



BOARD COMMUNICATION FORM

From: Andy Rossi

Date: 09/19/22

Item: General Manager's Report on UYWCD Water Resources Management Activities: Fall 2022 Edition

DIRECTION
 INFORMATION
 MOTION
 RESOLUTION

I. Request/Issue and Background Information:

General Manager's report summarizing current and ongoing Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District activities.

II. Summary and Alternatives:

With Agricultural/Irrigation storage volumes in Yamcolo and Stillwater Reservoirs almost totally exhausted by August 1, 2022, the irrigation season in the upper Yampa River Valley is starting to fade in the rear-view mirror. The overall basin response to improved hydrologic conditions in 2022 can be characterized as mixed. The Bear River was released from CDWR administration on August 3rd. Late season river flows have diminished significantly with the Elk River being placed under CDWR administration on August 26th and the Little Snake River placed under CDWR administration on September 6th. These river administration dates tell only a part of the story for Yampa River water users in 2022. Some water users experienced near average irrigation water supplies, while others continue to struggle with the challenges of drought conditions.

Presented below is a summary of the water resources management activities the UYWCD has been involved in. Many of the items included in this communication will be discussed during the 09/22/22 meeting and/or future meetings in 2022.

If you have any further questions about any of the items included in this communication please contact Andy Rossi, UYWCD General Manager, for additional details.



UYWCD Water Resources Management Activities: Fall 2022

Storage Release Season Facilities Operations

- Stagecoach Reservoir Operations
 - Stagecoach Reservoir operations were focused on retaining as much storable volume as possible through the entire summer. Stagecoach Reservoir water status is presented as Agenda item 6 a.
 - CWT Releases from Stagecoach Reservoir began in early August and continued into September with significant contribution to Yampa River flows through Steamboat Springs. Approximately 2,500 AF are scheduled to be released from the CWT storage account by mid-September.
- Yamcolo Reservoir Operations
 - Yamcolo Reservoir storage release operations were mostly complete by August 1, 2022. Yamcolo Reservoir water status is presented as Agenda item 6 a.
- A review of the Bear (and possibly Elk) River irrigation patterns is scheduled for the upcoming UYWCD Board of Director's Retreat in October.
- The Bear River Reservoir Company may have a need for partial to full draining of Stillwater Reservoir for facility repairs, depending on construction contractor availability in the Fall of 2022.

Other UYWCD Projects and Basin Water Resources Activities

- Water Supply Infrastructure
 - The first UYWCD sponsored soil moisture sensor station was installed September 12-15th. The first soil moisture monitoring site is in South Routt County between Phippsburg and Stagecoach. The station is scheduled to be commissioned and fully operational by October 2022. The UYWCD will continue support for this program and the NRCS SNOTEL Station soil moisture monitoring in 2023.
 - Overall, the UYWCD facilities performed well after some early season maintenance concerns. The UYWCD facilities staff will begin to focus their attention on capital projects and end of season maintenance.
 - A new CDWR Streamflow Gage (Bear River at Box K Ranch) is operational on the main stem of the Bear River just below the USFS boundary. Transmission of flow data will likely be available in 2023.
 - The UYWCD's Community Grant Funding program is on track to be completely exhausted by September 2022. Updates on the UYWCD Grant programs are presented in Agenda item 7 a.



➤ Water Resource Management and Outreach Efforts

- The inaugural UYWCD Student Water Festival will be held on September 21st, 2022, at the Routt County Fairgrounds in Hayden. There has been great participation from a wide spectrum of the water user community to help put on this event. Holly Kirkpatrick deserves full credit for organizing and putting on such an amazing event on behalf of the Yampa River Basin's students.
- The intervention period for the UYWCD's protest of the partial abandonment of some of the Yamcolo Reservoir water rights has closed. The UYWCD staff and Counsel will take up discussions with the CDWR representatives to resolve this outstanding matter.
- The Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable IWMP Report is complete and was accepted as final by the Roundtable on September 14th. The final IWMP Report can be viewed at this link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aIB9LR77eapab6dUjnc6GFxozyJ3iR_V/view

- The UYWCD General Manger will participate in a Lower Colorado River Basin Tour, organized by the Colorado River District from November 1- 4, 2022. The UYWCD General Manager has tentative plans for additional Colorado River policy efforts in late 2022 and early 2023.
- The UYWCD staff and General Counsel are researching the UYWCD's ability to participate in multiple new water project funding programs on behalf of the UYWCD's constituents. More details on the results of this research will be presented at the upcoming UYWCD BOD retreat on October 19, 2022.