

Drought Contingency Planning – Demand Management Subcommittee Southwest Basins Roundtable

Via Zoom Videoconference

April 28, 2020 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Roundtable Members Present:

Ken Beegles, At Large Industrial
John Currier, Colorado River WCD
Ken Curtis, At Large
Becky Williams, Hinsdale County
Celene Hawkins, CWCB Board
Phil Johnson, Montezuma County Municipalities
Frank Kugel, SW Water Conservation District

Ed Millard, Montezuma County
Peter Ortego, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Mike Preston, At Large
Kathy Rall Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Ed Tolen, At Large
Val Valentine, At Large
Mely Whiting, At Large

Other Subcommittee Members Present:

Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering
Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering
Don Schwindt, Dolores Water Conservancy District

Public:

Leland Begay, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Bart Leeftang, Central Utah WCD
Blake Mamich, Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Gigi Richard, Fort Lewis College
Laura Spann, Recorder, SWCD

1. Introductions, Zoom Participation Protocol, and Review Agenda

Carrie Padgett called the meeting to order, explained meeting participation via Zoom, and reviewed the agenda.

2. Define Reporting Roles for IBCC Members

There was substantial discussion regarding the format, content, civility and delivery of reports from IBCC members. There was consensus to table this topic until Al Pfister could be consulted and develop a recommendation for full Roundtable consideration.

3. 2007 Interim Guidelines vs. Long Range Operation Criteria Retrospective

John Currier, River District, presented on modeling related to the following question: how would conditions at Lakes Powell and Mead be different today had operations since 2007 continued under the old Long Range Operating Criteria (LROC) instead of the 2007 Interim Guidelines? The Interim Guidelines were designed in part to more closely tie the elevations and operations of Lakes Powell and Mead. The modeling results showed that Lake Powell would have been approximately 4.2 million acre-feet fuller by December 2016 and 3.5 million acre-feet fuller by December 2019, and Lake Mead an equal amount emptier. He noted, however, that this difference has been credited to the 10-year running average of Upper Basin deliveries to the Lower Basin. In other words, you can either have additional water in storage or as a credit to the Upper Basin's 10-year running average. There was discussion of whether if by passing this additional water to the Lower Basin, we may be fostering Lower Basin overuse, how it may be challenging to release the water for compact compliance if Lake Powell's elevation drops, concerns for Lake Powell's minimum power pool, and the benefits of "Intentionally Created Surplus" in Lake Mead to the Upper Basin.

4. Reclamation's 7.D. Review of the 2007 Interim Guidelines

Carrie Padgett summarized the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's required 7.D. review of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Reclamation hosted two webinars on the review in March, and the presentation is [available on their website](#). Reclamation will conduct a retrospective review of past operations and actions under the 2007 Interim Guidelines only, with a focus on effectiveness in achieving the stated purposes of the Guidelines and adherence to common themes. The 7.D. review will also document Reclamation's operational experience under the 2007 Interim Guidelines. There will be an opportunity to comment on the scope of the review, as well as the preliminary draft report. The comment deadline on the scope of the 7.D. review has been extended beyond May 1st to a date uncertain. The River District and SWCD will be providing comments to the CWCB for incorporation into a comment letter to the Upper Colorado River Commission and then Reclamation. There was a request that SWCD's comments to the CWCB be shared publicly.

5. Next Meeting Dates

Kevin Rein, State Engineer, will present on Colorado River Compact Administration on Wednesday, May 13 from 1-2pm. The next DCP-DM subcommittee meeting will be held prior to the SW Basin Roundtable meeting.