

**Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 8, 2025**

The monthly meeting of the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District was held on Wednesday, January 8, 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 1:05 PM.

The members present in the office were Chris Fuller and Lynne Buchanan. Lisa McVicker, Craig Steinmetz, and Wallie Weld were available by teleconference. Nola Knudsen, Administrator, was present in the office as was Lisa Barden Brown, Operations Manager. David Shoheit, legal counsel, was present via teleconference.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Lisa Brown asked to change the approval of Executive Positions to be under Administrative Matters rather than New Business. She also asked to add under New Business, the discussion of sponsorship of the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum. Nola Knudsen asked to add discussion of optional software for teleconferencing under New Business. Lynne Buchanan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Chris Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Wallie Weld made a motion to approve the Board's December minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Lynne Buchanan and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

All board members were asked if they wished to retain their current position on the Board of Directors. Lynne Buchanan will remain as Treasurer; Chris Fuller will remain as Secretary. Craig Steinmetz wished to become a Director-at-large and nominated Wallie Weld to assume the Vice-Chair position. Wallie Weld agreed. Lisa McVicker will continue as Chair of the Board. Chris Fuller moved to approve the executive positions as discussed. Craig Steinmetz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2.1 Administrator's Report on Accounts: Nola Knudsen reviewed the January check register with the Board. Invoices for January totaled \$37,978.81. Cash assets remaining after payment of December invoices is \$2,325,898.12.

2.2 Treasurer's Report: Lynne Buchanan said we have not received the bank statement from High Country Bank yet so we don't know what little interest we have from there yet. The interest on the Colotrue account is \$9,353.58. The property taxes received were \$5,982.96.

Lynne Buchanan said we received January rent from the Dental office, and reimbursement from Highlands Ranch in the amount of \$85.85 for cost reimbursement for 24CW3092. We received \$902.84 for the utilities payment from Nola. Lynne said a part of that was due to the substantial increase in propane because of the construction. Lynne asked the Board if they would consider reducing or omitting charges for propane during the construction phase. Lisa McVicker thinks

CCWCD should pay the propane charges for November and December during that time. Lynne confirmed the board would not charge the tenants for propane during those months. She estimated the costs for propane would have been between \$1500 to \$1900.

Hoelting Engagement Letter: Lynne moved to accept the engagement letter from Hoelting and Company and approve use of them as an auditor for the 2024 financials. Chris Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed not increasing any tenant rent prices in 2025.

Chris Fuller moved to approve the invoices and warrants as presented. Lynne Buchanan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

STATE OF THE DISTRICT REPORT

Lisa McVicker reviewed her written State of the District report with the Board.

Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
State of the District—January 8, 2025

The Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District (CCWCD) worked diligently throughout 2024 to fulfill its mission to “Preserve, Protect and Defend the Water Resources of Park County.”

Following is a summary of some of the highlights accomplished by the District in 2024. Many thanks to the Board of Directors, the Operations Manager, Lisa Barden Brown, District Counsel, David Shohet, and our Administrator and Property Manager, Nola Knudsen, for their focus and guidance in fulfilling our mission to our constituents. Thanks to Lisa Barden Brown and David Shohet in preparing the following summary.

Operation achievements (many thanks to our Operations Manager, Lisa Barden Brown for her effective work and representation for the district):

- The Division of Water Resources (DWR) required the implementation of new detailed accounting for the Smelter Pipeline Reservoir (SPR). Lisa Barden Brown worked with Wheeler & Associates (engineers) to create and implement the new accounting that reflects the detail now required by DWR. This allows better tracking of all the water rights that can be stored in the SPR.
- Damage to the old headgate at the SPR required that CCWCD install a new headgate. Wheeler and Associates designed a new headgate. CCWCD will accept proposals through the Spring and will hire a contractor to replace the headgate in the summer of 2025. The SPR road was damaged by high water in the late spring and early summer and has been repaired; an additional relief culvert has been installed.
- CCWCD continued to update the office building at 548 Front Street. After the work in 2024, an air exchange, heating and cooling system has been installed throughout the building. The building was converted to natural gas in January 2025, representing a significant savings over propane. Also, additional railings were made and installed to

make the entrance ramp ADA compliant. This last step of the ramp project enabled CCWCD to receive a PIIP (Property Improvement Incentive Program) grant from the Town of Fairplay of \$5390.

