

**PURGATOIRE RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
MINUTES, THURSDAY, June 1, 2023**

Board Meeting: Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District monthly meeting was held on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 7:30 P.M. City Hall Chambers, Trinidad, CO.81082

Directors Present:

Tom Verquer, Frank Milinazzo, Joey DeGarbo, David Philpott, Tony Paradisa, Jeremy Yoder, Jarrod Tortorelli, Joe Amato & Daryl Aubuchon

Directors Absent: None

District Staff:

Steve Kastner; General Manager, Connie Mantelli; District Secretary

Guests: Clint Winter (PicketWire Ditch) & Connor Philpott (New John Flood Ditch)

Enterprise Account

Connie Mantelli paid the invoice from the Trinidad Greenhouse for flowers for the family of Thelma Lujan.

The District has received payments from all but 2 ditches for the leased water from the City of Trinidad.

Tom Verquer made a motion to accept the Enterprise report. Joey DeGarbo seconded the motion which was voted upon and passed.

Board Meeting Minutes

Joe DeGarbo made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 2023 meeting. Tom Verquer seconded the motion which was voted upon and passed.

Daryl Aubuchon made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Board Meeting held on May 16, 2023. Tom Verquer seconded the motion which was voted upon and passed.

Frank Milinazzo made a motion to approve the Financial Statements and Cash Disbursements for the May 2023 as printed. Daryl Aubuchon seconded the motion which was voted upon and passed.

Chairman's Report:

Nothing to report at this time.

NRCS:

Sammie Molinaro was not present for the meeting however he did send copies of the Snotel report for May 2023.

District Manager's Report – June 1, 2023

A. Trinidad Reservoir and PRWCD Operations Report

- The total content of Trinidad Reservoir on May 30th was 21,963 acre-feet. A net decrease of 824 acre-feet from the end of the previous month. This net decrease is due to Irrigation Season storage releases, principally from the Model Account.
- The Project Account currently contains 3,878 acre-feet. A decrease during the preceding month of 366 acre-feet.
- The Model Account currently contains 1,572 acre-feet. An increase of during the preceding month of 1,068 acre-feet.
- The Joint Use Pool currently contains 3,350 acre-feet 2,833 acre-feet. A net increase of 517 acre-feet, which increase is principally due to City of Trinidad's storage of its change John Flood Ditch and Model Canal changed water rights.
- The Permanent Fishery Pool currently contains 13,164 acre-feet.
- May precipitation in Trinidad was 1.50 inches. Average April precipitation is 1.48 inches.
- Purgatoire River flows for the month of May averaged 143 cfs at the PURMADCO stream gage. The last 12 days flows have

exceeded 200 cfs with the instantaneous peak being 262 cfs on May 22nd. River flows appear to be beginning a recessionary trend.

- The District remains in Project Administration. All District ditches have received at least some direct flow river waters this month.
- Approximately 25-30 cfs is currently being bypassed through the District to meet the downstream Highland Canal's first two water rights totaling 24 cfs.
- Hoehne Ditch diversions through May total 1,735 acre-feet. The District's remaining obligation to the Hoehne Ditch is 3,237 acre-feet. The Hoehne Ditch's storage account currently contains 3,470-acre feet.
- The 500 acre-feet of fully consumable water the District leased from the City of Trinidad was transferred into the individual District ditch accounts on April 27th and is shown in the provided leased water accounting.

B. City of Trinidad - Case No 21CW3083 Consideration

The District staff and attorney have continued discussions with the City of Trinidad regarding the city's proposed right of exchange from its existing WWTP back upstream to Trinidad Reservoir.

The board was provided with a copy of a draft of a proposed decree which is acceptable to District staff and legal counsel. The city has not yet confirmed its acceptance of this draft.

After discussion the board approved this proposed ruling with authority for staff and legal counsel to make minor changes as may be appropriate.

C. General Items

A Consultation Report was provided to the District from the Division Engineer's Office. This report questioned the ability of the District to perfect the remaining conditional portion of the

Joint Use Pool water storage right. The court ordered a response by the District to the court to this consultation report by June 30th. District staff and legal counsel will provide a response.

The District forwarded it's required Anticipated Acreage Report to the State of Kansas and the Bureau of Reclamation on May 29th. This report is required of the District under the Operating Principles and is due by June 1st of each year. An estimated 12,900 acres are anticipated to be irrigated (including dry up lands) this Irrigation Season.

The Division Engineer's Office has not provided approval of the District's proposed Irrigation Improvement Rules Plan for 2023 yet. This plan was submitted by the District on March 29th.

The District received a notice to proceed from the Colorado Water Conservation Board for its share of the funds to purchase and install new automatic headgates for the John Flood and Picketwire Ditches. The only remaining needed funds are from the Bureau of Reclamation. Approval of these needed funds is anticipated shortly.

Cathy Garcia of Representative Boebert's office informed us that the District proposed legislation regarding O&M costs is drafted and under legislative counsel review to be formally drafted for final text.

Secretary's Report:

Connie Mantelli addressed the board asking their opinion on response times from the ditch presidents in the District. Ms. Mantell reported that since her employment in 2019 several of the ditch presidents had to be called after the deadlines given to get responses on whether they would like to purchase leased water from the City of Trinidad. Connie stated that she would like the board to agree that if these parties did not respond by the deadline that they would not be allowed to buy the leased water. The water would then be divided upon within the ditches that replied to the letters sent by the District office. This would be fair to those parties that did respond in a timely manner. A 30-day notice seems to be an adequate time frame for responses.

Water Commissioner's Report:

No one present.

Corp of Engineers:

No one present.

City of Trinidad:

No one present

Purgatoire Watershed Project

No one present.

Other Business:

Joe Amato made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeremy Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Connie Mantelli, Secretary