

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, January 11, 2017

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

Committee Members and Alternates Present

Brian Brady	David R. Pettijohn, Vice-Chairman
Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman	Jack Seiler
James Hanks	Doug Wilson
Peter Nelson	David Vigil
Glen D. Peterson	

Committee Members and Alternates Absent

Christopher Hayes	John Powell, Jr.
Jeanine Jones	Michael Touhey
Hank Kuiper	

Others Present

Steve Abbott	Kara Mathews
Melissa Baum-Haley	Jan Matusak
Tim Blair	Jessica Neuwerth
Brian Brady	Vic Nguyen
Robert Cheng	Autumn Plourd
Karen Donovan	Angela Rashid
Christian Fieldine	Tom Ryan
Christopher Harris	Jack Seiler
Bill Hasencamp	Tina Shields
Michael Hughes	Gary Tavetian
Ned Hyduke	Alina Tishchenko
Lisa Johansen	Joe Vanderhorst
Tom Levy	Gerald Zimmerman
Lindia Liu	Tanya Trujillo

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Fisher invited anyone in the audience 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.

Consideration and Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to approve the December 14, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Pettijohn moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and by unanimous support, the December 14, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.

Colorado River Basin Water Reports

Ms. Rashid reported that as of December 27, 2016, the water level at Lake Mead was at 1,079.66 feet with 9.98 million acre-feet of storage, or 38% of capacity. The water level at Lake Powell was as 3,601.44 feet with 11.9 million acre-feet of storage, or 49% of capacity. As of December 26, 2016, the total system storage was at 29.45 million acre-feet, or 49% of capacity, and is 240,000 acre-feet lower than where the system storage was at this time last year. Ms. Rashid reported that the observed unregulated inflow for Water Year 2016 was 9.62 million acre-feet, or 89% of normal. As of December 27, 2016, the Water Year 2017 precipitation was 111% on average throughout the Basin and the Upper Basin snowpack was 126% of normal. The projected April through July unregulated inflow for Lake Powell is 91% of average.

Ms. Rashid reported that the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center held a webinar on January 9, 2017 to review the recent water supply conditions and upcoming forecast. During the webinar, the Forecast Center reported that Water Year 2017 started off dry and warm, but that precipitation was above average throughout the Basin, especially in the snow-producing runoff regions. Ms. Rashid also reported that snow conditions in the Upper Colorado were above average. Ms. Rashid stated that as of December 26, 2016, the Upper Colorado River basin reservoirs other than Lake Powell ranged from 60% of capacity at Fontenelle and 84% of capacity at Flaming Gorge in Wyoming, 93% of capacity at Morrow Point, 72% of capacity at Blue Mesa in Colorado and 77% of capacity at Navajo, in New Mexico. As of December 27, 2016, the Water Year 2017 precipitation was 111% of average throughout the Basin and the Upper Basin snowpack was 126% of normal.

Ms. Rashid reported that as of December 29, 2017, Brock and Senator Wash Reservoir captured 148,444 acre-feet and 72,799 acre-feet, respectively. As of December 31, 2016, excess flows to Mexico were 9,221 acre-feet. The Minute 242 Bypass Flows to the Cienega de Santa Clara in 2016 were 97,644 acre-feet. Ms. Rashid noted that the Lower Basin water use accounting will be finalized during Reclamation's Decree Accounting process, which will be finalized in May 2017.

Ms. Rashid reported that Interior Secretary Jewell approved the 2017 Annual Operation Plan (AOP) on December 14, 2016. Ms. Rashid reminded the Board that the AOP describes both the past operations of the Colorado River reservoirs completed for the year as well as projected operations and releases from the reservoir system in 2017. Ms. Rashid reported that the projected release from Lake Powell is 9.0 million acre-feet and there will be no Lower Basin shortages for 2017.

Ms. Rashid reported that the Basin States have been working together to try to organize a Climate Science Symposium to further advance research on climate science in the Basin. On January 4, 2017, the Climate Science Planning Committee held a webinar to discuss research priorities of the symposium. It is anticipated that the Symposium will focus on how climate change may impact short-term and long-term water management issues. The symposium will be scheduled for the spring and be two to three days in length.

Ms. Rashid reported that California is still experiencing drought conditions, with 18% of the State in the Exceptional Drought Category. Ms. Rashid noted that this time last year, 45% of the State was in the Exceptional Drought Category. Ms. Rashid reported that California's recent precipitation was due to a series of atmospheric river storms.

