

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, September 9, 2020

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held virtually on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, using the Zoom Webinar meeting platform.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

David DeJesus (MWD Alternate)	Glen D. Peterson (MWD)
Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)	David R. Pettijohn (LADWP)
James Hanks (IID)	John Powell, Jr. (CVWD Alternate)
Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)	Jack Seiler (PVID Alternate)
Henry Kuiper (Public Member)	Mark Watton (SDCWA Alternate)
Jim Madaffer (SDCWA)	
Peter Nelson, Chairman (CVWD)	

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

Evelyn Cortez-Davis (LADWP Alternate)	Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)
Norma Sierra Galindo (IID Alternate)	David Vigil (DFW Alternate)

Others Present:

Steven Abbott	Rich Juricich
Brian Alvarez	Larry Lai
Jim Barrett	Laura Lamdin
Bert Bell	Tom Levy
Robert Cheng	Lindia Liu
JR Echard	Henry Martinez
Melissa Baum-Haley	Kara Mathews
Emily Halvorsen	Jessica Neuwerth
John Hamby	Ivory Reyburn
Christopher Harris	Kelly Rodgers
Bill Hasencamp	Shanti Rosset
Lynda Lo-Hill	Tom Ryan
Michael Hughes	Roberta Saligumba
Ned Hyduke	Tina Shields
Lan James	Gary Tavetian
Sarai Jimenez	Jay Weiner
Lisa Johansen	Meena Westford
Lori Jones	Jerry Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nelson 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 Nelson invited members of the audience to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board.

Mr. Harris reported on the letter received from Mr. John Hamby, regarding a concern for the entitlement of a contract water right in the State of Arizona. Mr. Harris stated that the Arizona Department of Water Resources recommended that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation approve a transfer of 1,078 acre-feet (AF) of water to Queen Creek, Arizona. Mr. Kuiper noted that the letter from Mr. Hamby appeared in the Imperial Valley Press as well.

Mr. Hamby addressed the Board regarding his concern of the proposed sale of the Colorado River entitlement in the State of Arizona. Mr. Hamby stated that landowner-initiated water transfers by permanent sale with Section 5 contracts are not in the public interest and carry with them permanently damaging social, cultural, economic, and environmental impacts. Mr. Hamby asked that the Colorado River Board consider and draft a letter of opposition to this transfer.

Hearing no more public comments, Chairman Nelson moved to the next item on the agenda.

ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to approve the August 12, 2020, meeting minutes. Mr. Peterson moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Kuiper. By roll-call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORTS

Colorado River Basin Report

Mr. Juricich reported that as of August 31st, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,599.93 feet with 11.74 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 48% of capacity. The water level at Lake

Mead was 1,084.02 with 10.35 MAF of storage, or 40% of capacity. The total system storage was 29.72 MAF, or 50% of capacity, which is 2.57 MAF less than system storage at this time last year.

Mr. Juricich reported that as of September 1st, the unregulated inflow into Lake Powell for Water Year 2020 was 6.18 MAF, or 57% of normal and the Water Year-2020 forecasted April to July inflow to Lake Powell is 3.76 MAF, or 52% of normal. For Water Year-2020, the observed July inflow to Lake Powell was 0.29 MAF, or 27% of normal and the August to Lake Powell is 0.1 MAF, or 19% of normal. The precipitation to date is 80%.

Mr. Juricich reported that the precipitation conditions in July and August were very dry throughout the Basin. He also noted the Basin received very little of the monsoon activity that is typical for the summer season.

Mr. Juricich reported that the reservoir storage in the Upper Basin is doing well and noted that the Upper Green River Basin had good precipitation conditions this season benefitting the Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Mr. Juricich reported that as of September 3rd, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 101,430 AF and 54,464 AF, respectively. He also reported that the excess deliveries to Mexico through September 3rd, were 49,545 AF. He noted that the excess flows are a remnant of storm activity that occurred earlier this year. Mr. Juricich reported that as of September 1st, the total amount of saline drainage water bypassed to the Cienega de Santa Clara in Mexico was 86,765 AF.

Annual Operating Plan, Final Consultation

Mr. Juricich reported that on September 3rd, the CRB staff participated in the third and final consultation for the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). He reported that the projected WY2021 operational tier for Lake Powell is the Upper Elevation Balancing Tier. He added that with the potential for an adjustment in April 2021, the most probable release from Glen Canyon Dam is 9.0 MAF. The most probable operational tier for Lake Mead is the Normal or ICS Surplus Condition with Lower Basin DCP and Minute 323 water savings contributions.

Mr. Juricich reported that the August-24 Month Study projected the most probable end of Calendar Year (CY) elevation for 2021 and 2022 for Lake Powell is 3,591.60 feet and 3,581.02 feet, respectively. The August 24-Month Study most probable projected end of CY elevations for Lake Mead for 2020 and 2021 are 1,085.28 feet and 1086.90 feet, respectively.

State and Local Report

Ms. Jones, representing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported the 2020 Water Year would be coming to a close at the end of September. She reported that precipitation conditions in Northern California were dry throughout the season, impacting smaller water systems on the North Coast. She reported that precipitation conditions in Southern California fared better due to a couple of late season storms, noting the importance one or two storms could have on the State's average annual precipitation.

Ms. Jones noted that the temperatures during the winter season were warm throughout the State impacting the State's snowpack. Ms. Jones reported that the reservoir system has done well due to the wet precipitation conditions of WY-2019. She added that we will have to wait to see what the next water year will bring, noting that it takes more than one poor water year to have a large impact, especially if reservoir conditions are good.

