

San Juan Water Commission

7450 East Main Street, Suite B • Farmington • New Mexico • 87402
Ph: 505-564-8969 • Fax: 505-564-3322 • Email: sjwcoffice@sjwc.org

MEMBERS:
City of Aztec
City of Bloomfield
City of Farmington
San Juan County

S.J. County Rural Water Users Association

SAN JUAN WATER COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JUNE 5, 2019

The San Juan Water Commission met in a Regular Meeting pursuant to due notice, Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. in the San Juan Water Commission's conference area in the San Juan Water Commission Office Building, 7450 East Main Street, Farmington, New Mexico.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman J. Burnham called the regular meeting of the San Juan Water Commission (SJWC) to order at 9:00 A.M.

Members Present

City of Aztec

Mark Lewis - Commissioner

City of Bloomfield

Jack Scott - Commissioner

City of Farmington

Jay Burnham - Commissioner

David Sypher - Alternate Commissioner

San Juan County

S.J. Rural Water Users Assoc.

Jim Dunlap - Commissioner

Keith Lee - Alternate Commissioner

Members Absent

City of Aztec

Steve Mueller - Alternate Commissioner

City of Bloomfield

Lynne Raner - Alternate Commissioner

City of Farmington

San Juan County

John T. Beckstead - Commissioner

Margaret McDaniel - Alternate Commissioner

S.J. Rural Water Users Assoc.

Legal Present

Elizabeth Taylor

Staff Present

Aaron Chavez

Shaun Bishop

Jacqueline Allcorn

Jimmy Hodges

Gordon Miller

Visitors:

(3)

In the absence of Chairman J. Beckstead, Vice-Chairman J. Burnham conducted the meeting. There was no voting member for San Juan County.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Paul Montoia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chairman J. Burnham called for approval of the Final Agenda. Motion was made by J. Dunlap and seconded by M. Lewis to approve the Final Agenda as written, and upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously (J. Burnham, J. Dunlap, M. Lewis, J. Scott, all voted yes).

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Vice-Chairman J. Burnham called for approval of the April 2, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Motion was made by J. Scott and seconded by M. Lewis to approve the April 2, 2019 regular meeting minutes, and upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously (J. Burnham, J. Dunlap, M. Lewis, J. Scott, all voted yes).

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

WATER RESOURCES UPDATE

Gordon Miller, GIS Coordinator presented the Water Resources Update via PowerPoint and printed hardcopy. G. Miller gave an update on the Current Stream Conditions - Current Navajo Reservoir Status and Operation - Current Animas-La Plata Project Status – Current Snowpack Conditions and Runoff Forecast, and Current Climate Conditions and Outlook.

G. Miller updated the stream flow data for the month of May at the following Animas River stream flow gauges. In Colorado - Tall Timber was at 77% of average, Durango 87% of average, Durango Pumping Plant 114 % of average. In New Mexico - Cedar Hill 92% of average and Farmington came in at 90% of average.

G. Miller said the current Navajo Dam pool elevation is 6,055 feet, the water content in Navajo Dam is currently at 75% of capacity. G. Miller noted the pool elevation in Navajo Reservoir has risen from 6,024 on April 1, 2019 to 6,055 on June 2, 2019. G. Miller said that the stream flow data for the San Juan River below Navajo Dam at the Archuleta gauge was 25% of average. G. Miller said a maintenance releases from Navajo Reservoir began on June 3, and would ramp up to 5,000 cfs over the next 5 to 7 days, followed by a ramp down from 5,000 cfs to 500 cfs, where flows will remain until further notice. A. Chavez stated that he will have staff forward the Navajo Dam Water Release Updates to the SJWC Commissioners and Alternates.

