

**Deer Creek Reservoir/Jordanelle Reservoir Operating Agreement  
& June Sucker Flow Work Group Meeting**

April 17, 2018 – 1 p.m.

Held at Bureau of Reclamation's Provo Area Office  
302 East 1860 South  
Provo, Utah

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

The meeting was called to order by Rick Baxter, Manager, Water, Environmental, and Lands Division of the USBR Provo Area Office.

As per the signed roster, the following were in attendance:

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## 2. Actual and Projected Operations

### a. Deer Creek Reservoir Operations – PRWUA – Presented by Jeff Budge

- See Attachment 1, Provo River Water Users Association Deer Creek/Jordanelle Public Meeting – April 17, 2018 Presented by Jeff Budge
- Historical volume was discussed, through 2017. Trans-basin diversions (155,870 ac-ft).
- Total water delivered through 2017: 60,000+ acre-feet.
- Power generation: 2017 Total Generation 25,258,000 kWh.
- Deer Creek current operations are at 5416.61 as of today (4/17/18).
- Deer Creek Reservoir Current Estimated Breakdown as of April 16, 2018. Total 151,658 acre-feet.
- Discussed delivery projections: Very low runoff projections; 54% allocation currently granted; may revise allocation following board of directors discussions in April board meeting.

### b. Jordanelle Reservoir Operations – CUWCD – Presented by Daryl Devey

- See Attachment 2, Central Utah Water Deer Creek/Jordanelle Public Meeting – April 17, 2018 Presented by Daryl Devey (for Paul Pierpont)
- Daryl discussed Jordanelle Dam/Reservoir. Current conditions (as of 04/17/18): current elevation 6147.11; Content 259037 (83 percent); Release from Unit 2 (145 cfs); 19.29 feet down; Inflow 234 cfs, Natural 157 cfs; As of today (04/17/18), Jordanelle will fill to 93 percent.
- Jordanelle peak dates in 2015, June 18; 2016, June 20, 2016; 2017, June 13, 2017.
- Historical data was discussed Jordanelle filled in 2005 and 2011. Comparison photos were shown. Last year was a tremendous water year; this year, about ½ of normal.
- An End of Month Reservoir status table was shown.
- The Jordanelle Hydro Monthly Power Generation for 2017 was shown. Total Generation Output Gross Energy, MWh: 50,721.67; Total General Output Net Energy, MWh: 48,062.12, for a difference of 2,659.55.
- Jordanelle Reservoir – Olmsted/Alpine System project and non-project water was shown, as well as Strawberry Reservoir statistics.
- Daryl provided updates on the Washington Lake Dam Toe Drain Repair and Replacement Project. The left and right toe drains had collapsed in multiple locations.

The left drain repairs were made in September 2016. The right drain was redesigned and replaced using a heavier wall HDPE slotted pipe and was completed in September 2017. Daryl showed a variety of slides.

- Daryl provided updates on the Olmsted Flowline Replacement & Seismic Retrofit Project.
- Questions from the group:
  - 1) What is the projected inflow into Deer Creek? Approximately 63,000. Deer Creek is now full with CUP and holdover water.
  - 2) How much water was in Washington Lake when the Washington Lake Toe Drain Repair and Replacement Project began? Approx. 270 (dead pool).
- c. Endangered Species Operations – DOI, CUWCD, and PRWUA.
  - Russ Finlay (DOI) stated that DOI followed the high water hydrograph as proposed (2017).
  - Mike Mills (CUWCD/JSRIP) reported that the JSRIP did not provide a proposed flow pattern for the Provo River until June. 2017 was an excellent water year. Flushing flows occurred to clean spawning substrates in the lower river for the first time since 2014.
- d. Instream Flow/Sport Fisheries Issues/Concerns: no comments/questions discussed.

