modified if precipitation conditions through the winter months improve.

COLORADO RIVER OPERATIONS

Final Consultation Meeting Regarding the 2014 Annual Operating Plan

Ms. Trujillo reported that the third and final consultation meeting associated with development of the 2014 Annual Operating Plan (AOP) was held on September 5, 2013. None of the projections changed from prior meetings in terms of which tiers will be governing operations for next year. Based on the August 2013 24-month study, Reclamation will be releasing 7.48 million acre-feet from Lake Powell. The draft anticipates that up to 1.5 million acre feet will be released for delivery to Mexico, but pursuant to the Minute 319 process, allocations to Mexico could be higher or lower a result of Mexican storage in Lake Mead through the international agreements that we have with Mexico.

Ms. Trujillo also reported that the final draft AOP has been sent to Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. and is expected to be finalized no later than December 2013.

BASIN STATES DISCUSSIONS

October 17, 2013 Basin States Technical Work Group Meeting

Ms. Trujillo reported that on October 17, 2013 the Basin States Technical Work Group is scheduled to meet in Las Vegas, but may be canceled if the federal government continues to be shutdown.

Minute 319 Implementation Update

Ms. Trujillo reported that on September 18, 2013, the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) and the Mexican counterpart, CILA, gave a presentation of an overview to the Basin States and interested agency members regarding the status of the Minute 319 implementation.

Ms. Trujillo also reported that the environmental flows work group is working on the development of a flow delivery plan for the pulse flow that would be released potentially next spring and a monitoring plan to monitor the extent of benefits from the high pulse flow release. The requirement in the Minute is to have a recommendation presented to the Commissioners by the end of January 2014.

Status of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

Colorado River Board staff member, Ms. Rashid, reported that the Basin Study workgroups, Municipal and Industrial Conservation (M&I) and Water Use, the Agricultural Conservation and Water Transfers group, and the Environment and Recreational Flow group, have finalized their respective scopes of works and have moved on to their data collection phases. The M&I group has developed a questionnaire, which will be used to gather information on successful and innovative water conservation and efficiency projects. The Agricultural workgroup is engaging in a similar effort of collecting data on agricultural production in the basin, water productivity, conservation and water transfers that have occurred since 1980. The Environmental Flows and Recreation workgroup have drafted selection criteria to select river reaches within the Basin Study Area for additional evaluation. The workgroups are planning to meet again later in October. Ms. Rashid added that the engineering firm, CH2M Hill has been selected to assist with Phase 1 of the workgroup efforts and the anticipated completion date for the Phase 1 summary report for each of the workgroups has been extended to May of 2014.

Ms. Trujillo reported that DOI announced the allocation of \$100,000 for a Tribal Water Supply and Demand Study. The Colorado River Basin Tribes are partnering with DOI on putting together their version of the Basin Study. The DOI is cognizant of the

fact that there is much uncertainty in terms of the quantification of several of the Colorado River Basin Tribes' water rights, including the Navajo water rights in Arizona.

Status of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program and LTEMP EIS Process

Mr. Harris reported that on September 11-12, 2013, a significant summer monsoonal storm event resulted in localized flooding within the Paria River watershed in northern Arizona. He reported that the Paria River inflows into the mainstream Colorado River near Lees Ferry deposited nearly one million metric tons of sediment into the bed of the mainstream. Consequently, based upon the criteria established in the High Flow Experimental (HFE) Release Protocol finalized and implemented in 2012, the Department of the Interior has scheduled an HFE release for mid-November 2013. Because of maintenance issues associated with two of the turbines at Glen Canyon Dam, the maximum magnitude of the HFE release is estimated not to exceed 37,000 cfs, and the duration of the high flow is not expected to exceed 96 hours. Mr. Harris reported that the primary goal of the HFE release is to redistribute the sediment gained from the recent Paria River flood event into backwaters and on to beaches throughout the Grand Canyon.

Mr. Harris also reported that because of the shutdown of much of the federal government, the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program Technical Work Group (TWG) meeting scheduled for October 1, 2013 was cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date. The primary issue to be addressed during the TWG meeting was to be the upcoming HFE release scheduled for later in November.

Finally, Mr. Harris reported that technical representatives of the Basin States would be meeting with the science experts that aided in development of the Basin States' Resource Targeted Condition-Dependent (RTCD) alternative for the LTEMP EIS on October 15-16, 2013, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The group plans to review issues identified following the LTEMP EIS Alternatives workshop that was held in Flagstaff, Arizona in August. Mr. Harris indicated that the science experts will also be assisting the Basin States technical representatives in preparing a more detailed set of comments associated with all of the various models being used to evaluate the alternatives being analyzed in the EIS. He also indicated that the Basin States are still hoping to meet with the EIS Team to discuss the detailed comments submitted by the Basin States in April 2013 regarding the EIS process.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

Colorado River Board staff member, Lindia Liu, updated the Board on the Salinity Control Forum Work Group meeting that was held on September 10, 11 and 12 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Work Group is initiating the 2014 Triennial Review, which is a review of the water quality standards consisting of numeric criteria at stations below Hoover Dam, below Park Dam, and at Imperial Dam, and a Plan of Implementation for salinity for the Colorado River. At the meeting in Salt Lake City, Reclamation ran several scenarios associated with salinity control using the CRSS model and will present

and explain the matrix ran at the upcoming Forum meeting. A draft of the review is expected to be available in the Spring of 2014.

