

**Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 14, 2026**

The monthly meeting of the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 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. Lynne Buchanan, Lisa McVicker, and Craigs Steinmetz were present by teleconference. Nola Knudsen, Administrative Manager and Lisa Brown, Operation's Manager were present in the office. David Shohet, legal counsel, was present by teleconference.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1.1 Lynne Buchanan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Chris Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2.1 Administrator's Report: Nola Knudsen reviewed the check register with the Board. Nola reported on the bills that were paid via bill pay. All board members were sent a listing of the bills paid along with the minutes from last meeting. Most bills were paid via bill pay. The exceptions were three larger checks that were printed in house so they could be hand delivered or sent with tracking. The invoices totaled \$109,647.32. The total cash assets after the payment of bills are \$2,749,162.07.

2.2 Treasurer's Report: Lynne Buchanan reviewed the deposit activity. Deposited into TBK Bank was rents and utilities from the Dental office for \$2,644.15 and January rent from Knudsen Counseling for \$1000.00; interest received was \$1.54. The Colotrust interest was \$9,346.66 and property taxes received were \$5,855.78.

2.2.1 Engagement Letter for Auditor: Lynne Buchanan sent a copy of the engagement letter to all board members to have a chance to review and decide whether to engage Hoelting and company for the 2025 audit. The board was in agreement and Lynne will sign and return the engagement letter.

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

STATE OF THE DISTRICT: Lisa McVicker provided a written statement on the State of the District thanking Board members, legal counsel, and staff for their service in 2025. A copy of the statement outlining all the accomplishments of the district is attached to these minutes.

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

Smelter Pipeline Reservoir

- I visited the SPR 3 times in December. On December 1st, a gage height of 8.75' was observed, for 22.75 AF in storage. On January 1st, I read a gage height of 8.69', for 22.56 AF in storage. Despite warm temperatures later in the month, the ice is very thick on the reservoir.
- The SPR accounting and report for Adventure Placer 2 for 2025 were submitted to the State in December. The district 23 Water Commissioner has requested that accounting be submitted monthly once the ice comes off.
- I have reached out to FlyWater's project manager to discuss some ideas he had mentioned previously for improvements to the access road. I am also contacting Edge Contracting, who participated in the South Platte Forum and specialize in drainage solutions.

Chatfield Reallocation Project (CRP):

- The December meeting happened to occur during the extreme windstorms that battered the Front Range in December. I attended the meeting virtually.
- The annual assessment was sent out at the start of 2026 and CCWCD's payment of \$21,432 has been sent.
- The audit was completed and a clean opinion was issued.
- The tree removal was progressing, despite some down-time due to the high winds. A total of about 3,000 trees had been removed up to December 18th. The grinding and removal of material is keeping up with the tree removal this year and not creating a backlog of material. The chip material is being used for mulch. Douglas County is also looking at the feasibility of using cottonwood chip material at their new biochar facility.
- Accounting was received at the end of December and has been updated to the state system through November. On November 30th, there was 119 AF in storage for CCWCD's use.
- Matt Loose attended the OAC meeting on December 10th and provided some updates:
 - The reservoirs in the Lower South Platte Basin were about 56% full and DWR anticipates calls on the river to remain similar to the current call (5/1/1899).
 - The USACOE recently completed repairs on the main outlet, which came back online earlier that week.
 - Matt relayed that he didn't anticipate any operations currently for CCWCD.

James Tingle Reservoir (JTR)

- Accounting was received in December and had been updated through November 30. CCWCD had 55.37 AF in storage at the end of November. The accounting, which reflected the requested release of 3.6 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits was reviewed and confirmed by Wheeler. Accounting for December was just received and CCWCD had 53.93 AF in storage on Dec. 31.
- 1 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits was released during December, and about 1 AF is planned to be released in January.

- The second raptor tower was completed at the end of December. An invoice from Spann Enterprises for \$6,078.87 was received. Additional guy wire was needed for this tower. The total for the two towers came to \$11,933.03, just under the not to exceed budget of \$12,000.
- W.W. Wheeler has prepared a proposal for an investigation into the Sessions Ditch headgate and canal system. This is an effort to find a more efficient way to deliver water to James Tingle Reservoir. The proposal accompanied the agenda.
- A proposal for continuing monitoring services for 2026 was received from Schnabel Engineering at the end of December. The proposal represents an approximate 11% increase for the same services covered last year, plus an additional task of outlet pipe inspection, which is done with specialized camera equipment every two years. This year's total estimate is \$34,200. This year's proposal was sent out with the agenda. **
- The annual monitoring report for 2025 was received from Schnabel and no issues of concern was identified. This was also reviewed by the Dam Safety Engineer, who had no concerns and expressed thanks for the good work and clear report.

Additional Information: ** Lisa Brown reminded the board that the \$34,200 is split according to the operating agreement and CCWCD is only responsible for a portion of this.

South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB):

- There was no SPEB meeting in December, as is customary.
- An update on CCWCD and Park County projects that relate to SPEB interests was requested from me to be presented at an upcoming meeting. I am working on an idea to speak about the CCWCD grant funded projects on the North Fork.
- I reached out to a colleague on SPEB who represents Colorado Springs Utilities to inquire about Cooperating Agency participation on the Montgomery Reservoir project. I just heard back from Christopher Olney, CSU's Senior Government Affairs Specialist, who is planning on attending the HASP meeting in February. He asked if there are any specific items or questions that the CCWCD Board has that he can address.

Snowpack Report:

- Last month's optimism has evaporated. Hoosier Pass is at 44% of median, Buckskin Joe at 35%, Michigan Creek at 46%, Rough & Tumble at 43%. The South Platte Basin is at 62%.