Mr. Peterson, representing the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported, that MWD's reservoir storage was good, as it approaches the end of the Water Year. He also noted that water consumption and sales have greatly declined, noting that sales in July were 75% of normal. Mr. Peterson reported that during the heat wave in August, MWD was asked to conserve energy and reduce the Colorado Aqueduct to a 3-pump flow to assist with the State's energy-use reduction goals during that period. He added the aqueduct has returned to a 7-pump flow until the end of the year. Ms. Jones added the State Water Project has also had to amend its pumping operations due to the State's energy use issues in the past.

STATUS OF COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAMS

Status of the Salinity Control Program

Mr. Juricich reported that the Work Group is set to meet from September 28th through 30th via webinars. On the status of the Paradox Valley Unit (PVU) EIS, Mr. Juricich reported that the Forum is trying to get clarification from Reclamation on when the final EIS would be released. In terms of the PVU operations, Reclamation is expecting to restart the six-month injection test in November.

Status of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Board Staff Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Adaptive Management Work Group for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) met via webinar on August 19-20. Ms. Neuwerth reported that the group discussed the Triennial Work Plan and Budget for FY2021-2023, which allocates approximately \$11 million per year for restoration, monitoring, and

program administration. Ms. Neuwerth noted that the funding source for the GCDAMP in FY2021 remains uncertain. Although the House had passed legislation directing that the program was to receive funding from power revenues, the measure hadn't yet been taken up by the Senate, and a continuing resolution seems the most likely short-term funding source. Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Technical Work Group would meet October 14-15 via webinar.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that there are several experimental releases from Glen Canyon Dam under consideration in the next year. "Bug flows," or low steady weekend flows, concluded on August 31st after 4 months of implementation. Ms. Neuwerth reported that 2020 is the third consecutive year in which bug flows have been implemented, and scientists reported that a strong data set was collected this year in spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic. Ms. Neuwerth also noted that a fall high-flow experiment (HFE) release may be possible, although tributary sediment was currently far below the levels needed to trigger an HFE. Finally, Ms. Neuwerth reported that the group is considering a new potential experimental flow release, called a "spring disturbance flow," for March 2021, in coordination with planned dam maintenance that will require low flows of 4,000 cfs for about a week. The proposed spring disturbance flow would follow these unusually low flows with several days at maximum power plant capacity, or about 25,000 cfs, and measure the ecological response.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lake Powell Pipeline Project

Chairman Nelson provided some introductory remarks regarding the Lake Powell Pipeline Project. He noted several Basin States Principal's meetings were held over the last few weeks trying to work together with Utah to resolve outstanding issues. Chairman Nelson highlighted the goal of the meetings was to work collaboratively as seven Basin States with the Bureau of Reclamation to reach agreement on all the legal and operational issues.

Mr. Harris provided an overview of the Lake Powell Pipeline Project. He described the project as a proposed 140-mile long pipeline that would deliver, at full build out, about 86,000 acre-feet of water to the St. George area. It would take that water supply from Lake Powell, in the Upper Basin, and transport the water westward across the southern border of Utah and Arizona to Sand Hollow Reservoir, just outside of St. George in the Lower Basin.

Mr. Harris summarized the comment letter provided by the Board on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the project, and the letter provided by six of the Basin States. He described how the six Basin States were not able to reach consensus with the State of Utah to resolve outstanding issues.

Board Member Hanks asked how closing the Navajo Generation Station in Arizona will affect water use in the Upper Basin. Mr. Harris agreed that this is something to watch. He expects that Arizona at some point will look at ways to move their Upper Basin allocation for use in the Lower Basin.

USBR System Conservation Projects

Mr. Juricich reported that USBR hosted a webinar on August 24 to describe preliminary plans for creating the System Conservation water supplies that USBR committed to create under the 2019 DCP. Mr. Juricich reported that the following projects were under consideration: System conservation agreements; Minute 323 obligations; Sanchez-Mejorada forebay canal sediment removal project; and Minute No. 242 wellfield expansion project. Finally, Mr. Juricich noted that a Board workshop for Agency technical staff was held on September 8, 2020, to discuss further options and feedback.

Retirement of LC Regional Director, Mr. Terry Fulp

Mr. Harris reported that the USBR-LC Regional Director, Dr. Terry Fulp, announced his retirement from federal service effective October 24, 2020. Mr. Harris noted that over Dr. Fulp's career, he has been an important part of many significant programs and activities that have been developed and implemented since the early 1990s. Finally, Mr. Harris indicated that Board staff will develop a Resolution acknowledging Dr. Fulp's service and contributions for consideration at the October Board meeting.

Salton Sea Management Program

Mr. Juricich provided an update on the Salton Sea Management Program. On August 31, 2020, the California Natural Resources Agency released the Draft Salton Sea Management Program Phase 1: 10-Year Plan Project Description report. The report identifies habitat restoration and dust suppression projects around the Sea. CNRA is hosting three virtual workshops on September 22, 23, and 24 to solicit input.

Washington, D.C. Updates

Mr. Harris reported that Congress is expected to begin working on COVID-19 relief, hurricane relief, and a continuing resolution to keep the federal government operating. In addition, Mr. Harris reported on the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act. This proposed legislation, introduced by California's Senator Feinstein and Representative Harder, would provide \$15M for continuation of airborne snowpack monitoring program.

Next Scheduled Board Meeting

Finally, Mr. Harris noted that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board would be held on October 14th and would also be held virtually using the Zoom Webinar meeting platform.

Additional Announcements

Board member Peterson, from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, announced that the Board of the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) would be meeting on September 10 to discuss the annual CRWUA conference that usually takes place in Las Vegas, Nevada in December. Mr. Peterson noted that a final decision on the CRWUA conference would be made soon. In response to a question from Ms. Jones, Mr. Peterson noted that the December CRWUA conference was likely to be held virtually this year due to the pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.