

**Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
May 8, 2024**

The monthly meeting of the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at the main meeting room of the district offices located at 548 Front Street in Fairplay. Lisa McVicker, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:07 AM.

The members present in the office was Chris Fuller, Lisa McVicker and Craig Steinmetz. Dan Drucker participated by telephone. Nola Knudsen, Administrator, was present in the office as was Lisa Barden Brown, Operations Manager. David Shohet, legal counsel, was present via teleconference.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chris Fuller moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Craig Steinmetz and carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chris Fuller made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Craig Steinmetz and carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

2.1 Administrator's Report on Accounts: Nola Knudsen reviewed the monthly invoices with the Board. Invoices and checks for the month of May totaled \$22,081.14. Cash assets after payment of the invoices totaled \$2,096,934.99.

2.2 Treasurer's Review:

2.3 Approval of Invoices and Warrants: Chris Fuller made a motion to approve the invoices and warrants as presented. Craig Steinmetz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Snowpack Update:**

- On May 7 th, the Upper South Platte Basin was at 101%, at 11 days past median peak snow water equivalent. The South Platte Basin was at 106% overall. Local SNOTELs: Hoosier Pass 112%, Buckskin Joe: 114% (4 days past peak median), Rough & Tumble:71%, Michigan Creek: 97%. Snow courses: Mosquito Creek: 114%, Horseshoe: 105%, Como: 113%.

**Smelter Pipeline Reservoir (SPR):**

- Following my April 1st visit, I visited two more times to check the condition of the reservoir. On April 22nd, the ice on the reservoir had turned quite slushy and no longer supportable. The ice came off around the 25th, with very warm temperatures for a few days, followed by freezing temps and about a foot of new snow that weekend.
- I visited on April 30 th and obtained a gage reading. The staff gage read 9.60', or 25.40acre feet in storage. Since the beginning of winter when the reservoir first iced

over, the reservoir has gained 1.1 AF from precipitation. Since we are currently under Free River conditions, we will be able to keep the increased amount under our junior water right.

- Despite a number of snow events in April, it was unnecessary to have the access road plowed, due to warmer temps in between storms melting it out.
- Headgate repair:

#### Chatfield Reallocation Project (CRP):

- Accounting through March 31st was received from W.W. Wheeler and has been updated to the DWR system. On March 31st, CCWCD had 140.87 AF in storage. Free River conditions continued through a good portion of March, and our storage has remained near full.
- I attended the CRMC Board meeting on March 24th.

o Storage in the reservoir remains full, but Centennial and Central are planning on making releases during the irrigation season. Despite still being inundated, trees are starting to leaf out. A drone flight was planned for this month to assess tree stress.

o The first draft budget was presented, but won't be finalized until October.

Member shares are still targeted at \$90/share. However, the cost for tree removal is going to be an added cost to the assessment. For instance, if the tree removal costs \$1,000,000, the additional assessment will be \$48.54/share, bringing CCWCD's total rate to \$138.54/share. This would work out to a total assessment of \$19,534.14, instead of the base assessment of \$12,690. I have worked out our costs at \$1.5 million, \$2 million, and \$2.5 million and will provide that to Lynne. They had originally assumed that tree removal operations would only need to be done about every five years.

o On a more positive note, many of the five-year monitoring criteria have been met and will be cleared this year. Also, water quality standards are being met.

#### James Tingle Reservoir (JTR)

- Accounting for April has not yet been sent, but CCWCD's storage is currently around 84 AF.
- CCWCD plans to store around 18 AF of Randall Ditch credits during May, and leave about 9.36 AF of Randall Ditch credits in the stream. We are not planning to take any Sessions Ditch credits due to limited available space.
- David Shohet, Matt Loose, and I had a phone conference to discuss upcoming diligence due to be submitted in June. Matt is looking at the accounting from the timeframe when the rights were made absolute in 17CW3207, to determine what portion of the 392.41AF that was made absolute belongs to CCWCD, and whether we are still responsible for filing for diligence on the remaining 77.59 AF that remains conditional of the total 470AF.
- Centennial has opted to not lease CCWCD's excess water this year. Matt Loose contacted Park County to see if they would be interested in leasing any water this year, and they responded that they are. We need to give them a price. South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB):
- I participated in the SPEB meeting on April 17th. I plan to attend the next meeting on May 15th.

