

District Manager's Report – May 4, 2023

A. Trinidad Reservoir and PRWCD Operations Report

- The total content of Trinidad Reservoir on April 30 was 22,787 acre-feet. A net decrease of 856 acre-feet from the end of the previous month. This net decrease is due to Irrigation Season storage releases.
- The Project Account currently contains 4,244 acre-feet. A decrease during the preceding month of 766 acre-feet.
- The Model Account currently contains 2,640 acre-feet. An increase of during the preceding month of 186 acre-feet.
- The Joint Use Pool currently contains 2,833 acre-feet.
- The Permanent Fishery Pool currently contains 13,205 acre-feet.
- April precipitation in Trinidad was 0.88 inches. Average April precipitation is 1.28 inches.
- By majority opinion of the ditch companies, the District's Irrigation Season began on April 24th. The District began the season in Project Administration given the initial volumes of Project and Model Account waters in the reservoir.
- Most ditches began diversion on this date with a couple not being yet ready. The Corps of Engineers computed inflow for the 24th was 29 cfs. Currently, computed inflow to the reservoir has risen to 52 cfs.
- The Hoehne Ditch diversions from April 1 – 23rd were 983 acre-feet. The Hoehne Ditch's allocation was adjusted -58 acre-feet on the 24th to 4,045 acre-feet which was the remaining Irrigation Season obligation to the Hoehne Ditch. The Hoehne Ditch diverted a total of 1,301 acre-feet in April. The remaining approximate 800 acre-feet of water in the Project Account was allocated to the remaining Project Account ditches.

B. Livestock Water Discussions

Board discussion regarding Non-Irrigation Season livestock water allocations occurred at the board's regular April meeting. The board determined to seek a legal opinion on the general subject of the District's obligations, allotment requirements and allocation procedures for livestock waters. The District's attorney provided opinions on this subject and this information has been provided to the board for further discussion at the May meeting.

Following more discussion, the board appointed a committee to discuss this issue and return recommendations to the board at its regular July meeting.

C. General Items

The District forwarded the Acreage Verification Report to the State of Kansas and the Bureau of Reclamation on April 19th. This report is due February 1st under the Operating Principles but is often delayed due to the availability of federal crop resource information and additionally required field or interview work.

The District leased 500 acre-feet of fully consumable water from the City of Trinidad in April. This water was transferred by the city to the District's "Consumable Account" on April 27th. Request letters were forwarded to the ditch companies. Most ditch companies have replied requesting their proportion of this water. The District will forward invoices for this water based upon the ditch company's requests next week.

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. No approval has yet been forwarded from the Division Engineer's Office to date. This approval process does include a 30 day comment period.

Two of the three Rubicon headgates installed this past Non-Irrigation Season have been working and operating as intended.

The third gate on the Model Canal has not yet functioned. Diversions have been made through the remaining manual headgate at the Model diversions for the Model and John Flood Ditches. Technicians have been called but they have not yet arrived to fix the gate.

The contracting process is underway for the federal WaterSmart and state CWCB funds to purchase two additional Rubicon headgates. This process is expected to be completed within a month or two.

Colorado Legislative Updates. The bill to provide for stream channel restoration work (SB270) which included unaugmented stream depletions of up to 8 acre-feet per restoration stream mile was heavily modified during an April legislative committee meeting. The edited version of this bill no longer includes an allowance for any stream depletions in any stream restoration work absence augmentation of any newly created depletions. Based upon these edits, the District did not forward a letter to its legislative representatives stating opposition to this bill.

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 District provided comments back to the city regarding the city's proposed ruling/decreed dated March 31st. A remote meeting between the city and the District is scheduled for May 16th. Pursuant to the court's case management plan, a new draft decree is due from the city June 9th and the next court status conference is set for June 14th.

District staff attended the Arkansas River Water Forum in Colorado Springs on April 24 & 25. A summary of forum topics and discussions were provided to the board.

