

District Manager's Report – January 12, 2023

A. Trinidad Reservoir and PRWCD Operations Report

- The total content of Trinidad Reservoir on December 29th was 20,928 acre-feet. A net increase of 723 acre-feet from the end of the previous month. This net increase is due to Non-Irrigation Season storage and is approximately one half of the storage volume during November.
- The Project Account currently contains 3,148 acre-feet. An increase during December of 423 acre-feet.
- The Model Account currently contains 1,403 acre-feet. An increase during November of 334 acre-feet.
- The Joint Use Pool content on December 29th was 2,941 acre-feet.
- The Permanent Fishery Pool content on December 29th was 13,436 acre-feet.
- Purgatoire River computed inflows into Trinidad Reservoir averaged 18 cubic feet per second for the month of December. The long term average flows at this gage site for December are 24 cfs. Purgatoire River at Madrid stream gage flows were not used due to ice effects on the gage.
- A stock water release was made from Trinidad Reservoir on December 2nd through the 6th. A total of 241 acre-feet was released. Total stock water diversions were 276 acre-feet. Diversions were made by the Baca, Picketwire, El Moro and John Flood Ditches.

B. Arkansas River Compact Administration Annual Meeting

The ARCA Annual Meeting was held in Lamar, Colorado on December 7 & 8. PRWCD was represented by the General Manager and the Office Manager. The PRWCD provided a presentation to the

administration of the water activities and other activities which occurring in the PRWCD during 2022. The PRWCD did request that participation in the Colorado Entities Multi-Purpose storage account be increased to allow for additional entities to participant. Representatives from the Amity Mutual Irrigation Company, Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Geological Survey, City of Trinidad, State of Kansas, Colorado State & Division Engineer's Office, Colorado Water Conservation Board and other entities were in attendance.

C. General Information

The District received confirmation of initial approval from the Bureau of Reclamation for \$62,400 in grant funds to financially help with the purchase and installation of automatic headgates for the Picketwire Ditch and John Flood Ditch. The next step will be to proceed through the contracting process with the BOR. The Colorado Water Conservation Board has additionally approved \$35,000 for this project and the Purgatoire River-Spanish Peaks Conservation District has also pledged \$5,000 in cash funds.

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. A settlement conference was held between the parties on December 19th. Another conference is scheduled for January 24th with a court status conference scheduled for January 25th.

The District will file its water court application for reasonable diligence on the remaining conditional portion of the District's Joint Use Water Storage right in Trinidad Reservoir by the end of this month.

The District, PWP and the NRCS had a meeting on December 13, 2022. The purpose was to discuss with the NRCS the possibility of increasing the number of Snotel Sites in the upper Purgatoire River basin especially in the South Fork basin. NRCS staff in Denver is to review our request.

The Las Animas County Recreation planning committee meeting is January 17th in Trinidad. The District will attend and participate.

The Ditch general manager chaired the January Arkansas Basin Roundtable meeting this week in Pueblo. Current discussions involve \$25 million in the governor's proposed budget for water plan grants and an update presentation on the Arkansas Valley Conduit project.

The Ditch & Reservoir Company Alliance (DARCA) currently has a vacant board of director's seat for the Arkansas Basin. The General Manager was requested to forward this information to any interested the board member.

Bill Tyner and Phil Reynolds retired from the Division Engineer's Office at the end of December. Bill was the Division Engineer and Phil maintained reservoir accounting for Pueblo, John Martin and Trinidad Reservoirs. Rachel Zancanella is the new Division Engineer. Rachel has expressed the desire to tour and learn more about the Purgatoire River and the District.