

**Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**May 14, 2025**

The monthly meeting of the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District was held on Wednesday, May 14, 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 members present in the office were Lynne Buchanan, Lisa McVicker, Craig Steinmetz, Wallie Weld and Chris Fuller. Nola Knudsen, Administrator, Lisa Barden Brown, Operations Manager and David Shohet, legal counsel, were present in the office.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**2.1 Administrator's Report on Accounts:**

Nola Knudsen reviewed the May check register with the Board. Invoices for the month of May totaled \$216,504.70. She outlines all the regular monthly invoices and reviewed the checks for the grants that were awarded. Cash assets remaining after payment of May invoices is \$2,663,229.59.

**2.2 Treasurer's Review:** Lynne Buchanan said there were May deposits of \$4,806.49 into High Country Bank for first quarter rent and utilities from HASP, March and April utilities and rent from the dental office and Knudsen Counseling rent. We received \$9,563.85 in interest from Colotrust and property taxes in Colotrust for \$174,230.59.

**2.3 Approval of Invoices and Warrants:** Wallie Weld moved to approve the invoices and warrants as presented. Chris Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

- I visited the SPR a few times in April, checking for beaver activity, road access following the late April snowstorm, leading a tour for the contractors bidding on the headgate project, and obtaining a gage reading at the end of the month. On April 30th, there was 19.48 AF in storage.
- The site visit tour for contractors occurred on April 22nd. We had representatives from four firms attend the tour, and I received proposals from three of them before the deadline of May 9th. The bid packages were sent out prior to this report for review.
- Wheeler is preparing a new scope of work proposal for the construction phase of the headgate replacement project.
- I have been doing some research into safety equipment and training for entering confined spaces and will provide more information as time permits. This relates to the vault where the valves are located.

**Additional Information:** Wheeler's proposal will be for overseeing the headgate replacement project as it occurs. They had not sent a firm proposal to Lisa Brown prior to this meeting but they did give her an estimate of approximately \$30,000 which will include materials and concrete testing by a third-party tester which is something that is required with the pouring of the concrete wall. That will be done in two phases.

Regarding safety equipment, Lisa Brown had some information brought to her attention from Water Resources regarding safety measures and equipment such as climbing equipment, and tripods over the vault and air quality sensors that we should have. Lisa will get prices on these.

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

- The April 23rd meeting was held virtually:
  - The tree removal has been completed for this season, except for some downed debris cleanup and chipping of one large tree stockpile. Some "grandfather trees" which were too large to be cut with the helicopter have been left standing, in the hope that they will continue to provide bird habitat. Boaters are being advised of the areas with a lot of stumps. Stumps will be removed when water levels drop low enough.
  - Monitoring objectives are being cleared, but noxious weeds and bird EFU's remain a challenge. A special meeting was held early this week to discuss modifications to the ATMP to provide an "off-ramp" to clear the monitoring hurdles.
  - The draft budget for FY 2025-2026 was presented. The shares price is estimated at \$153/share. This is down slightly from this year's \$161/share, and includes additional needed tree removal.
- Accounting was received at the end of April and has been updated through March. On April 1st, CCWCD had 130.46 AF in storage.

- The OAC (Operations Advisory Committee) met on Mar. 26th, and Matt Loose provided some updates:

- o The USACE does not anticipate that the joint pool will be needed for flood control this year.

- o Denver Water reported that it anticipates filling its reservoirs this year.

- o DWR reported that they don't anticipate the Chatfield Storage rights to be in priority this year, and are expecting senior calls on the river. They also noted that Spinney Reservoir is only about 50% full, so there is a large hole to fill in the Upper South Platte.

- o Matt reported that CCWCD would be looking for opportunities to exchange water upstream later this year if conditions allow.

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

- The requested 6.71 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits was released in April. On April 30th, CCWCD had 62.77 AF in storage.

- Swithin Dick and Matt Loose have been coordinating about storage plans and water to be left in stream, as flows have not come up much on Michigan Creek.

- The contractor who will be constructing the raptor towers is ready to start the project. I am working on finalizing a contract with him. I will be talking to Swithin about how we will be splitting the cost and other details of the project.

- The revised invoice for maintenance had not been received by the time of writing this report, but I reached out to HRW and they are re-sending it.

**Additional Information:** Swithin Dick confirmed with Lisa Brown that since CCWCD is spearheading the project for constructing the raptor towers, we will pay the contractor and will split the cost which will be handled at the rectification of the accounts at the end of the year.

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

- The monthly SPEB meeting was held on April 17th.

- The 2025 Grant Announcement has been sent out. Grant applications are due by June 11th.

- Past member Mike McHugh attended the meeting and made a point to thank CCWCD for the grant awards for the Stewardship West projects.

- The report on the Montane Skipper status will be presented at the May meeting.

- The U.S. Forest Service reported that there is a hiring freeze in place and a reduction in personnel. They think that the River Patrol will happen this year in additional river segments beyond Happy Meadows and 11-Mile Canyon, where they are already working.

