

**Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 10, 2025**

The monthly meeting of the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District was held on Wednesday, September 10, 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 1:02 PM.

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1.1 Lynne Buchanan asked to include designation of budget office under administrative matters, Lynne Buchanan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Chris Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1.2 Wallie Weld moved to approve the minutes as presented. Chris Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2.1 Nola Knudsen reviewed the check register with the Board. Checks for the month of September totaled \$133,134.69. Cash assets after payment of September invoices total \$2,749,542.94.

Nola discussed holding the Stewardship West grant check in the amount of \$60,000. Money was transferred from Colotrust to the High Country checking account for payment of that check. Because Stewardship West will have to make some changes that will affect the time frame in which we issue them grant money. I recommend voiding that check and reissuing when the grant proposal is reworked. This allows return of that money to Colotrust until needed.

Nola advised the board that the opening of the new TBK Bank checking account is done and today she will be depositing the opening balance check. The next step is to open the bill pay process. She discussed her discussion with John Matteson of HASP who has used this process for several months. As bills come in to HASP, he sends notification to all board members. Once he received approval by a minimum of two board members, he then can make payment through bill pay. Nola asked about a procedure for bill payment. Lisa McVicker said HASP does not often have payments that are not re-occurring. She does not think CCWCD has to have the same policy as HASP. Nola was advised to set up bill pay for the re-occurring checks and bills that have been previously approved by the board during monthly meetings.

2.2 Appointment of Budget Officer for 2025

Lisa McVicker nominates Lynne Buchanan as budget manager. Chris Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously

2.3 Treasurer's Review

Lynne Buchanan reported interest received from High Country Bank was \$1.05. We received the September rent and August utility payment from Knudsen Counseling and September rent from Elevated Community Health - Dental for a total of \$2,246.89. The check that was approved for \$2500 is the opening balance for TBK Bank. We received Colotrust interest in the amount of \$10,575.77, and we received property tax funds of \$20,013.36.

2.4 Approval of Invoices and Warrants: Wallie Weld moved to approve the invoices and warrants. Lynne Buchanan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

Smelter Pipeline Reservoir (SPR):

- I visited the SPR 12 times in August. On August 1st, a gage height of 6.77' was observed, or 16.64 AF in storage.
- 2.28 AF of Giraud 3T was stored from August 6th-8th as the old headgate was operated for the last time. The gage height was at 7.5' on August 8th, for 18.86 AF in storage. On September 1st, the gage height read 7.45' for 18.71 AF in storage.
- The headgate project commenced on August 11th, with equipment being mobilized to the site the week before. Concrete was poured on August 21st, forms were removed on the 25th. The headgate was installed the next day, and on the 28th, the dewatering devices were removed, and Mosquito Creek was returned to its normal channel. The headgate was tested and despite very low flows in the creek, the normal volume of water was delivered to the reservoir. The decision to add additional boulders to further stabilize the bank was made. This was done the next day, followed by regrading, seeding, and mulching the disturbed construction area. Willows were replanted along the banks. The final walk-through with Wheeler's engineers, Christine Mugele and Sean Moran, occurred on September 4th. The headgate was operated again to their satisfaction. No concerns were identified. Machinery was removed on Monday August 8th.
- I have had to spend time clearing beaver dams from the driveway culvert in the last couple weeks as the flow in the creek has dropped so low.
- I spoke with Christine about updating the accounting, and Wheeler can assist with that. Matt Loose is looking for opportunities for an exchange to put additional water in the SPR before the end of the month.

Additional Information: The extra boulders were not in the original plan, but a few items were substituted. The pipe turned out to not be a 12" corrugated metal pipe as we thought it was, it was PVC sleeved into the old corrugated pipe. We went ahead and did PVC right into the new wall. The existing PVC pipe was also inspected that we were connected to. There were a few other adjustments were made, but all substitutions were within the budget bid.