J. Dunlap commented that current releases from Navajo Dam is in correlation to the San Juan Basin Recovery Program. J. Dunlap asked if there is information available on the web that will provide reports and documentation on the activities and successes of the San Juan Basin Recovery Program. A. Chavez said during the San Juan Basin Recovery Program's annual meeting that he attended on May 15, 2019, updates on the programs activities were provided. A. Chavez said he would like to invite the SJBRIP Director to attend a future SJWC monthly meeting to provide a fish recovery update. Following a brief discussion, A. Chavez was directed to invite the SJBRIP Director to the next scheduled SJWC monthly meeting.

G. Miller continued his presentation on the status of the Animas-Las Plata Project. G. Miller said as of June 2, 2019 Lake Nighthorse contained 113,738 af of active storage and was 99% full. G. Miller said the current preliminary pumping forecast for 2019, after accounting for estimated inflows from Basin Creek, includes an estimated 16 days of pumping in June at a rate of about 65.4 cfs to fill the reservoir. G. Miller said as of June 2, 2019 the Animas Basin snowpack is 1,761 % of median and 104% of median peak, adding, the San Juan Basin snowpack is 745% of median and 107% of median peak.

G. Miller said the sea surface temperature shows a El Niño advisory in effect. G. Miller said El Niño conditions are present, the equatorial sea surface temperatures are above average across most of the Pacific Ocean. G. Miller added El Niño is likely to continue through the summer in the Northern Hemisphere (70% chance and fall (55-60% chance).

G. Miller said the Precipitation and Temperature Outlook for June, July, and August 2019 shows a 10 to 30% above average precipitation forecast. G. Miller said the temperature outlook shows a slightly higher probability of above average temperatures. G. Miller said Precipitation and Temperature Outlook for July, August, and September 2019 shows a shift back to natural conditions for the Southwestern United States. G. Miller said the temperature outlook also shows a higher probability of above average temperatures for September 2019. G. Miller said that according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the San Juan Basin is still experiencing a long-term drought, adding, even with the banner snow year last spring, it's going to take more than one season to pull us out of decades of drought, but it's progress none the less. Vice-Chairman J. Burnham thanked G. Miller for his presentation.

DISCUSSION ON DRAFT SAN JUAN WATER COMMISSION ANIMAS-LA PLATA WATER REQUEST REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE

A. Chavez said due to 2018 being an epic year of drought, and the City of Farmington's request to release water from Lake Nighthorse, staff recognized the need to develop water request requirements and procedures. A. Chavez said SJWC Commissioners' will provide direction on how staff is to manage future requests for water. A. Chavez said Chairman Beckstead has emphasized the need for staff to start working on developing procedures and requirements for requesting Animas-La Plata water, noting, that Vice-Chairman Burnham also requested that staff prepare written procedures for requesting water from Lake Nighthorse.

A. Chavez introduced a PowerPoint presentation on the *Animas-La Plata (A-LP) Water Request Requirements and Procedure*. A. Chavez said the goal of the *ALP Water Request Requirements and Procedure* is to set the methodology and the data requirements, to inform the Commission's staff about the projected use of the ALP water. A. Chavez added that the *ALP Water Request Requirements and Procedure* also sets the methodology for requesting ALP water. The *ALP Water Request Requirements and Procedure* does not seek to re-distribute the allocation made to the entities pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement. A. Chavez said this guidance applies only to the A-LP permits that each individual member entities has, it is the 2883 B Water – Permits 4487 through 4501 which is our 10,400 of depletions. A. Chavez said this guidance does not apply to other acquired water nor does it apply to the 4498 reserve water. E. Taylor added that the San Juan Water Commission is a co-permittee on all of the ALP permits for diversion. E. Taylor said the SJWC member entities are required to report the use of ALP water to the NM State Engineer, and the entities also need to report their usage to the SJWC so staff can relay the usage information to the ALP OM&R Association in Durango, CO. J. Scott asked what was the quantity of ALP water SJWC member entities are using at this time? A. Chavez said the majority of SJWC member entities use about half or a little more than half of their ALP water rights, which is about 3,000 to 4,000 acre-feet per year.