### **Snowpack Report:**

- On May 14th, the Upper South Platte River Basin snowpack was at 58% of median, 16 days past median peak. The South Platte Basin as a whole was at 65%. We are 18 days past peak median.

- The local SNOTELs were as follows: Hoosier Pass: 75%, Buckskin Joe: 63%, Rough & Tumble: 13%, and Michigan Creek: 38%.

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

- No issues and working well. Daisy is ready to post any new announcements as we have them.

#### **Advertising:**

- The joint CCWCD/USP/HASP advertisement was created by Lynne Buchanan and will run in the Summer in the Park publication which comes out later this month.

#### **Wild Horse Reservoir:**

- A Cooperating Agency Meeting was held on April 19th to provide updates. Aurora Water presented an overview of their Central Resource Allocation Model, which encompasses a study period of 1950-2017. The stated goals are to meet 2075 demands while maintaining an accessible emergency reserve. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15th, that will focus on Aurora Water's water demands.

- A tour of the Otero Pump Station was proposed for this summer.

**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):**

- I visited the property on April 27th. The property was undisturbed. There is a very large ponderosa pine that has died from pine beetle. I would like to hire a forestry company to have it cut down and covered. I will get back down there to stain the decks in the near future.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

4.1 Presentation of bids for Smelter Pipeline Headgate Replacement: Three bids were received. Lisa Brown said the bids ranged from \$92,850.00 to \$143,600. Some of the prices on line items are vastly different. The Board discussed the line-item differences of each bid. All of the representatives expressed interest in doing this job. Lisa Brown discussed the requirements and past experiences of these companies. The bids just came in on Friday and suggested some

additional questions may be needed. David Shohet said Fly Water did the Deer Creek gage and came in under budget and did a great job so we have some experience with them. Chris Fuller trusts them. On the low bid, Chris noticed their references and projects, showed a high number of change orders. Lisa Brown said the goal is to start in August. Iron Woman had the highest anticipated length of completion time of 8 weeks. The other two were looking at four weeks. Chris Fuller said she didn't see any costs for permitting. This is a question for the representatives. The Board decided to take an extra look at these bids and get any additional questions to Lisa Brown by the end of the week.

#### 4.2 Presentation of additional 2025 Scholarship Applicants:

Lisa Brown described the last applicant for an educational scholarship. The applicant grew up helping the family to manage cattle and will be attending for Animal Science and Agricultural Business at the Oklahoma Panhandle University. Chris Fuller said she would like to see more regarding how she sees the role of water resources. Nola was to speak with the recipient to thank her for her application and the board was impressed with your ambition in your future. Chris Fuller moved to approve the application for funding. Lynne Buchanan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

5.1 Discuss plans for water law class for Park County citizens: Lisa Brown found another individual interested in joining the panel for the law class, Don Baggus from Parks and Wildlife. Dawn Jewel also remains interested. Lisa Brown said June is approaching quickly and she doesn't believe we are getting much traction from advertisement in the newspaper. She suggests changing the class to sometime after Burro Days. We could have signage about Water Law Class for the public during Burro Days. There are two options of August 9th or 23<sup>rd</sup> we have previously discussed. The Board agreed that approximately 30 attendees would fit within the conference room comfortably.

5.2 548 Front Street Building Updates – Lisa Brown said she was able to find a local contractor that could salvage the door and install our hardware correctly for \$479.00 which is a savings of \$3,000. Nola Knudsen provided an update on the building drains that had plugged up. She located a business out of Buena Vista to come and make the repair. The company had the cameras that located where two pipes come together showed one of the pipes had dropped approximately 4". While everything was cleared out, a permanent fix is right outside the wall of ladies' room underneath the sidewalk. Fixing it would entail digging up a section of the sidewalk under the stamped concrete. Craig Steinmetz suggested making a call to see if Lozano would remove for the project and have them look at it before repairing. Lynne Buchanan made a motion to approve Small Town Drain's proposal to make the permanent repair with an amount not to exceed \$5500. Chris Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5.3 Discuss plans for 2025 Open House: Chris Fuller asked if we wanted to have food at the office for the staff or plan to allow staff to purchase food with the vendors. Food will be provided as well as snacks for visitors.

### **UPDATE ON LEGAL ISSUES**

Lisa Brown and David Shohet met with Highlands Ranch Water. The conversation had to do with the James Tingle Reservoir. The agreements that were made for the JTR were made prior to the construction of the reservoir. We talked about modernizing those agreements based upon what has happened after 15 years of operation. There seems to be some holes and gaps that we can contemplate working on. We will be looking at this during summer.

### **DIRECTOR ISSUES**

Lisa McVicker doesn't have the agenda for the upcoming Water Shed Summit. She will forward that by email when received. Wallie Weld said it was good to be back after tending to his personal family matter. Chris Fuller asked to find the periods of her service from 2001. There was a brief gap in her service. Lynne Buchanan reminded the board she will be in Scotland in June and unable to make the June Board of Directors meeting. She also shared she is buying a place in Arizona for the winters but will be able to attend through video conferencing.

Chris Fuller moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lynne Buchanan and the board adjourned at 2:07PM.