Lisa said when the head wall was demolished, the excavators found a newspaper packed up against the concrete that was used as part of the original form. She let it dry out and started

peeling the newspaper apart. The era appeared to be in the 70s. She found the front page of the Sunday Denver Post dated Aug 27, 1972. This gives us a probably date the reservoir was built.

Chatfield Reallocation Project (CRP):

- CRMC regular bi-monthly meeting was held virtually on August 27th. The next meeting will be the annual members meeting and regular board meeting on October 22nd
 - The Board approved engaging Haynie & Co. for the annual audit, which will begin in October.
 - On August 27th, the reallocation pool held 11,500 AF.
- Accounting was received at the end of August and has been updated to the state system through July. On July 31st, there was 123.77 AF in storage for CCWCD's use.
- Matt Loose attended the OAC meeting on August 27th and provided some updates:
 - Most of the reservoirs in the Lower South Platte River Basin have been significantly drawn down this summer.
 - River diversions in the Lower Basin are turning down for crop harvest.
 - DWR anticipates storage calls to be in place for this winter and senior river calls are still expected to remain in place for the rest of the season.
 - Matt will be looking for exchange potential.

James Tingle Reservoir (JTR)

- Accounting was received in August and had been updated through July 31st. CCWCD had 85.70 AF in storage.
- No releases were planned for August, but due to a very senior call coming on in mid-August, 4.4 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits were released at the end of the month.
- The annual dam safety inspection occurred on July 10th, and the dam safety engineer was pleased with the new raptor tower. Swithin and I discussed plans to build the other raptor tower in the fall, when conditions will hopefully be favorable. The dam inspection report was sent out and all categories were rated as acceptable, and the reservoir was recommended for full storage.
- Park County did not request any Randall Ditch credits in August.
South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB):
- The monthly SPEB meeting was held virtually on August 20th.
- The grant application for Camp Alexander for \$25,000 was approved by a vote of 7-4.
- A presentation on the annual monitoring of the Pawnee Montane Skipper was given by the USFS. In 2002, only about 1,000 remained, down from ~68,000- ~166,000 in the 80's and 90's. Through conservation efforts, the population has recovered to ~100,000.
- Work on the Gill Trail was scheduled to start at the end of August.
- We were informed of the re-structuring of the Department of Agriculture, with five new regional offices being created, one of which will be located in Fort Collins.
- The Otero Pump Station will be shut down for about two months for routine annual maintenance.

River Flows:

- Flows into Spinney are at 33 cfs, which is about 58% of historical average flows of 57 cfs.
- Flows on the Tarryall are at 16 cfs. Normal flows are about 24 cfs.

CCWCD Website Issues:

- Daisy posted an announcement about the postponement of the water law class to the website and has been running regular maintenance monitoring.

Wild Horse Reservoir:

- I was unable to attend the August meeting as concrete was being poured at the SPR that day, with Wheeler's engineers onsite. The next meeting is scheduled for September 18th.

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.

Chris Fuller said she and Jon Rice attended the Aurora luncheon. Chris said the basics are the Nepa process has changed and the BLM is in charge because they have 200 acres in the plan. Nepa process has changed so that after the notice is given, BLM only has two years to complete that Nepa process. The timeline looks like Nepa process 2026 to 2028, 2028-2035 for construction and a completion date of 2045.

NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Discuss Diligence and Water Rights Abandonment: Tabled to October meeting

OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Update on plans for water law class for Park County citizens: Tabled to October meeting. David asked if the end of October or early November would be feasible. Chris Fuller and Wallie Weld said November 1st look good to them. David said as a possibility, this will be subject to Dawn and Garver's availability. Lisa Brown had conference room set up for approximately 30 people for the South Platte Basin Roundtable, held their field trip and held their meeting in the conference room. This is the probably the maximum comfortable arrangement. They went and toured the London Mine, where Joe Harrington facilitated, then went to Montgomery Reservoir and talked about expansion. Wallie Weld attended the whole meeting and field trip. He was asked to join the Roundtable and represent the Center. CCWCD board members agreed this would be great. Lisa McVicker did attend from 2005 to 2016 and thinks it is a great experience. It is a monthly Tuesday evening meeting. If Wallie decides to get involved, his expenses are covered.