- The 20-year report was finalized and presented to the group. An introductory letter will be written by the new president, Andy Hough, to be sent along with the report to Denver Water.
- The contractors at the Lake George dam removal project will be wrapped up by the end of May- beginning of June. With reservoirs full and a solid snowpack, there is concern about the flow reduction plan in Eleven Mile Canyon. The new plantings will just have to hang on!
- A forest thinning project in Miller Gulch was completed, and stewardship West is moving to the Tarryall for a thinning project near the reservoir.
- I received the annual report and have it available here at the office for any interested parties.

#### **CCWCD Website Issues:**

- Daisy has done extensive research on accessibility compliance and installed a free trial of AccessiBe's widget on our website. She looked into various free options, and found that they mostly offer guidelines on how a webmaster can make a site compliant, but don't actually have supported plug-ins that guarantee WCAG level 2.1 AA compliance. She has sent me a number of supporting documents. AccessiBe's basic plan will make our site compliant, and the cost is lower than she originally thought, at \$490/year. There were concerns expressed about the cost when I sent out a solicitation on whether to proceed with signing up for the annual plan, so I held off until we had a chance to discuss further. Daisy will need to bill us for this, or we can pay monthly at a higher rate of \$49.99/month.

#### **Lost Park Water Rights:**

- I have not heard anything further from anyone from the LPROA. I did not receive a grant application from them.

Michigan Creek Restoration Plan (MCR): No changes since last report.

Bar Star Corporation (BSC): No changes since last report.

Indian Mountain Plan (IMP): No changes since last report.

Guffey-area Augmentation Plan (GAP): No changes since last report.

Division Two Delivery (DTD): No changes since last report.

Currant Creek Two (CCT): No changes since last report.

Kenosha Trout Club (KTC): No changes since last report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

4.1 J. Legg Grant and Project Status: Lisa Brown said they have started construction on the repair work on their dam. Freestone Acquatics was present. She saw the reservoir getting drained and they were getting ready to set the new Agra drain. They have a custom Agra drain that is approximately 20 feet long. They plan to be done in June. The valves did blow out when they opened them up but nothing happened they weren't ready for.

Grant Applications was moved up from 5.1: Lisa Brown said we have received two grant applications. One from CUSP for planning for the removal of the fish ladder in Lake George, just

down from the 11 Mile dam project. The CUSP grant request is for \$10,000. Lisa Brown will send out copies of the applications to the Board members to review and consider for approval at the next meeting.

The Shawnee Water Users Association is applying for a grant for \$1500 to replace the water line from their source to their reservoir and down to the river for their augmentation plan. It is a multi-year project and they will do just one part this year. They have a number of partners for in-kind donations and matching funds. He apologized for the size of the documents he sent.

#### 4.2 548 Front St. Building Updates:

4.2.1 HVAC design progress, progress of new railings: Lisa Brown has not heard from Cesar regarding the railing. In the meantime, the man who provided a proposal prior to Cesar, now has insurance. Craig Steinmetz suggests giving him notification of the need to have the project down.

Craig Steinmetz has collected proposals, worked with HVAC contractors, and electricians. He has partial invoices from a mechanical engineer from 5280. Qaulis Inc. made a site visit to determine what needed to be done with electrical; the payment was approved today as payment.

Craig Steinmetz has sent all the info he has collected to all Board members regarding the project for air exchange air. Sent PDF files for the electrical – has a written bid from Carlos. We will need to vote whether or not to proceed with exchange air. Roger Blank is available to meet with us at the June meeting. Craig said for exchange air, we need to bring it in. The next step would be for Craig would meet with the structural engineer and look at the material used to build the roof. The heaviest piece of equipment is approximately 310 lbs. The snow load is 65 pounds. The budget for this project was distributed. The only pricing he does not have is for drywall and the wood ceilings repairs. The mechanical engineer would join the meeting in June.

#### 4.3 Website Accessibility Compliance:

4.4 Discuss Open House Action Plan: Tabled until June meeting

4.5 2024 Scholarship Award Ceremonies: Nola Knudsen stated both she and Lisa Brown attended the scholarship award ceremony

### **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 Moved above under Old Business

5.2 James Tingle Reservoir Diligence: David Shohet indicated he will need to file an application next month and will cover this in the June meeting.

### **DIRECTOR'S ISSUES**

Lisa McVicker said the Board needs to look into finding new board members. Lisa Brown said the town has removed the parking part of the ordinance. It has been tabled but Lisa Brown will continue to monitor this issue. Chris Fuller advised the Board she needs to leave at 3:00 today.

Chris Fuller moved to adjourn. Craig seconded and the Board adjourned at 2:00 PM.