A. Chavez said the SJWC anticipates that member entities may request water using the following three (3) scenarios:

- 1) Request ALP water as part of a member entities annual water budget. The ALP OM&R Association in Colorado requires the SJWC to report projected use of water and the amount an entity actually uses so the ALP OM&R Association can shepherd water to the NM state line.
- 2) Changes in projected needs requiring additional ALP water. As the water year progresses, a member entity may determine that it needs additional ALP water because of changes in the water supply or extraordinary unanticipated demands.
- 3) Specifically ask for ALP water to be released from Lake Nighthorse. In case there is a need for a test release the SJWC Executive Director will provide the necessary information to the ALP OM&R General Manager, who in-turn, will determine if the water will be released from Lake Nighthorse or if the requested water will come from the Animas River. If there is a *pre-planned* release of ALP water from storage, the SJWC requires notification of the request with as much time in advance as possible - and no less than 2-weeks in advance.

A. Chavez said under the *ALP Water Request Requirements and Procedure* – relating to an entities annual water budget - the SJWC member entities must provide estimated monthly demands for the upcoming water year (April 1 – March 31) by December 15. The SJWC member entities must continue to provide monthly water projections on a month-by-month basis. SJWC will report any changes to the annual monthly projections to the ALP OM&R Association. SJWC member entities will also report monthly, the amount of ALP water diverted into their system.

A. Chavez said in requesting additional ALP water during the water year; if water is requested in additional to the annual or monthly projections, the SJWC member entity will provide a volumetric amount of water needed per month. SJWC member entity will request the additional ALP water as soon as possible. If

any information provided as part of the annual water budget is different (point of diversion-storage-etc.), the member entity will alert SJWC staff of the changes. The SJWC staff will work with the ALP OM&R Association to provide the additional ALP water.

A. Chavez said in requesting ALP water specifically from storage in Lake Nighthorse - in this scenario the San Juan Water Commission requires notification of a request for ALP water from storage with as much time in advance as possible. An SJWC member entity must make a written request through its SJWC Commissioner or, if unavailable, through its SJWC Alternate Commissioner. A. Chavez said a sample 'draft' San Juan Water Commission Animas-La Plata Water Release From Storage Form was provided in the meeting packet. A. Chavez provided a brief overview of the form's contents. A. Chavez went over the cost of requesting ALP water. A. Chavez said if the release from storage is requested for testing purposes, the member entity requesting water for test purposes may be responsible to paying the variable OM&R costs, which are the power costs for pumping water back into the reservoir to replace the water released from Lake Nighthorse. A. Chavez said in an emergency situation, 48 hours' notice is required. The Commission may temporarily waive any or all of the above criteria if a member entity is faced with an emergency situation that can be alleviated with water released from storage. A. Chavez said notification to cancel a request for ALP water must be made no later than 2:00 PM, Monday through Thursday, and by 12:00 noon on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

E. Taylor explained the procedures for requesting additional ALP water. If a member entity has diverted all of its permitted ALP water but needs additional ALP water, the additional water shall be requested through the Commission's Water Request Criteria form, which the SJWC approved on June 1, 2016. This additional ALP water may be provided through a temporary allocation from SP-4498 (SJWC Reserved Water). Water will be allocated upon approval of the Commission after reviewing the information provided in the Water Request Criteria form. The criteria in the Water Request Criteria form are intended to provide information for guidelines in reaching a decision. The Commission may decide which of the criteria is more or less important on a case-by-case basis.