State and Local Reports

Board member Peterson, representing the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, reported that Diamond Valley Lake is 74% of capacity. In addition, he reported that storage in Castaic reservoir has also increased due to the recent precipitation.

Board member Pettijohn reported that this is the wettest period in history for the Los Angeles Aqueduct system, noting that this Water Year could rival the previous greatest Water Year of 1982/1983. Mr. Pettijohn explained that the increased precipitation has increased the water available in the LA aqueduct system and allow Metropolitan Water District more storage opportunities.

Board member Wilson, representing the San Diego County Water Authority, reported that precipitation in San Diego County is 150% to 160% of normal and storage in San Vincente

reservoir has increased. On behalf of Palo Verde Irrigation District, Mr. Hyduke reported that he will provide a full report on the gate-replacement and maintenance at the Palo Verde Diversion Dam during next month's meeting.

Ms. Trujillo reported that Reclamation is the process of finalizing the Decree Accounting for all water uses in the Lower Basin, and that Mr. Harris will begin working with our agencies to review and discuss this process.

Basin States Drought Contingency Planning

Ms. Trujillo reported that there had not been any new developments related to the drought contingency planning (DCP) efforts. She indicated that work does continue within several of the states, including California and Arizona, regarding intrastate agreements. Ms. Trujillo also reported that discussions continue between the Lower Basin States and Upper Basin States regarding comments and concerns expressed by the Upper Basin.

Ms. Trujillo also reported that it is anticipated that drought contingency planning efforts may get back on track, from a California perspective, as more certainty is gained regarding both the Bay-Delta Water Fix and progress on identifying a Salton Sea Management Plan. Ms. Trujillo reiterated that the primary goals of drought contingency planning efforts are to incentivize increased Lake Mead storage and provide management flexibility for operations at lower reservoir elevations going forward.

Status of the implementation of Minute 319 and negotiation of Minute 32x

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Department of the Interior, International Boundary and Water Commission and Basin States had been working very hard to try and finalize Minute 32x prior to the end of the Obama Administration, but that it was increasingly likely that this effort will roll over into the next administration. Ms. Trujillo indicated that it would be difficult for the Basin States, and particularly Arizona and California, to move forward with approving Minute 32x without having the Basin States' DCP plans in place.

Status of Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, Workgroup, and Advisory Council

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Work Group will meet in San Diego from February 7-9, and will continue to work to develop draft of the 2017 Triennial Review, which sets the water quality standards and goals for the Salinity Control Program for the next three years. Reviews of the program areas and on-going USGS-sponsored scientific investigations are expected at this meeting.

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Board Staff Neuwerth reported that the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) EIS was signed by Secretary Jewell on December 15, 2016. The LTEMP will guide hourly, daily, and monthly releases at Glen Canyon Dam for the next 20 years. Ms. Neuwerth noted that the new dam release patterns will be phased in over the next 10 months, with experimental releases beginning as early as WY-2018. Additionally, Ms. Neuwerth reported that the ROD includes a commitment from the Department of the Interior to develop a science plan to guide monitoring of resources that will inform implementation of the LTMEP.

Finally, Ms. Neuwerth noted that the Technical Work Group of the Glen Canyon Dam would hold its Annual Reporting meeting January 24-26, to update stakeholders on the progress of research and monitoring over the past year.

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) will hold its annual Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian meeting January 24-26 in Laughlin, Nevada. Additionally, Ms. Neuwerth noted that work was ongoing to resolve issues with water use at the Program's Palo Verde Ecological Reserve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rashid reported that the Colorado River Traveling Museum Exhibit is a collaborative effort between the Basin States and the Chicago Field Museum, which is leading the design of the exhibit. On January 5, 2017, the Planning Committee held a webinar to discuss the Exhibition Interpretative Plan, which outlines the purpose, the objectives, conceptual plan and includes detailed descriptions of each of the galleries. The proposed budget is \$8 million and two exhibits will be constructed, a 3,500 square feet exhibit, for smaller venues and an 8,000 square feet exhibit for larger venues. It is anticipated that it will take 3 to 5 years to develop funding, design, fabricate and begin touring the exhibit.

Ms. Trujillo reminded Board Members that the next Colorado River Board meeting will be held in Palm Springs in coordination with the Urban Water Institute meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Fisher adjourned the meeting at 11:17 A.M.