

**Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**February 12, 2025**

The monthly meeting of the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 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 member present in the office was Chris Fuller. Lisa McVicker, Craig Steinmetz, Wallie Weld and Lynne Buchanan were available by teleconference. Lisa Barden Brown, Operations Manager, and David Shohet, legal counsel, were present via teleconference.

Nola Knudsen, Administrator, was present in the office.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chris Fuller moved to approve the agenda as amended. Wallie Weld seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Wallie Weld made a motion to approve the Board's January minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Chris Fuller and carried unanimously.

**REMEMBRANCE OF BRIGGS CUNNINGHAM AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HIS SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT**

2.1 Moment of silence. The Board of Directors has decided to add an in Memoriam site on the CCWCD website to recognize the service of Board members that have passed. Nola will inquire with Brigg's family about where to make donations in his name.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

3.1 Administrator's Report on Accounts: Nola Knudsen reviewed the February check register with the Board. Invoices for February totaled \$19,736.51. Cash assets remaining after payment of February invoices is \$2,356,828.87. Lisa Brown had an invoice form Ute Country News that she forwarded to Nola this morning in the amount of \$250.35. The Board approved the addition of this invoice to the approved February checks.

3.2 Treasurer's Report: Lynne Buchanan reported the deposit detail as of this month. \$567.76 for reimbursement for a legal case from Centennial, interest of \$0.52 in the checking account, and February rent and various utilities in the amount of \$24,651.51. We also received \$17,323.23 from Highlands Ranch (formerly Centennial) in water lease revenue. Lynne Buchanan said the interest on the Colotrust account is \$8,953.71. The property taxes received were \$11,123.54.

3.3 Approval of Invoices and Warrants: Wallie Weld moved to approve the invoices and warrants as presented. The motion was seconded by Chris Fuller and carried unanimously.

## **OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT**

Lisa Barden Brown

### **Smelter Pipeline Reservoir (SPR):**

- I visited the SPR on Jan 30th for a staff gage reading. The gage read 8.01 for 20.44 AF in storage. I visited one other time during January.
- I have updated the accounting through January.
- I am just finishing up the RFP for the headgate replacement and will send it to David Shoheit and Chris Fuller for their review and input.

### **Chatfield Reallocation Project (CRP):**

- Accounting through December 31<sup>st</sup> was received in January from Wheeler, and CCWCD had 131.62 AF in storage on December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- There was no CRMC meeting in January. However, Charly Hoehn provided some updates on tree removal. The helicopter work has been exceeding the projected productivity rate, and over 2,500 trees have been cut and removed as of the January 24<sup>th</sup> update. It is expected that more trees will be able to be removed than originally planned.
- The next CRMC meeting will be held virtually on February 26<sup>th</sup>, which I plan on attending.
- The OAC met at the end of January, but I have not received any updates as winter operations remain quiet.

Additional Information: Lisa Brown said after writing her report, she received an update there have been 3,850 trees have been removed. It is expected more trees will be removed than originally planned, however, it is well under their budget for what they expected.

### **James Tingle Reservoir (JTR)**

- Accounting for December was received in January. On December 31<sup>st</sup>, CCWCD had 73.34 AF in storage.
- 1 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits was released in January and about 1 AF will again be released in February.
- Schnabel Engineering has been engaged for continuing monitoring at JTR.
- This year's amount for Centennial's leased water is \$17,323.23, and payment was received a few days ago.

### **South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB):**

- The SPEB meeting was held virtually on January 15<sup>th</sup>, which I attended.

- I informed the SPEB members about CCWCD's grant opportunity and sent information to interested members.
- The new target shooting regulations that SPEB supported have been adopted by the Forest Service.
- No new temporary special use permits will be issued by the USFS this year, due to funding shortfalls.

### **Snowpack Report:**

- On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the Upper South Platte River Basin snowpack was at 95% of median. The South Platte Basin as a whole was at 99%.
- The local SNOTELs were as follows: Hoosier Pass: 98%, Buckskin Joe: 87%, Rough & Tumble: 113%, and Michigan Creek: 85%.
- The first Westwide Snow Survey for the year took place at the end of January. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, Mosquito Creek was at 108%, and Horseshoe Mountain was at 113%.

### **CCWCD Website Issues:**

- I mentioned the idea of adding an "In Memoriam" page to the website to Daisy, and she can easily do that. In the meantime, we should update Briggs' biography to acknowledge his passing.

Additional Information: Lisa Brown spoke with Dan Drucker who indicated he would be willing to write up some information regarding Briggs Cunningham.

### **Grant & Scholarship Announcements:**

- Advertisements have been placed in both the Flume and the Ute Country News.
- I have not received any applications yet.

Additional Information: Lisa Brown and David Shohet had a conference call with Representatives from Aurora, Dawn Jewell and Aly Scott, their legal counsel, to discuss the water law class. They had some good ideas about talking about the spirit of cooperation between the municipalities and the Center. Dawn Jewell said she would be happy to participate on a panel discussion.