5.2 548 Front Street Building updates: Lisa Brown spoke with Cesare again to get an estimate for sidewalk replacement. It is not a priority to him and Lisa is fed up with waiting. She spoke with Three Sons concrete in Denver and they stated they could do something that small. She will try to get an estimate from them. Nola said she talked with Small Town Drain and they may be available still. Lisa McVicker suggested abandoning Lazano and check with the town who put the same concrete on 4th street. Lisa Brown already has the application for a town permit.

Nola Knudsen informed the board the smoke alarms failed although they were supposed to work for 7 years. She spoke with Carlos, who had installed the units. She ordered replacement items and replaced the two faulty smoke alarms. Additionally, Nola went to the side of the building to pull weeds and found the heat wire in the downspout was laying on the ground. She reinstalled the wire which appears to be working well.

5.3 Update on 2025 Grant Agreements: Lisa Brown said Twelve Mile Ranch finally picked up their check. She spoke with their ranch manager Patrick Spevik. Now that he is done haying, he said he is going to focus on building splitter boxes and the new headgate for Cave Creek. He has already built the bridge. He reiterated the invitation for any board members to come to the ranch. Later in the Fall there will be some progress and would probably be a good time to go out there. Mr. Spevik said he has a deadline of finishing the end of 2026 but believes it will be done before then.

Stewardship West has their check for the Glen Isle project and that project is moving along well. Lisa was invited to see the project next week and Chris Fuller might join as well. The outstanding one is the Stewardship West one for Webber Park in the amount of \$60,000. Lisa just received an update from Jennifer Baker. Due to the recent changes within the Forest Service, the Pike San Isabella National Forest will not know how much funding they can allocate to the mechanical treatment of Webber Park until their new fiscal year begins in October. Part of their grant application were matching funds from the Forest Service. In the meantime, she is asking that Stewardship West proceed with completing the archeological surveys and preparing portions of Webber Park for hand thinning treatments. This is a slight change in the scope of work. It was going to be mechanical thinning instead of the hand thinning they are now recommending. We need to make a comment on that. Lisa and Chris will work together on that. We won't know if they will have to change their grant application or if we just need to rework the grant agreement. Chris Fuller said as along their proposal for revision is in writing, we are good.

5.4 Follow-up Discussion of Retention Implementation: Tabled to October meeting

UPDATE ON LEGAL ISSUES

Water court applications are being processed and there are no big actions occurring. David Shohet said he sent out Wheeler's operations report and his legal report to the board members.

6.1 Adjourn to Executive Session: Chris Fuller moved to go into executive session pursuant to Section 24-6-402(4)(b) C.R.S. for the purpose of receiving legal advice and discuss and negotiate possible terms regarding the Girl Scouts. Wallie Weld seconded and the board entered Executive Session at 1:56pm.

6.2 Reconvene as Public meeting: The board returned to regular meeting at 2:10pm.

6.3 Act on Executive Session matters: No decisions were made. The board discussed the Girl Scout feasibility study.

PATRON'S COMMENTS

None

DIRECTOR'S ISSUES

Lisa is going to attend the Colorado Water Education's fund raiser, honoring Robert Sacoto who has been very involved in Colorado agriculture.

Chris Fuller will treat for weeds at the JTR and Smelter before the next meeting.

Lynne Buchanan asked if there were any thoughts on significant changes in the budget to let her know.

Craig Steinmetz said he agrees with David that it would be important for Wheeler should be able to put the number in a budget for the Girl Scout project.

Chris Fuller made a motion to adjourn. Wallie Weld seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 2:16pm.