

# The Water Supply and Storage Company

(1891 – 2019)



# Dennis Harmon

15 years as General Manager

- \* WSSC
- \* Jackson Ditch Company
- \* The Tunnel Water Company

Member of the “Working Group”

# WSSC Shareholders

- ▶ **Agricultural & Non-Municipal Use**
  - 128 Shareholders
  - 199 Shares (of 600 Issued)
  - 40,000 Acres in Agricultural Production
  
- ▶ **Municipal Use**
  - 10 Shareholders
  - 401 Shares (of 600 Issued)
    - All but 21 Shares in 2018 used for ag. irrigation
    - 289.1075 Shares owned by Thornton
  - 362.17 Shares “converted in water court”

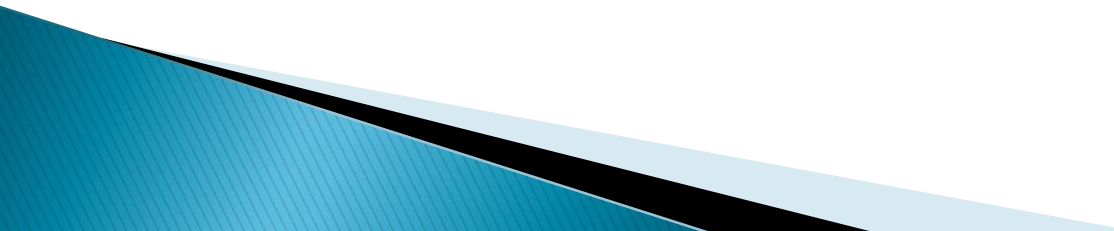
# WSSC System Facilities

- ▶ Larimer County Canal
  - 58 Miles in Length
  - 300 – 400 cfs normal diversion capacity
- ▶ Major Lateral Ditches
  - 36 Miles in Length

## Reservoir Storage Capacities

- ▶ 2 Mountain Reservoirs – 19,700 Acre–Feet
  - Chambers & Long Draw
- ▶ 9 Plains Reservoirs – 27,200 Acre–Feet
  - Res. #3, Res. #4, Kluver, Rocky Ridge
  - Long Pond, Black Hollow, Curtis
  - Richards, Lindenmeier

# WSSC Water Rights

- ▶ Direct flow rights - 1862 to 1914
  - ▶ Storage rights - 1882 to 1982
  - ▶ **Trans-basin rights** - 1882 to 1912
  - ▶ CBT Shares - 1425 units (w/o private holdings)
  - ▶ Jackson Ditch 1861 to 1879
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# WSSC Operations

- ▶ Delivery season – May to mid-September
  - ▶ Avg. water deliveries – 51,896 aft
  - ▶ Typical operations – 4 to 5 delivery days and 2 to 3 system recharge days per week
  - ▶ Delivery days/year – 63.64 (32 yr. avg.)
    - 64 days in 2018
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# History of Diversions

Avg. for 48 years (1970 - 2017)  
(in Acre-Feet)

Cache la Poudre River	20,021
Trans-basin Diversions (never run thru Ft. Collins)	29,575
CBT Units (1425 at 70% quota)	998
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Subtotal	50,594
Jackson Ditch (6.25 of 24 sh. owned, est.)	1,302
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Total	51,896
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**“Big Drift” – Corral Park**

# Existing Agreements with Municipal Shareholders

- ▶ 1982 Fort Collins
- ▶ 1986 Thornton
  - Change of use to municipal/other purposes
  - Limited use of WSSC system and facilities
  - Excess capacity provisions
  - **Local control of Board of Directors (5 of 9)**
- ▶ ELCO, Greeley, No. Weld Cty. Water Dist.
  - (All came later and were tiered off '86 Thornton Agreement)



# Opening Long Draw Road





**Cat D7 on Long Draw Road**

# Benefits to WSSC shareholders of the Res. #4 pipeline location

## Improves utilization of existing reservoir storage

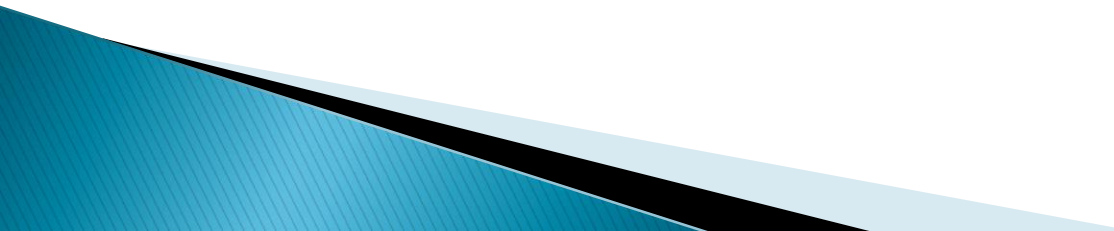
- WSSC may dedicate storage capacity in #3, #4, Kluver and Rocky Ridge Reservoirs primarily to Thornton use, freeing up capacity in other company reservoirs for use by other shareholders.
- Resolves the need for future uncertain, irregular exchanges with other ditch companies for water stored in Reservoirs #3, #4 and Kluver Res. which historically have not always been available.

# Private Property Rights

- ▶ We heard numerous references to “private property rights” mentioned during this process to date....
- ▶ WSSC shareholders rights
  - \* Company history
    - Nearly a century and a half
    - WWI and WWII, Great Depression
    - Personal Loans/investments
  - \* Mutual ditch companies –  
Beautiful to behold  
Share equally in costs and water

# Company Assets / Facilities

WSSC canals, reservoirs and water rights are private property owned by its shareholders

- \* WSSC not the applicant here
  - 5 local shareholders control WSSC Board
  - '86 Agreement and Thornton decree provide for taking of decreed water from Res. #4
  - \* Any other use of the Company's facilities by Thornton must be approved by our local directors
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# In summary:

- ▶ Our local directors view any attempt to amend or modify either:
  - \* 1986 Agreement with the City of Thornton, or
  - \* the Thornton decree
  - as detrimental to their private property interests and WSSC will oppose the same vigorously.

# Canal Maintenance