- Four scholarships were awarded to Park County high school graduates. The scholarship program will continue in 2025.
- CCWCD awarded Jim Legg of Winding River Ranch a grant in 2023 for him to rehabilitate the outlet works of one of the reservoirs on the Ranch. The work was completed in 2024. Two new grants were awarded in 2024: one to Shawnee Water Providers Association and the other to C.U.S.P. Shawnee Water Providers installed piping in their augmentation ditch to prevent evaporative and seepage losses. C.U.S.P. will use its grant to fund design work for the removal of the fish ladder in Lake George (the last obstruction in the S. Platte River between Eleven Mile and Cheesman Reservoirs).
- CCWCD's webmaster worked diligently to update the District's website to be compliant with new accessibility requirements.
- Raptor towers at the James Tingle Reservoir (JTR) needed to be replaced; the Dam Safety Engineer recommended new towers to aid with rodent control on the dam of the JTR. CCWCD procured two raptor towers and the towers will be installed at the JTR in the spring of 2025.
- CCWCD continues to be active in organizations that benefit the South Platte Basin and to maintain and build collaboration with our basin and state colleagues. Legal actions (many thanks to David Shohet, Counsel, for his legal guidance):
- CCWCD participated in numerous water court applications as an opposer and applicant. Highlights of CCWCD's Water Court participation include the following:
 - CCWCD made 45.29 acre-feet of CCWCD's Chatfield water absolute. 85.71 acre feet remain conditional;
 - CCWCD was awarded diligence towards its conditional water rights decreed to SPR and JTR.
- CCWCD explored potential acquisition of water rights and storage.

Board of Directors:

- 2024 saw changes in our Board of Directors. Lynne Buchanan of the Guffey/Lake George area, was reappointed as director and continues as Treasurer.
- Walter "Wallie" Weld, of Bailey, was appointed to take Dan Drucker's place on the Board. Wallie brings abundant experience and knowledge to the Board.
- Dan Drucker resigned as a director and the district is honored to recognize him as Operations Manager Emeritus. Dan served the district since its inception as President of the Board, board director and Operations Manager.
- CCWCD is honored to continue to recognize Briggs Cunningham, also of the Bailey area and who resigned in 2023, as President Emeritus.
- The other members of the Board who continue to serve are: Chris Fuller, Director and Secretary of the Hartsel area; Lisa McVicker, President of Fairplay/South Park; Craig

Steinmetz, Vice-Chair: South Park.

CCWCD's Board, Operations Manager, Administrator and Counsel appreciate the engagement of our community and look forward to serving Park County in 2025.

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

Smelter Pipeline Reservoir (SPR):

- I visited the SPR on Dec. 31st for a staff gage reading. The gage read 7.96 for 20.29 AF in storage. I visited one other time during December.
- I have updated the accounting through December.
- I have started writing an RFP based on Wheeler's design and scope of work.
- The access road needed plowing just once in December.

Chatfield Reallocation Project (CRP):

- Accounting through November 30th was received in December from Wheeler, and CCWCD had 132.27 AF in storage on November 30th.
- I virtually attended the CRMC meeting on December 19th.
 - The reallocation pool held 11,790 AF on that date.
 - The helicopter for tree removal has been on-site and they conservatively estimate an average of 80 trees per day will be removed. Nearly one thousand trees have been removed to date, and they estimate being able to remove 4,080 trees.
 - Monitoring showed a dip in bird EFUs (Ecological Functional Units) in the fluctuation zone, but not so much to be in a deficit.
 - Channel monitoring of the South Platte and Plum Creek areas will continue to be done by Muller in 2025, but this may be the last full year for monitoring in those areas. ◦ The member assessment notice was received on January 2nd and is due by Feb. 17th, 2025.
- The next CRMC meeting will be held virtually on February 26th, which I plan on attending.
- The OAC will meet again at the end of January, and Matt Loose will update me on what transpires.

James Tingle Reservoir (JTR)

- Accounting for November was received on December 11th. As of November 30th, CCWCD had 75.88 AF in storage.
- 1 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits was released in December and about 1 AF will be released in January.
- I am awaiting an updated bid for the erection of the raptor towers and have sent the contractor a reminder. I will start looking elsewhere if I don't hear back from him.
- A quote for continuing engineering and monitoring services was received from Schnabel Engineering and is attached to this report. It is slightly lower than last year with the dam crest grading project having been completed. Swithin Dick usually

contracts for this, so that only one entity gets billed by Schnabel. I don't see any reason to change that arrangement. I will need to let Swithin know if the Board approves of this.

