

**Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 11, 2024**

The monthly meeting of the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District was held on Wednesday, December 11, 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 1:03 PM.

The members present in the office were Lynne Buchanan, Wallie Weld, Lisa McVicker, and Craig Steinmetz. Chris Fuller and Dan Drucker were present by teleconference. 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

Wallie Weld moved to approve the agenda as presented. Lynne Buchanan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chris Fuller noted a change to the minutes. There was a correction regarding a move and second of a motion. Lynne Buchanan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Wallie Weld seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2.1 Administrator's Report on Accounts:

Nola Knudsen reviewed the December check register with the Board. Invoices for the month of December totaled \$13,680.89. Cash assets remaining after payment of December invoices is \$2,335,960.06.

Nola advised the Board of the new Serve Line Protection insurance that is suggested by the Town of Fairplay that covers repairs for leaks or broken lines where the piping comes into the building. The added monthly cost will be approximately \$13.00 per month added to our monthly water and sewer bill. The Board agreed to accept the insurance.

Carol, with Qualis is going to do the grounding when Pasterkamp installs the natural gas next week. There will be an additional amount that will be required. He will text Craig Steinmetz, hopefully by the end of the meeting. Lisa Brown said she is holding a check for \$6100 for Qualis when he finishes. He plans to be in the office on December 13th.

2.2 Treasurer's Review:

Lynne Buchanan said rent from the dental office and Knudsen Counseling for \$2,000 and interest of \$0.98 was deposited into the High Country Bank Account. Property taxes that were deposited into Colotrust totaled \$21,081.79. Interest received in the Colotrust account was \$9,620.87.

2.2.1 Discussion and approval of 2025 budget:

Lynne Buchanan said the budget was sent out to the Board for review as well as all the documents to be executed. Lynne made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Wallie Weld seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Craig Steinmetz asked where the funds for the air exchange system was placed. Lynne responded under capital expenses. Nola Knudsen said the state sent out a new form to be completed called the Mill Levy Public Information Form. It asked about prior year rates, growth etc. It was sent to David Shohet in case he felt it was something he should respond to and it was sent to Craig Erickson. Craig Erickson has completed this form for another Park County District and is familiar with the requirements. The Board agreed that Craig Erickson would be the appropriate person to complete the form.

Nola Knudsen advised the board the checks sent in November have not yet arrived at the bank. She suggested two possibilities for the problem. First, Fairplay's main postal office man has been on vacation and second, High Country Bank has undergone numerous administrative changes. Nola is working with Robin, the accounts receivable person at High Country Bank and will get checks reissued.

2.3 Approval of invoices and warrants: Wallie moved to approve all invoices and warrants as presented. Craig Steinmetz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Nola Knudsen asked the Board if they would want to raise rents for the new year. It was written into contracts to possibly raise the rent 3%. The Board will wait and discuss this with David Shohet.

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

Smelter Pipeline Reservoir (SPR):

- I visited the SPR on Nov. 30th for a staff gage reading. The gage read 8.01' for 20.44 AF in storage. I also made a couple visits during the month to make sure the culvert near CR 12 was clear, and to check when the reservoir iced over, which occurred around Nov. 10th. We received about 3' of snow in November, which likely accounts for the increased reservoir volume.

- The design of the headgate replacement was finalized with a few updates and stamped for construction. A rough cost estimate was just received from Wheeler, based on recent similar projects. Their estimate is \$75,000, excluding permits.

- The annual accounting was completed and reviewed by Wheeler and has been submitted to DWR along with the Adventure Placer 2 report. Going forward with the new accounting, I will be submitting accounting monthly to DWR during ice free months.

Additional information: Lisa Brown said she did get some sample RFPs from Chris Fuller and she will start writing one after seeking advice and guidance from David Shohet and Chris Fuller. She would like to get that posted as soon as possible to be ready to start work this summer.

Chatfield Reallocation Project (CRP):

- Accounting through October 31st was received in November from Wheeler, and CCWCD had 132.81 AF in storage on October 31st.

- There is no CRMC meeting in November. The next meeting is next Thursday, December 19th, and I will attend virtually. Charly Hoehn did send out some updates regarding the progress of the tree removal.

- o Nearly 700 trees have been cut and stockpiled so far in one of the identified areas.