### **3. Data Collection, Water Measurement/Accounting**

- a. Water Accounting/reporting – Scott Bergondorf, Provo River Commissioner.
  - Per Scott, they are working on a model with Jared Manning which will be more transparent, faster, and have a better turnaround time.
  - Scott recently met with the US Weather service. It appears to be the 6<sup>th</sup> worse water year in 87 years. About 40% of average.
  - Question from group:
    - 1) What needs to take place before water delivery for the 2018 irrigation season? Per Scott, many factors come into play, including storage, weather, forecast, etc. All are considered. Due to the current water year, these items are top priority.

### **4. Other Issues**

No comments/questions discussed.

## **June Sucker Flow Work Group Meeting**

### **1. Lower Provo River Flow Recommendations – Team discussion**

- See Attachment 3, June Sucker Flow Workgroup
- Daryl discussed Jordanelle Reservoir Storage, currently 259,276 acre-feet; 54,730 acre-feet from full as of 04/17/18. Deer Creek Reservoir Storage, currently 151,577 acre-feet; 987 acre-feet from full as of 04/17/18.
- Jordanelle Reservoir and Heber Area historic elevation information was presented.
- Daryl discussed Trends, Utah Lake elevation data, monthly precipitation, NRCS, and 2018 proposed/actual flows.
- Historical volume was discussed.
- Upper Lakes Area/SNOTEL information and comparisons discussed.
- Drought monitor conditions throughout the west were shown.
- Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Tables were shown.

Questions/discussion from group:

- 1) Per Ben Anderson, it is not yet up to last year. Will we meet last year's maximum flows?  
Answer: Looks to be similar, although the Utah Lake Basin is at 61 percent as of 4/1/18. Using NRCS and National Weather Service comparisons.
- 2) Melissa Stamp: what are the peak flows expected to be released from Jordanelle?  
Answer: 450-500 max at Jordanelle to meet downstream demands.
- 3) Any space in Deer Creek?  
Answer: Probably, per Jeff Budge. Per Daryl, not releasing any CUP storage water at this time.
- 4) What are conditions that result in loss of carryover?  
Answer: Per Daryl, carryover is only on a "space available" basis. Per Jeff, it is important to remember that there are several levels of water in reservoirs.
- 5) Per Mike Mills, based on a typical dry/wet year, how closely do we want to follow the curve/carryover water? For instance, it is around 235 cfs or so today on the Provo River.

## 2. Hobble Creek Flow Discussion – Team questions and discussion

- See end of Attachment 3 for slides specific to Hobble Creek.
- Mike Mills discussed the Provo River Delta. The EIS is in place. Temps, trade-offs, carryover all considered.
- DOI was asked if Hobble Creek water was available if necessary.  
Answer: Big differences on using, which varies. We have sufficient water in Hobble Creek to make allotment, but variables would be considered.
- Mike discussed challenges in getting Hobble Creek water past the diversions.
- Is there a component for tracking the water? Daryl suggested we are going to try. Irrigators have rights to water on Hobble Creek.
- The projection of the Hobble Creek runoff was discussed. Low elevation site.
- Keith Denos asked if a higher peak in Provo was needed. Mike said probably not this year. Flushing sediments happened last year.
- DOI makes the final call on hydrograph and CUWCD follows accordingly.
- Lake elevation is a major component.

Mike will draft the following proposals/considerations:

- 1) Dry-year curve;
- 2) Carryover up to 4,000 acre-feet water to make trade-offs.
- 3) Discuss with CUWCD to ensure they have the flexibility to meet a pattern that is worth pursuing. There are CUWCD constraints that would have to be considered.
- 4) Use 8500 acre-feet per Russ.

Questions from group:

- 1) How much will Utah Lake drop this year because it is a dry year? More than 2 feet is expected.
- 2) Brent Rhees asked about the status of the June sucker species. Is it going to be down-listed in 2019? Answer: Tentative to prepare proposed rule. The process must go to the Federal Register. Looking at approximately 1 year. People are actively working on. Brent stated that it is good news for the program and a tribute to those who have worked so hard.