

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL (TWENTY-SECOND) MEETING
OF THE RIO GRANDE COMPACT COMMISSION, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO,
FEBRUARY 23 & 24, 1951

The Rio Grande Compact Commission convened at the Federal Court House at 10:10 A.M., February 23, 1951.

Those present were:

Berkeley Johnson, Chairman of the Commission
O. C. Hezmalhalch, Acting Commissioner for Colorado
John H. Bliss, Commissioner for New Mexico
Louis A. Scott, Commissioner for Texas
John R. Erickson, Engineer Adviser to the Commissioner for New Mexico
Raymond A. Hill, Engineer Adviser to the Commissioner for Texas
E. L. Barrows, U. S. Geological Survey, Acting Secretary
Wallace T. Miller, U. S. Geological Survey

Copies of the agenda had been made available to the Commissioners in advance of the meeting in accordance with agreement reached at the Annual Meeting, February 23, 1950.

Commissioner Bliss moved that the error in the 1946 annual report made in entering the 1945 figure of accrued debit of New Mexico in the schedule of Deliveries by New Mexico at San Marcial be corrected by adding 1500 acre-feet to the accrued debit of New Mexico in the current report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and duly passed.

The Commission took no action on a proposal to request the Federal government to make Rio Grande compact stations all-Federal in operation.

Commissioner Bliss moved that the cooperative agreement with the Geological Survey for the collection, correlation and presentation of factual data pertinent to the administration of this compact be renewed for a period of one year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and duly passed.

In consideration of the fact that the accrued debit of New Mexico at the end of 1950 was greater than that permitted by the compact, and in view of the shortage of water in Project Storage, the New Mexico Commissioner proposed and the Commission concurred that the outlets of El Vado Reservoir shall be kept fully open throughout the 1951 irrigation season.

The Commission discussed the status of water rights in the Bosque del Apache Grant.

The Commission directed the Engineer Advisers to review the records of flow at Index Stations, of deliveries of water and of releases from Project Storage and to compute debits and credits and releases from Project Storage. They were also directed to review and report on certain corrections of past records suggested by the Secretary.

The meeting recessed at 12:15 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 10:25 A.M., February 24, 1951.

The Engineer Advisers reported on the matters referred to them on the morning of February 23rd.

Commissioner Scott moved that the Engineer Advisers corrective computations of the accrued overdraft on Project Storage for the years 1943 to 1949 inclusive be approved and the report adopted and made a part of the minutes of this meeting as Exhibit I. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bliss and duly passed.

Commissioner Scott moved that the report of the Engineer Advisers correcting the accrued credits of Colorado to compensate for evaporation losses be adopted and the report be made a part of the minutes of this meeting as Exhibit II. The motion was seconded by Acting Commissioner Hezmalhalch and duly passed.

Acting Commissioner Hezmalhalch moved that the report of the Engineer Advisers recommending a formula for computing corrections for changes in evaporation losses be adopted, that the provision suggested be incorporated as part of the last paragraph in the Rules and Regulations under the heading "Evaporation Losses", and that the report be made a part of the minutes of this meeting as Exhibit III. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bliss and duly passed.

The Engineer Advisers, having reviewed the computations of deliveries by Colorado and New Mexico and the computations of releases from Project Storage, reported that, as of the end of December 1950, the accrued credit of Colorado was 25,000 acre-feet, the accrued debit of New Mexico was 263,100 acre-feet and the accrued draft on Project Storage was 60,100 acre-feet less than the normal release of 790,000 acre feet. Commissioner Bliss moved that the report be adopted. The motion was seconded by Acting Commissioner Hezmalhalch and duly passed.

Because of the extreme drouth conditions and the critical shortage of usable water in Project Storage, Commissioner Scott requested permission of the Commission to release Colorado credit water from storage for project use. After discussion, Acting Commissioner Hezmalhalch moved that the release of credit water from Project Storage during the year 1951 be authorized, provided that such water is replaced at the first opportunity thereafter, and provided further that, in the application of the provisions of the last paragraph of

Article VI, it shall be assumed that the proportions of credit water and usable water released from time to time are the same as the proportions of credit water and usable water then in Project Storage. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bliss and duly passed.

Commissioner Scott moved that the Cost of Operation for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1950, in the total amount of \$18,663, be approved. The motion was seconded by Acting Commissioner Hezmalhalch and duly passed.

Commissioner Bliss moved that the Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1952, in the total amount of \$18,900 be adopted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and duly passed.

The Commission adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

B. B. Hezmalhalch
Acting Commissioner for Colorado

John H. Bliss
Commissioner for New Mexico

Louis A. Scott
Commissioner for Texas

Berkley Johnson
Chairman

EXHIBIT I

The Engineer Advisers, having reviewed all recomputations of evapo-transpiration losses from Elephant Butte Reservoir Basin, find that the accrued overdraft on Project Storage has been reported erroneously and that the correct values are the following:

Dec. 31, 1943	118,900	acre	feet
1944	185,600	"	"
1945	259,500	"	"
1946	216,900	"	"
1947	139,500	"	"
1948	83,600	"	"
1949	4,100		

It is recommended that this finding be incorporated in the Minutes.

2/23/51

R. A. H.

C. C. H.

J. R. E.

EXHIBIT II

The Engineer Advisers, having reviewed recomputations of net evaporation losses from Elephant Butte Reservoir, find that the deductions made from accrued credits of Colorado to compensate for evaporation losses should have been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Originally Reported</u>	<u>Corrected Value</u>
1945	9,200 acre feet	10,200 acre feet
1946	7,600 " "	8,400 " "
1947	4,900 " "	6,200 " "
1949	17,400 " "	16,800 " "

When such adjustments are made it is found that the accrued credit of Colorado on January 1, 1950, was actually 141,700 acre-feet instead of the value reported to the Governors.

It is recommended that these findings be incorporated in the Minutes.

2/23/51

R. A. H.

C. C. H.

J. R. E.

EXHIBIT III

It is recommended by the Engineer Advisers that the following provision be added to the Rules and Regulations for Administration of Rio Grande Compact at the end of the last paragraph under the heading "Evaporation Losses".

"Subject to review on request of any Commissioner that detailed computations be made, the correction for this change in evaporation losses shall be deemed to be equal to 4.0% of the sum of the accrued departures at the beginning and at the end of each year, and the correction shall be subtractive when the sum of the accrued departures is positive."

2/23/51

R. A. H.

C. C. H.

J. R. E.