Ms. Liu also reported that there are continuing discussions on the short and long-term solutions associated with the cash-flow issue of the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund and its potential impact on the Salinity Program. The primary issue is that the annual expenditures are currently exceeding annual revenue. One of the short-term options the Work Group will be recommending to the Forum is delaying the repayment to the U.S. Treasury on completed projects. More discussion will occur at the upcoming Forum meetings on Oct 23rd and 24th at the MWD office in Los Angeles. Due to the government shutdown, the Advisory Council meeting is cancelled but the Forum meetings are still on schedule.

USGS updated the Work Group on its effort to map and classify irrigated agricultural lands in the Upper Basin. With the objective of creating a consistent dataset of agricultural lands, such as irrigation status and methods, by using Landsat Imagery and creating layered GIS database, USGS found 1.76 million acres of land classified as agricultural. 60% of that is flood-irrigated, 23% sprinkler-irrigated, and 17% method unknown. For comparison, Reclamation's 2010 Consumptive Use and Losses Report identified 1.677 million acres of agricultural land in the Upper Basin. This dataset will be used to improve the accuracy of the USGS SPARROW Model.

USGS also updated the Work Group on the proposed Pah Tempe Spring experiment scheduled for November and December of this year. The purpose of the experiment is to better quantify the amount and sources of salt-loading entering the Virgin River from the Springs. The Work Group is planning a site visit to Pah Tempe Springs while the experiment is being conducted.

Finally, Ms. Liu reported that as the Board is one of the cooperating agencies for the EIS process on finding alternatives to replace or supplement the existing Paradox Valley Unit Brine Injection Well. Ms. Liu attended a field trip hosted by Reclamation to the Paradox Valley Unit, visiting both the current well as well as potential sites for alternatives. Ms. Liu provided some photographs of the sites visited, including the current injection well, West Paradox Site, East Paradox Site, as well as Danish Flats Evaporation Ponds facility in Cisco, Utah. The group also visited a few other sites and discussed the pros and cons of each site at the cooperating agencies meeting on September 25. Discussions will continue at the next meeting, which is scheduled for October 15.

Salt Cedar Beetle Lawsuit Filed in U.S. District Court

Ms. Trujillo reported that on September 30, 2013 the Center of Biological Diversity and Maricopa Audubon Society filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Las Vegas, Nevada relating to the USDA's release of the non-native Salt Cedar (Tamarisk) Beetle in 2006. The claim in the lawsuit is that the defoliation that has occurred in the Salt Cedar has taken habitat away from the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The

lawsuit seeks additional habitat be allocated to the Flycatcher to make up for the habitat that is removed as a result of the native Salt Cedar (Tamarisk) Beetle. The U.S. has 60 days to respond to the Complaint.

Mr. Harris responded to Mr. Fisher's question regarding information on how far south the beetle has migrated. In the lower Colorado Region, Reclamation has been actively monitoring the beetle from its release in 2005/2006 in the St. George area. It has gone down to Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, i.e. Topock Gorge area. It has already impacted significant stands of Salt Cedar within the MSCP planning area. Birds and Willow Flycatchers that were actively monitored on breeding habitat in the Virgin River and down on Havasu National Wildlife Refuge have not come back this year. The Salt Cedar is about 80 percent defoliated. Typically, the beetle sticks around, eats the Salt Cedar once, and then the next season eats it again. That is what kills the Salt Cedar. There's also a subspecies of the same beetle that's coming across from the Rio Grande Basin. They're probably going to meet along the Yuma area in several years because it's migrating across the southwestern United States.

Mr. Harris answered Mr. Fisher's question regarding the replenishment of the Willows. There will be some regeneration of Salt Cedar. The seeds move down through the river system. The wind and birds move the seeds around. We could get some response of Arrowweed and maybe a bit of Cottonwood Willow where you've got water.

Invasive Species Listings of Quagga Mussels

Ms. Trujillo reported that some of our agencies and organizations had requested additional time to comment to the Fish and Wildlife Service whether they should be allowed to streamline the invasive species designation process. The Quagga Mussels are already in the interstate system. We have diversions off the Colorado River and would not want to have the designation of the Quagga Mussels as an invasive species limit or prohibit existing water diversions. We have worked on some potential legislative and administrative fixes that would exempt our existing water diversions from any implications associated with that determination.

Navajo Litigation Update

Ms. Trujillo reported that on September 9, 2013 the U.S. filed a Motion to Dismiss the Navajo Nation's Amended Complaint. On September 23, 2013, the non-federal intervening parties, including IID, Coachella, and The Metropolitan Water District, filed companion Motions to Dismiss. The Navajo Nation will file responses to all motions in November. The U.S. and all the other parties will file replies in December and then it would be submitted to the Judge for initial determinations beginning 2014. In addition, the State of Colorado and the Hopi Tribe have moved to intervene in the case. The states of Nevada and Arizona are already parties in the case.

Events

Ms. Trujillo reported that on October 22-23, 2013 the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center will host a technical workshop in Salt Lake City, Utah to review the Center's forecasting products. This will be a good opportunity to learn about their forecasting process and also have input with respect to how their process can be made more effective and more user friendly.

OTHER BUSINESS

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 Ms. Jones, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned 10:58 a.m. on October 9, 2013.