- The invoice for leased water for 2025 was just sent to Centennial by David Shoheit. This year's amount is \$17,323.23. Hopefully, they will decide to lease water this year.

Additional Information: Chris and Lisa M approves proposal

South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB):

- There was no SPEB meeting in December, as is customary. The next meeting will be on January 15th.

Snowpack Report:

- On January 7th, the Upper South Platte River Basin snowpack was at 120% of median. The South Platte Basin as a whole was at 105%.
- The local SNOTELs were as follows: Hoosier Pass: 113%, Buckskin Joe: 122%, Rough & Tumble: 164%, and Michigan Creek: 106%.
- The first Westwide Snow Survey for the year will take place at the end of January.

CCWCD Website Issues:

- The new "announcements" tab has been created with links to the Grant Program and Scholarship Program.
- The website continues to function well, and Daisy runs regular performance reports which she shares with us.

Grant & Scholarship Announcements:

- I have placed a ¼ page ad with the grant announcement in the Ute Country News that is in the January issue. I plan to place a similar ad for the scholarship announcement with them in the February edition. The cost for those two is \$500.70
- I will place ads in the Flume also, planning to run them in alternating issues. If we run two of each, the total would be \$860 for ¼ page color ads. If we wanted to run 4 of each, the total would be \$1240.
- The advertising budget for 2025 is \$3,150.
- I will send a partner letter announcing the grant opportunity, and would appreciate any suggestions of recipients.
Board decided running 2 rather than four. \$1360.

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

NEW BUSINESS

6.3. Administrative Assistant and Building Manager's 2025 contracts. Chris Fuller recommended a 3% increase in each contract. Lisa McVicker moved to approve a minimum of 3% Cost of Living increase for both. Wallie Weld seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6.4 Operations Manager's 2025 contracts

6.5 Discussion of Arkansas Basin River Water Forum: David Shohet provided information about the Arkansas Basin River Water Forum; he is on the planning committee for this and his firm sponsors it. There is going to be a plenary session on Day one of several of the large water conservancy districts in the Arkansas River Basin. There will be a lot of Board members from other water conservancy districts and he thought it might be a good opportunity for Center to reach out as part of the Basin too. David sent out some potential sponsorship materials to Lisa Brown and Lisa McVicker. David thought Center might be interested in attending since a small part of our District is in Division two. We have the blanket plan down Division two and this may be a good opportunity for CCWCD or HASP to network with some of the Arkansas River folks. The dates will be March 5th and 6th in Pueblo. The Forum does move around the basin trying to present one forum one year in the upper basin, then the lower basin, and a middle area. In the morning they have discussions and presentations and in the afternoon there will be five different tours you can sign up for. One is a bike ride of the Bessemer, their large irrigation ditch. They are putting together boat rides in the Arkansas River and they have a tour of some working farms he thinks are some chili and pepper farms. This allows people to get out and enjoy the nice Pueblo Spring weather.

David said they have table sponsorships but there are a couple of fairly basic sponsorships. They include registrations and the higher up you go; the more registrations you receive. Lisa Brown looked at the registrations and \$500 gets one registration including the logo and table. The next level is \$1,000 and that includes two registrations plus a few other things. Lynne Buchanan said she could attend since she is in that part of the basin. Chris Fuller would also like to go if she is not in the middle of an audit. Lisa McVicker suggesting signing up for the \$1,000 level sponsorship with two registrations. If any other board members would like to attend.

Lynne Buchanan made a motion to sponsor the Arkansas River Water Basin Forum on March 5th and 6th at \$1,000 with two registrations and anyone else on the Board that wants to go. If you decide to participate both days, the District will reimburse for lodging and mileage. Wallie Weld seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

David Shohet said once the sponsorship is signed up for, a separate link is provided by the Forum to claim the two registrations. David said he thinks they are going to show the Mirasol film about the historical farming of the chilies. He said it is a great film that is up for some awards. This will be one of the afternoon presentations.

6.6 Software Alternatives: Nola Knudsen said she spoke with Lynne Buchanan about possible software changes for the District. Nola has been using RingCentral for Board meetings, however, due to recent software updates and changes, she doesn't feel the software works effectively. Nola suggests this would be a good time to find software that would work well for the District for their

public meetings. Lynne Buchanan discussed some options and costs for software in 2025. She said Zoom is listed the best of all; it is a few dollars a month higher than some others. Webex from Cisco that runs about \$12.00 per month and Zoom is \$13.50 per month. Webex is more for business conferencing. Google Meet and Microsoft Teams are other options, however, they want parties to collaborate with packages such as Microsoft, Word, and Excel. Lynne said there are others that are primarily video conferencing such as Go to Meetings. Zoom also has those features. Lynne recommends Zoom to the Board members. Lynne Buchanan made a motion to go forward using Zoom at the basic starter package for approximately \$200 per year. The motion was seconded by Chris Fuller and carried unanimously.

