



WATER RIGHTS COMMITTEE BOARD REPORT

Pat Sorenson, Committee Chairman

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Written & submitted by: Pat Sorenson April 6, 2023

BOD meeting time requested – 5 minutes

Charter: To protect our Water Rights, operate our exchanges, and remain in compliance with the State Department of Water Resources

Members: Roy McCutchen, Paul Flanagan, Victoria Darling, Selina Davis, Karl Davis, Bill Tolle, Ray Merry

Support Team: Applegate Group – Jared Dains, HROD – Austin Hamre and Teri Pettitt

Water Commissioner: Jean Lever, Division 1, District 4, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

WATER RIGHTS & OPERATIONS REVIEW FOR MARCH 10 TO MARCH 31, 2023

BEM Lakes (All situated in West Fork of Little Thompson River tributary to Big Thompson-South Platte)

- Sunset Lake (6.7' Full)
 - Continues to overflow into Rainbow
- Rainbow Lake (8.6' Full)
 - Continues to overflow into Willow
- Willow Lake (10.3' Full)
 - Continues to overflow into Mirror
- Mirror Lake (11.0' Full)
 - Continues to overflow into Meadow
- Meadow Lake (12.95' – 1' Below crest – planned release)
 - A controlled release of 0.5 cfs, i.e., 1 acre-foot per day has been underway to prepare for spring run-off and to return water to the stream as required per our decree. The controlled release will continue through April, 2023.

Notes:

- 1) BEM can store up to about 110 acre-ft (AF) of water which is equal to about 36 million gallons (MG)
- 2) Due to our downstream obligations in the prior water year, we stored 82 AF or about 27 MG. At the start of this irrigation year, say as early as April 1, 2023, discussions will continue with our water commissioner on our possible opportunities to store runoff with our priority water and other smaller water rights sources we may have available to us.
- 3) All lake level changes were closely coordinated with Lake Health and Fishing Committee

Recent Activities

- Water Rights valuation
 - A proposal has been received from Wright Water Engineers on our water rights valuation. Another proposal is now being pursued in part due to cost and for a better aligned scope of work for BEM.
- Lower Flume
 - The concrete construction modifications backfill has been partially completed. Our previous committee report anticipated an earlier completion but that has been delayed due to weather, ground conditions and a small delay in contractor remobilization now scheduled for the week of April 10, 2023. Upon completion of backfill nearest the upstream side of the flume, water will be released at a slightly higher than 0.5 cfs to again prepare for spring runoff and continuing to return water per our decree.
- Reporting updates
 - These matters remain as work in progress noting our accounting table is completely updated with our water year forecast going through internal review. Also, our water commissioner has recently approved our request on a record keeping matter that will reduce our release amount for this year allowing for holding onto some storage and further likely resetting precedence for our future.