- o Favorable reservoir conditions enabled cutting of nearly all marked trees from North Boat Ramp to just north of Deer Creek.
 - o The helicopter and associated equipment are scheduled to arrive on December 12th.
 - o The helicopter will operate during daylight hours from December 12th-21st. Daily metrics will be tracked to inform whether and in what capacity the helicopter will be brought back in January.
 - o A tour to observe helicopter operations will be available prior to the Dec. 19th meeting, or at another time if previously arranged.
- Matt Loose provided me with some updates from the OAC meeting held on December 4th:
 - o DWR anticipates that the call will go to the early 1900's in January.
 - o The snowpack is off to a great start, with over 130 percent of average in the Upper South Platte Basin.
 - o Denver Water will be reducing deliveries from Strontia Springs Reservoir to Chatfield and will not be using its Chatfield pumps this winter.
 - o DWR is prompting accounting changes regarding exchanges involving Chatfield. They hope that these changes will improve management of the administrative account. The changes may require advance notice of operations from participants.
 - o Matt reported he anticipated CCWCD's storage to remain stable through the winter. The Operations Advisory Committee (OAC) will meet again in January.

James Tingle Reservoir (JTR)

- Accounting for October was received on Nov. 13, right after the CCWCD meeting. As of October 31st, CCWCD had 80.44 AF in storage. November accounting has not yet been received.

Additional Information: Just prior to this meeting, Lisa Brown received the accounting report for November. CCWCD had 75.88 acre feet in storage and 3.60 acre feet was released as requested in November.

- About 1 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits will be released in December.
- I am still awaiting an updated bid for the increased concrete depth required for the raptor towers. I did hear from the contractor, and he was waiting on a quote from the equipment rental company for the additional heavy equipment needed. Once he gets that, he will send a new bid for the project.

South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB):

- I attended the SPEB meeting on November 20th.
 - o Continuing the discussion of the future of SPEB, the Forest Service commented that they believe some of the ORV's in the SPEB segments are declining. More discussion to follow. The USFS mentioned that the public should expect to see more prescribed burns, in an effort to mitigate wildfires.
 - o Aurora gave a presentation about Wild Horse Reservoir, which will hold about 90,000 acre-feet. They are still in design phase. The NEPA EIS study will take about two years, once started. Construction is expected to take about 5 years.
 - o I had some SPEB materials printed to distribute at the South Platte Forum.

o The next meeting will be on January 15th, which I plan to attend virtually.

South Platte Forum:

- There were numerous panel discussions and individual speakers throughout the day. Topics ranging from managing resources in growing Front Range towns and cities, to the original inhabitants of the area, the Cheyenne and Arapahoe, to restoration following floods, using technology to address agricultural challenges, and a discussion of water quality issues.
- I had a table set up with information about our grant and scholarship programs to distribute, as well as our informational rack cards and HASP pamphlets.

CCWCD Website Issues:

- I have sent Daisy a number of updated documents which she will add to the site. She has designed a new “Announcements” page that will be added to the menu. The Announcements will include links to the Grant Program and Scholarship Program. It is also a place where we can add other events as they come up, such as the proposed water law class and the open house.
- The site is functioning well overall.

Additional Information: Lisa McVicker asked what new technologies are being used to address agricultural challenges. Lisa Barden Brown said the use of lasers to pinpoint things and to pinpoint amounts of water needed in certain areas. They also talked about flood restoration and sediment controls. Wallie Weld said what was frequently talked about was a gentleman who said he could tell the temperature of the sugar beets in the middle of the pile. Lisa Brown said, yes with the new sensor technology. Wallie said this is an economic scenario. Last year, there was a discussion regarding the Nebraska compact. This was not discussed much.

Lisa said the event was very well attended. We had a table and there was a lot of information about the Scholarship, Grant, and SPEB programs. Lisa Brown will provide Nola Knudsen with the scholarship information to disseminate to the schools.

Web-site: Lisa Brown sent Daisy Design updated documents for the Scholarship and Grant program for 2025. She has designed a new Announcements page. On the home page, on the menu at the top, a tab will be added for announcements. When you click on announcements, it will take you to the Grant and Scholarship announcements with accompanying links. The same dates were used on the Scholarship announcement; due March 31st and students will be notified by their school on awards night. The selected recipients of scholarships will be required to attend a board meeting on June 11th. After discussion, dates for the grants were changed to the following to allow for more time to plan and schedule projects. For the grant announcement, the deadline to submit proposals is March 31, 2025 and the grant window is open January 15, 2025 to March 31, 2025. Eligible applicants may be invited for a project presentation at the April 14, 2025 board meeting. Final decisions will be provided no later than May 14th and award and contract completed no later than May 31, 2025.

The grant announcement and application will be on the web-site. We can also do a quarter page advertisement in the paper in both January and February. Lisa Brown asked about the Ute Country News. Chris Fuller said the deadline for the January issue is next Monday. Shot for February for that newspaper.

Daisy Design asked if the 2024 meeting schedule should remain on the web-site. The Board said no, just the 2025 scheduled meetings.

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

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.