6.7 Discussion of proposed water law class for Park County citizen: David Shohet mentioned he might be willing to be the lead. Lisa McVicker thinks summer will be the best time wise. She asked board members, do we want to offer a virtual option? There was a general discussion of a time frame; and format for the class and a possible open house. Lisa McVicker suggested the third week in June as Plan A, and Plan B the third week in August or after school. If we aim for June, it gives us time for advertising and for David to put together a curriculum for us to view. Lisa McVicker said she would send David her outline for her water law class. David asked if the group was thinking about an evening time for the class. Lisa McVicker was thinking of a two hour Saturday class. Lisa recalled a law class by Jim Felt that was in the afternoon where they had some snacks and coffee. Lisa doesn't think we need to go deep into ground water but we do need to talk about trans basin diversions and compacts. A basic overview of prior appropriations and the South Platte Basin would be high on my list. David Shohet suggested a time of 1:00 to 3:00 with an open house. The Board members liked that idea. Chris Fuller said we would need some form of registration but there would be no fee. The Board is aiming for the 21st of June. Lisa McVicker said she thought people would be interested in the SNOTELs and now the air observatory. She thinks whatever comes out of the Arkansas Forum could provide some interesting information. David said he would be happy to do all the talking or maybe have a panel discussion and invite people such as Garver Brown to participate. The Board will aim for March to discuss further details.

Dan Drucker asked if the District considered creating a pod cast. Lisa McVicker said we could tape the class and put it on our website.

LEGAL ISSUES

David said part of the organization of the board includes the HASP representatives. Currently the two representatives are Lynne Buchanan and Lisa McVicker. Both representatives agreed to continue representing CCWCD on the HASP Board of Directors.

David said in the water court cases they are involved in right now, most of them are through HASP and there is nothing set for trial. We are just in the process of circulating proposed decrees and engineering and we are very confident in the cases we are in. He doesn't expect any of them going to trial and expects to stipulate out of all of them.

David said we did sent Centennial an invoice for the leased water. They have to take this water which is the water above the first 200af which is Centers. They pay the \$17,000 plus whether they take the water or not. When we don't use our first 200af, we can lease that amount to Centennial but if they don't want to lease it, they don't have to.

David Shohet reminded Lisa McVicker and Chris Fuller will end in 2024.

Lisa Brown asked about the Rosalie Change Case. She is wondering where DWR was with this. David said it has to do with the return flows. He said what happens when you change a water right that was historically applied to a field, a portion of that water was consumed by the crop and that amount is the consumptive use that we can now use for new uses for augmentation. However, a portion is returned back to the stream as a return flow and some is a surface return flow and some of that is a deep percolation return flow or ground water return flow. It is David's understanding that Wheeler, who is the engineer for HASP in that case and the Division Engineer are having some disagreement about how much of the water constitutes a return flow and some of the timing and how it will be replaced.

David explained some of the methodology such as type of crop, elevation, and how fast water is moving through that soil type as well as the distance from the stream. There are 8-10 different factors the engineers model then figures out how much was consumed and how much was return flow.

DIRECTORS ISSUES

NONE

Lisa Brown is planning to go on a ski trip the end of January into February. She may not be back for the joint meeting but she plans to attend virtually provided we have the system functional. It will be up and running and I have contacted the cable-x people. Lisa McVicker said all is going well in the building. We have Pasterkamp coming back next week wrapping things up as well as the natural gas installation. Craig Steinmetz has been working with Ace Hardware to get the gutter replaced that they backed into.

Lisa Brown confirmed PasterKamp is coming up on Monday to finish the natural gas installation and she called the Natural Gas Company to come on Tuesday to set the meter. Pasterkamp will be here to switch over the boiler. Lisa Brown spoke with Craig this morning and said Ace is looking at Luna proposal and Craig doesn't see any reason why they wouldn't approve it. Alex is also coming next Monday to finish the last of the drywall patching. He has also found a door for the Main Street entrance. Lisa McVicker asked Nola about hiring a cleaner after all of the construction. Nola said there are two options of cleaners that are available.

Lynne Buchanan moved to adjourn. Wallie Weld seconded and the meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.