Vice-Chairman Burnham asked if there were any questions or comments. D. Sypher said in Category 3 - Specifically asking for ALP water to be released from Lake Nighthorse, he would like to see the terms 'testing purposes' and 'emergency requests' be further defined. A. Chavez said that under Category 3, the last sentence notes that SJWC member entities may request releases from storage for testing purposes, water quality purposes or other purposes deemed appropriate. A. Chavez said the term '*other purposes deemed appropriate*' should cover conditions that may arise. A brief discussion arose on the understanding of the San Juan Water Commission Animas-La Plata Water Release from Storage Form's language. A. Chavez clarified the forms language by noting - a request for water from storage (Lake Nighthorse) from a member entity must be requested through the entity's Commissioner. After the request is reviewed by the SJWC's Executive Director and staff, notification will be given to the ALP OM&R Association's General Manager and the District Office of the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. Staff will notify the SJWC Commissioners of the requested release of water from storage and will present a update to the Commission at the following regular monthly meeting.

J. Dunlap suggested that the Commission itself requests a release from storage as a test (the SJWC would be responsible for the Variable costs associated with the test release). J. Dunlap said the test release would provide a visual display of how the process works. J. Scott agreed with J. Dunlap's remarks and directed a question to A. Chavez regarding the status of the NM State Engineers role in this current process. A. Chavez said staff has requested a meeting with the State Engineer and is awaiting reply. Vice-Chairman Burnham said the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Water Request Requirements and Procedure is well done and he appreciated the way the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Water Request Requirements and Procedure was set out. Vice-Chairman Burnham asked for clarification in the notification policy when requesting a cancellation. Vice-Chairman J. Burnham requested that additional language be added to the requirements to cancel a request. With the suggested change the language would read : Notification to cancel request for ALP water from storage must be made the day before no later than 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and by 12:00 noon on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A. Chavez said he would make the changes to the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Water Request Requirements and Procedure that Vice-Chairman J. Burnham brought forward. A. Chavez requested that comments or concerns be sent to him by July 17, 2019. Staff will incorporate the comments or concerns into the document for review and consideration at a future meeting.

L. Corwin shared a concern of ALP released water reaching its destination during low flow periods in the Animas River. A. Chavez explained the San Juan Water Commission is reaching out to the New Mexico State Engineer to bring him onboard to help assure an entity receives its water.

A. Chavez announced the appointment of John D' Antonio as State Engineer and the Commission responded positively to his appointment. A. Chavez finished his presentation by saying that staff would pursue a "test" release to see what would happen.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS, ALTERNATES, AND STAFF

J. Scott said the La-Plata West Water Authority (LPWWA) is moving forward in providing domestic water to the dry side mesa, noting, they're laying pipe in Breen, CO and are moving toward Red Mesa, CO. J. Scott said the LPWWA is building a water tank above Breen, CO that should provide water to 400 homes.

A. Chavez said staff received notice on May 1, 2019 that Ms. Lynne Raner will no longer represent the City of Bloomfield on the San Juan Water Commissioner as the Alternate Representative. A. Chavez said at this time the City of Bloomfield has not appointed an Alternate Commissioner.

A. Chavez said the next scheduled meeting of the San Juan Water Commission is Wednesday July 3, 2019. A. Chavez said historically the Commission has not held a July meeting, so staff suggests the July meeting be cancelled and the next Commission meeting be scheduled for August 7, 2019. It was the consensus of the Commissioner to cancel the July meeting and hold the next SJWC regular monthly meeting on August 7, 2019.

A. Chavez said on May 20, 2019 the Drought Contingency Plan was signed by all 7 western states and the Department of Interior on the Hoover Dam structure.

P. Montoya said the Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group announced the EPA has signed the Interim Record of Decision for the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site.

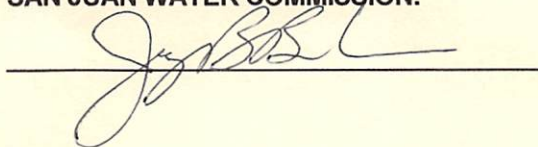
P. Montoya said the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute will be holding their Fourth Annual Conference on June 19-20, 2019 at San Juan College, Henderson Fine Arts Center, Farmington, NM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman J. Burnham adjourned the meeting at 10:15 A.M.

APPROVED THIS 7TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2019

SAN JUAN WATER COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Burnham", is written over a horizontal line.