



**Water Rights Committee Report
October 19, 2019
Karl Davis, Committee Chairman
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Charter: To protect the water rights decreed to Big Elk Meadows.

Committee Members: Karl Davis as Chairman, Members as Bob Forsberg, Victoria Darling-Orth, Roy McCutcheon, Bill Tolle, Paul Flanagan, and Alan Hatfield.

Lower Flume and Meadow Lake Meter

The Water Rights Committee would like to thank Glen Christensen and Cathy Faughnan of the Reconstruction Committee for having the Lower Flume built at the outlet structure during the construction of Meadow Dam. Once the Sutron meter is installed, we can accurately measure how much surface and subsurface water BEM adds to the Little Thompson from our collection gallery.

Augmentation Plan

We released another 2.5069 AF at the end of September to meet our Augmentation requirements for this water season. Total requested water release to River Glen was 12.5 AF. Total actual water release for 2019 is 10.8947 AF.

Diligence Meeting

On Friday, October 4th the Long Term Planning and Water Rights Committee's held a joint meeting to discuss BEMA's absolute and conditional water rights and whether to make any changes through the 2022/2023 Diligence Filings. Present were BEMA's water attorney, John Dingess and water engineer, Jared Dains along with Board Directors Bobby Clevenger, Karl Davis and Bob Forsberg.

The main topic of discussion was should BEMA move its conditional water rights for Canyon Lakes upstream into our existing lakes. The process would involve expanding the storage capacity of existing lakes and diverting water from the Little Thompson into the lakes while not exceeding our decreed absolute water rights. Upon completion of these tasks, measurements of positive effects and beneficial uses of the water would need to be recorded. Once BEMA proved the river was not harmed and the changes were beneficial, application to the water courts to change our conditional rights to absolute rights could be filed.

Also discussed and determined in the meeting, BEMA cannot use the rebuilding of our dams as part of the up-and-coming Diligence Filing. Although having made major upgrades to the dams and water delivery system to meet current state standards, BEMA can utilize the improvements toward diligence efforts.