OLD BUSINESS

4.1 548 Front Street Building Updates: Lisa Brown said construction is progressing. Cassettes have been installed in Nola's and the Dentists area. They are working on final connections in the Upper South Platte and CCW areas. There is work going on the roof and the electrical contractor will be back this Friday to finish some work he could not complete the past weekend; he needed parts unavailable locally. Christian, from Pasterkamp, has been in contact with Carlos and Alex, the framer, to coordinate on finish work. A few items will need to be addressed such as finish carpentry items and re-doing lights. Some acoustical panels were damaged and will need to be replaced. Pasterkamp is hoping to be done the end of next week. They are planning to run the gas line Monday and Tuesday and call in an inspection at the end of the week. Craig Steinmetz will help put together a punch list with Lisa Brown.

Lisa Brown will call Ace Hardware about picking up unused materials.

4.2 Discuss J. Legg and Shawnee grant reports: Lisa Brown received a report from Shawnee. Mr. Tolpo was very thorough. The Legg report needs additional information. Chris Fuller will follow-up with Mr. Legg. Lisa Brown said she expects to hear from Shawnee again during the next grant cycle as they try to complete their project of lining the pipeline all the way to the river. Lisa Brown also heard from Twelve Mile Ranch who needs help with work on one of their headgates in a wet land area.

NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Compensation and donation for construction-caused interference with 548 Front Street businesses: Lisa McVicker said the Board should discuss the displacement and income loss resulting from the construction. Lynne thinks the Board should waive at least one month rent. Craig Steinmetz thinks we should start at the beginning of construction to date whether it is a month or a month and a couple weeks. Lisa McVicker suggested discussing with Lisa Brown a start of the construction and figuring the loss as we go forward. Lynne Buchanan made a motion to reimburse Adam Fyler for the money he spent to the church and for a \$500 donation to South Park Christian Chapel for them opening their space for services with clients displaced due to construction interference and also to compensate Nola Knudsen her rent for the month of January and any part of February as may be needed such that she would not be required to pay rent in the month of January and a diminution of the rent in February. Wallie Weld seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Nola Knudsen will talk with Adam Fyler about the amount of lost income during construction in order to compensate his financial loss.

UPDATE ON LEGAL ISSUES

David Shoheit said there are no real pending litigation deadlines. In process of applicants providing engineering and decrees and as opposers, providing comments back.

Case 24CW3092 Application of CCWCD and Centennial Water and Sanitation District (Co-Applicant). David said this was an application jointly with Centennial regarding diligence for the remaining conditional water right for the JTR. A final decree was entered in this case on November 25, 2024 awarding CCWCD another 6 years to complete the remaining conditional appropriation for the JTR. There is a question as to what portion is remaining to make absolute. There was never a clear agreement as to how we would divide the absolute portion between Centennial and Center. David said he has been trying to schedule with them for about six months to see if we could come to agreement as to who owns what. That might guide us as to what we will do the next diligence period. We could continue seeking and maintain the conditional water right, we try to make some of it absolute or we abandon the remaining conditional portion. David said he is hoping at the beginning of the new year, we can get Centennial's focus on this and figure out who owns what.

David Shoheit said Lisa McVicker and Chris Fuller's terms expire in May. Lynne Buchanan was just reappointed until 2028. Craig Steinmetz and Wallie Weld's terms expire in 2026. Nola Knudsen will publish a Notice of Vacancy. Once that is published, parties will submit letters of interest. David Shoheit will send them to the Court asking for them to be approved. If there is

David Shoheit said Lisa Barden Brown and Nola Knudsen are on one-year employment contracts. The lease contracts include an option of a 3% increase. Chris Fuller suggests not increasing any of the rents. Nola will advise the other renters there will be no increase in rents. David said Nola has two contracts for regular administrative matters and for property management work. Lisa McVicker said Nola and Lisa Brown should look at the contracts and get back with David Shoheit before the January meeting.

Craig Steinmetz said there are people the Board will have to rely upon to set this place back up and construction. Nola Knudsen said it would be good to find a cleaner to come in and do a thorough clean of the building. Craig Steinmetz we could get the carpet cleaners back if needed.

6.1 Adjourn to Executive Session: Not required

6.2 Reconvene as Public Meeting: N/A

6.3 Act on Executive Session Matters: N/A

PATRONS COMMENTS

None

DIRECTORS ISSUES

Lisa McVicker said she will join the January meeting by teleconference. She will be at a conference in New York City.

Chris Fuller said thanks to whoever typed the directory. Lynne Buchanan said happy holidays to all. Lisa Brown told the Board she is leaving town over the holidays to go to Kentucky. Wallie Weld is leaving to see in-laws in Palm Springs. Dan Drucker sent seasons greetings to all.

Wallie Weld made a motion to adjourn. Lynne Buchanan seconded and the board adjourned at 2:25PM