

ArkDSS Memorandum Final

To: Bill Tyner and Kelley Thompson, Colorado Division of Water Resources
From: ParsonsWater Consulting
Subject: Task 2.1 – Water Commissioner Interviews
Notes from Water District 66 Meeting
Date: February 2019

Introduction

This memorandum provides notes from the September 13, 2017 meeting with Water District 66 Water Commissioner. Water District 66 encompasses portions of the upper Cimarron River basin as the river flows through New Mexico and Colorado into Kansas and Oklahoma. The eastern portion of the Water District lies within the Southern High Plains Designated Basin. Meetings were held with Water Commissioners in each Water District in the ArkDSS study area. The objectives of these meetings were to 1) develop an initial basin understanding; 2) determine diversion and reservoir structures that should be included in future detailed modeling efforts, and 3) determine which reservoirs and diversions warrant more detailed investigation and technical documentation. These objectives support Task 3 Consumptive Use Analysis and Task 4 Surface Water Modeling. Information in this memorandum is believed to be accurate; however this information should not be relied upon in any legal proceeding.

Approach

Prior to the meeting, data discrepancies for District 66 were identified using the following procedure outlined in the ArkDSS Scope of Work:

1. Review the availability of diversion, reservoir storage, and streamflow data.
2. Review historical call data and identify how it may vary from current call reporting standards.
3. Identify net absolute water rights for structures in each Water District. Review the irrigated lands master parcel set and ditch service area to identify ditches with water rights and/or diversions records but for which irrigated areas have not been identified.
4. Develop an initial list of key structures and structures with acreage and water rights, but no diversion records to understand areas without records and how to estimate their use.

Maps were developed displaying reservoirs, diversion headgate locations, and irrigated acreage of the Water District to facilitate the discussions.

The interview with the Water Commissioner was intended to determine structures that should be considered key based on seniority, water administration, or basin operations. Because much of the irrigated acreage in the Water District 11 had inaccurate ditch assignments, the interview also served to correct irrigated parcels and ditch assignments required for modeling purposes. Prior to the meeting, a brief description of the purpose and goals of the interview was provided to the Water Commissioner. The following is a summary of the meeting agenda:

1. Review straight-line diagrams for accuracy
2. Develop a list of major projects, reservoirs, and ditches in the water district, including names of knowledgeable contact people
3. Gather information on dry-up points in the river, calling rights, augmentation plans, and administration specific to the water district
4. Gather general information on the preliminary list of irrigation diversions selected to include in future detailed modeling efforts (key structures), and solicit input on their final inclusion
5. Develop information on reservoirs, such as owner entities, ditches that get reservoir deliveries, assigned delivery losses, etc.
6. Correct irrigated acreage information

Meeting Attendance

The meeting was held at the Division of Water Resources Office in Pueblo. The following people attended the meeting:

John Von Oort, DWR Division 2 River Operations Coordinator
Lonnie Spady, DWR, Eastern Region Commissioner and Water District 17 Water Commissioner
Becky Nichols, DWR Water District 66 & 67 Water Commissioner
Kelley Thompson, DWR, Lead Modeler
Bill Tyner, DWR, Assistant Division Engineer
Rick Parsons, ParsonsWater Consulting
Brenna Mefford, Wilson Water Group

Transbasin Diversions

No transmountain diversions are delivered to Water District 66.

Compacts and Agreements Affecting District 66 Administration

No compacts or administration affect District 66 Administration.

Stream Gages

There are no Stream Gages in District 66.

Instream Flow Reaches

There are no instream flow reaches.

General Administration

- Water District 66 covers approximately 2,000 square miles in the southeast portion of the state.
- The eastern half of the Water District is within the Southern High Plains Designated Basin and includes portions of Sand Arroyo Creek and the Cimarron River.
- The designated basin is regulated by the Colorado Ground Water Commission and support by staff at the State Engineer's Office in Denver for Division of Water Resources.
- The western half of the Water District includes the Carrizo Creek drainage with smaller canyons located to the east and the west of Carrizo Creek.
- There are many springs and wells and ponds in the smaller canyons. There are approximately 20 decreed ditches in the Carrizo Creek drainage with about 160 total cfs of adjudicated direct flow water rights.
- There is no administration in the Carrizo Creek drainage. The Water Commissioner does not visit the area.
- Many of the water rights in the basin are not used.
- Diversion records are not maintained for structures on Carrizo Creek although several structures have one or two years of records in HydroBase.

Municipal Use

There is no municipal use in Water District 66.

Reservoir Specific Information

Carrizo Creek Pond 1 and 2 (6603613 and 6603614) are used for fishery, stock, irrigation and fire use. Colorado Parks and Wildlife owns these ponds.