

District Manager's Report – April 6, 2023

A. Trinidad Reservoir and PRWCD Operations Report

- The total content of Trinidad Reservoir on March 31 was 23,643 acre-feet. A net increase of 569 acre-feet from the end of the previous month. This net increase is due to Non-Irrigation Season storage.
- The Project Account currently contains 5,020 acre-feet. An increase during the preceding month of 432 acre-feet.
- The Model Account currently contains 2,454 acre-feet. An increase during the preceding month of 331 acre-feet.
- The Joint Use Pool currently contains 2,826 acre-feet.
- The Permanent Fishery Pool currently contains 13,342 acre-feet.
- Purgatoire River computed inflows into Trinidad Reservoir averaged 17 cubic feet per second for the month of March. The long term average flows at this gage site for February are 25 cfs.
- March precipitation in Trinidad was 0.30 inches. Average March precipitation is 0.81 inches.
- One stock water release was made during March from the 2nd through the 13th. Water was supplied from both the river and from the reservoir. The Picketwire, Baca and John Flood Ditch diverted stock water. A total of 214 acre-feet was diverted. For this Non-Irrigation Season the total is 490 acre-feet. The new Picketwire/Baca diversion dam appeared to be able to fully sweep the river flows at its location. This is an efficiency improvement for the District.
- The water commissioner also conducted a Trinidad Reservoir release for delayed return flow purposes.
- The Hoehne Ditch began irrigation on April 2nd. Approximately 22 cfs is being diverted with 18 cfs being

provided from Trinidad Reservoir Project Account storage. The Lewelling & McCormick Ditch also began irrigation on April 4th. Approximately 4-5 cfs is being diverted by the Lewelling & McCormick Ditch.

- Opening of the Irrigation Season for the remaining ditches and Hoehne Ditch allocation. The board voted to query the ditch companies on April 17th regarding their preference of when to begin the 2023 Irrigation Season. The board also voted to allocate a volume of water to the Hoehne Ditch storage account equal to the district's remaining contractual obligation to the Hoehne Ditch Company for the remainder of the irrigation season.

B. General Information

The City of Trinidad has agreed to lease 500 acre-feet of fully consumable water to the District in April. A proposed lease was provided to the board for review and a decision. The board voted to approve this lease agreement. The district will complete this lease document, forward appropriate funds to the city and notify the ditch companies of the availability of this water supply.

The District filed its Irrigation Improvement Rules Plan for 2023 with the Division Engineer's Office on March 29th. 26 sprinkler systems are included in this plan. An increase of 2 from last year. 9 sprinklers are under the Model Canal and the remainder under the Enlarged Southside Ditch. A net return flow deficit of 71 acre-feet is projected. Invoices will be forwarded to the sprinkler system owners as per District policy next week.

A new Rubicon headgate has been installed on the Hoehne Ditch. The installation occurred on March 28 & 29th. The installation went generally as planned. This was the last ditch to receive a new headgate this winter joining the Enlarged Southside Ditch and the Model Ditch. This new Hoehne Ditch headgate began operating on April 1st.

The District is still awaiting final approval and contracting for its applied for WaterSmart grant funds for the purchase and installation of the new headgates for the Picketwire and John Flood Ditches.

Colorado Legislative Updates. Three legislative efforts were included in the board's meeting packets last month. House bill 1010 regarding high altitude snow reservoirs failed in committee. House bill 1011 concern agricultural equipment repairs is still proceeding through conference committee. The third effort to provide for stream channel restoration work was introduced yesterday (SB270). This bill would allow stream restoration project work that limited stream surface area increases of up to 8 acres per mile under a presumption of non-injury. The district board voted to forward a letter to its state legislative representatives stating its opposition to this bill.

The District received its annual operations, maintenance, and replacement invoice from the Corps of Engineers on February 1st. Per this invoice this bill is due April 1. This invoice was for \$209,002. For several financial reasons of the District and the ditch companies, the District has requested on February 2nd an extension of the due date from the Bureau of Reclamation of this invoice until August 31st which date has been the due date for this invoice in recent years. The Bureau on March 8th has approved this temporary change for this year. They have also begun work on a contract modification letter to make this change formal for future years.

The District and the City of Trinidad continue discussions on the city's proposed conditional right of exchange from its WWTP upstream to Trinidad Reservoir. The city provided a new proposed decree to the District on March 31st for review. The District will review this draft this month and provide a response to the city. The next status conference is set for April 26th.

The District filed its water court application for reasonable diligence on the remaining conditional portion of the District's

Joint Use Water Storage right in Trinidad Reservoir on January 12, 2023. The case number is 23CW3000. Publication of the application occurred in February. Any statements of opposition were due by March 31. No statements of opposition were filed with the court by this deadline. This District is now awaiting the Division Engineer's Office Consultation Report which will be due by April 30th.

Secretary's Report

The District received its construction loan repayment invoice from the Bureau of Reclamation for 2022. This invoice was for \$20,000. Invoices to the City of Trinidad, Division of Parks & Wildlife and the individual ditches have been sent out by the District. The District will forward payment to the Bureau next week.

District longer term funds are currently in Money Market accounts. Certificate of Deposit rates have increased. District staff will investigate current Certificate of Deposit and Money Market rates to see if greater guaranteed investment yields can be obtained and report back to the board.