David Shohet said he and Lisa Brown had a nice conversation with Aly Scott and Dawn Jewel. David is happy to lecture for an hour and a half but thought having a panel discussion with some other parties would make it more interesting. David and Lisa reached out to Aurora thinking they would be a good participant because they are very active with things going on with the Upper Basin such as Wild Horse. Dawn mentioned the theme of this could be some sort of cooperation. We could have someone on the panel to speak about recreation and environmental, and someone from agriculture. Lisa McVicker thinks a variety of interests on a panel makes more sense. She knows from teaching classes every day that there is a limited amount of attention span for participants. For March, Lisa said it would be a good idea to have an agenda presentation. Lisa thinks two and a half hours is too long and suggest a panel of an hour and then questions and answers and then possibly mingle together with snack items. Lisa suggested since we have all the handouts, maybe ten minutes to say here are these resources for you with a great explanation about what it means prior appropriation, and why there's limits on your water, and why we have augmentation water and in Colorado Water

Law you will find case studies including the important case out of South Park, Sportsmen Ranch.

Chris Fuller said the introduction will need to be more than 10 minutes. Chris suggests start with the introduction, present the panel for an hour, then take a break, then do Q&A and food. David Shohet said a panel discussion he could do of the legal side, then someone like Garver Brown for the administration side and then the user side such as Aurora or someone else. Lisa Brown and David will work on it the next 30 days and have something more viable to present to the Board next month. Craig Steinmetz said people like Trout Unlimited or the National Forest Service, are tied to precipitation and could provide a wild fire component. Lisa McVicker agrees that should be touched upon. Lisa also suggested information on the Row Vs Wade case regarding navigable river that deals with trespassing, property rights and public access people might be interested in as well as exempt wells.

Lynne Buchanan said as an annual event, next year there could be something around wildfires or another issue considering the time limits. Lynne said there could be a questionnaire at the end to let us know what they would be interested in next. Craig asked if this could be adapted to our web-site. This will be discussed in March.

David Shohet said Aly was very nice and offered to sponsor and fund this. David said we didn't need her to do that. She was appreciative of the District doing this and really wanted to be involved. She also offered Spanish citizen guides.

**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**

5.1 548 Front St. Building Updates: Craig Steinmetz said we received a copy of the final inspection that passed. We can take the permit down. Craig sent everyone a copy of the final inspection. Pasterkamp is very happy and we will have the final checks in the mail. Nola Knudsen said the Dental office had a part broken off their pano machine and is looking for a part to replace it. The machine is an older model and it may take some time to locate a part. The office provided the times of use that will help determine which contractor may be responsible for the damage. Craig Steinmetz said we should pay for the part, then look at who might be responsible later.

5.2 Discussion of water law class for Park County citizens: Discussed in Grant and Scholarship item above.

5.3 Discuss attendance at Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: Chris Fuller will be unable to attend those dates. Lisa McVicker and Craig Steinmetz would like to go on Wednesday. Lisa

Brown and Lynne Buchanan will attend both days. The Marriott Courtyard is the recommended lodging for the forum.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 Discuss and vote on proposed CUSP membership fee schedule: Lynne Buchanan said she has received a letter from CUSP that is proposing rate increases for 2025. In 2024, we paid \$3,000 for our membership dues. CUSP is proposing raising the fee up \$250 this year and also next year. Lynne made a motion to approve an increase the dues for 2025 to \$3,250 and for 2026 to \$3,500. Craig Steinmetz seconded. Chris Fuller recused herself. The remaining members voted to approve the motion.

Lisa McVicker said one thing that will be discussed in the joint meeting is where HASP is right now and what would be a productive agenda for thinking about the future. Lisa thinks as a district we should also consider future ideas over the course of the next few months. Our real focus is water storage which we seem to be okay with. For March, David Shohet could do a snapshot of where we are terms of our search for new water rights, use of Chatfield water for exchanges. There is a new traunch coming on with Indian Mountain. Lisa said in terms of our resources that are plentiful right now and what would be the best way to use constituent's money as we go forward. David Shohet said one of the things that will be talked about at the joint meetings is he is proposing long range water supply planning project for HASP. The first phase is going to be identification of what we have or who the clients are. The second phase is what are the problems or pitch points in the system, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase will be the creative phase. The 4<sup>th</sup> phase will be recommendations. We have done this at the HASP level but have not done this at the Center level. David said he could work with Lisa Brown to plan the same. David thinks there are opportunities. The Upper South Platte has been active on their end without Center; they came up with Rosalie and they bought some G3T water. Lisa and David can get active as well. Lisa McVicker mentioned the pipeline and that there is always Division 2. Lisa McVicker thinks beating the bushes is an appropriate metaphor.

Dan Drucker joined at 1:42. He suggested getting photographs of the Board members that have passed away. Lisa McVicker suggested a recognition page for those that have been in service to the district. We will talk further in March about these ideas.

## **UPDATE ON LEGAL ISSUES**

Legal issues will be addressed in the Joint meeting

## **PATRON'S COMMENTS**

None

## **DIRECTOR'S ISUES**

None

Chris Fuller made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Wallie Weld and the Board adjourned at 1:47PM.