CCWCD Website Issues:

- The website has been functioning well. Daisy has posted a number of updates, including the 2026 meeting schedule, the Water Law class, grant and scholarship announcements and related documents.

Additional Information: Lisa Brown said she has received her new computer has set it all up including the new monitor. She has also moved her desk and wants to make a reading

corner where she can display all of our reference material. Lisa would also like to purchase a book case to hold some of the materials. The board was in agreement. Nola Knudsen informed the board she has located former board direction Bob Barford. Bob will supply information to be used on the web-site page acknowledging former service and in memorium to board members who have passed on.

Lisa Brown said she has created a new email for herself. She has not gone live with it yet. She purchased Microsoft Outlook with the new computer. She has a new email address of lisabbccwcd@outlook.com. She said in the future, when she is no longer with the district, there will be an outlook account for new email accounts to be made that are CCWCD specific. She will send the new email to all her contacts and get all emails sent to the new computer. Daisey has also updated the email on the web-site in a number of locations.

Wild Horse Reservoir:

- I remotely attended the Cooperating Agency meeting on December 11th.
- The Spinney Reservoir Enlargement alternative has been eliminated. That alternative would have been an enlargement of ~130,000 AF to a total of ~184,000 AF and a 6,100-acre larger footprint. It would also need to be offline for at least 7 years. The alternatives still being considered are Wild Horse Reservoir, Small Wild Horse plus Denver Basin Aquifer Storage, and Wild Horse South Reservoir. The Wild Horse South location would potentially avoid some cultural resource areas.
- A streamflow hydrology study was presented. The study showed that a streamflow change of less than 10% was predicted at all affected gages downstream.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February.

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.

Additional Information: CCWCDs insurance is coming up for renewal. Lisa Brown is gathering all documents needed for that.

OLD BUSINESS

5.1 & 5.2: Administrative Assistant and Building Manager's 2026 Contracts. David Shohet stated both parties were in agreement their contracts. Chris Fuller suggested 3% is the standard

cost of living percent. Lisa McVicker suggested considering a 4% increase. Chris Fuller made a motion to increase the contract fees 4%. Craig Steinmetz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5.3 Update on 2025 Grant Agreements: Lisa Brown has modified the grant agreement to reflect methodology changes and budgeting changes in the Webber Park grant. She is waiting to hear from Jennifer Barker to make sure everything has been finalized. Lisa also wrote a grant agreement for Co-Co and Chris Fuller reviewed the grant and approved it. David Shoheit hasn't looked at it yet but will review it by the end of the week. Lisa will send out a partner letter to fellow organizations notifying them of the grant opportunity. Lisa said she is thinking about advertising for the grants and scholarships this year. In the past, we have advertised in the Flume but doesn't know how much traction we are getting. Lisa said the Flume does have a digital platform and offers digital advertising. She will look into their circulation digitally. Chris Fuller suggested looking into the places the county advertises. Lisa said Dave Wissel said they will be voting on where their official posting locations will be this year and Lisa will follow up with him. Lisa McVicker said looking in the digital opportunities would be appropriate. Nola Knudsen has already been in touch with the Fairplay High School. Their Senior presentations will be April 29th. She will follow-up with the Platte Canyon Counselor. She will also contact the former recipient from last year who may be eligible again.

5.4 548 Front Street Building Updates: Lisa McVicker reminded the group of the former discussion regarding electric bills. Lisa did not think it necessary to revisit the leases with the USPWCD or HASP as they can continue with their 9% fee. Currently, Knudsen Counseling is presently paying 33% of the electric bill and CCWCD 11%. She suggested Knudsen Counseling could pay 10-13% and her remaining percent would be taking on by CCWCD. Nola does work for CCWCD in her offices and the kitchen, rest rooms, hallway, and entryway are common areas to share. Lisa McVicker suggests of the 33% formerly paid by Nola, it now be divided where Nola retains a cost of 14% and CCWCD will absorb the remaining 30%. Craig Steinmetz said the dental office doesn't share any of these common areas. Lisa McVicker made a motion to adjust the utility payment for the electrical utility for Knudsen Counseling paying 15% and CCWCD paying 30%. David Shoheit asked for clarification if this is for all utilities or just electrical. Nola added that the two biggest changes were electric and natural gas. Chris Fuller made a motion that all of the utilities that are being split will change to Knudsen Counseling

being responsible for 15% of the utilities and CCWCD responsible for 30% of the utilities. Lynne Buchanan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Approval of Executive Positions: David Shohet suggested this organization of board responsibilities be made in May. Lisa McVicker believes we should explore new blood for the board. June is a better time to revisit board positions. Wallie Weld and Craig Steinmetz are up in June 2026. Lisa McVicker said Co-Co is expanding and asked if it was possible to expand the board to 6 or 7 members? What would it take? David Shohet said he thinks we would need voter approval for this type of change. Craig Steinmetz said we should send a letter to the HOAs and let them know what we do. David said maybe the board could enlist a marketing firm to get information out about CCWCD. Craig will take the first step to locate HOAs in Park County.

6.2 Recap of South Platte Forum: Lisa Brown provided an excellent report on the highlights of the 2025 South Platte Forum. Highlights include the following:

- Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack, former Secretary of Agriculture, spoke about the resilience of American agriculture, and promoting climate smart agricultural practices.
- Sabrina Stoker of the Poudre Heritage Alliance spoke about the Cache La Poudre National Heritage Area, and how they've installed educational signage along the river corridor. She had the participants work with their tables to come up ideas for outreach in our local areas, with the goal of trying to engage the public. There are three National Heritage Areas in CO. South Park is another and our table came up with an idea for an auto tour in Park County that would have signage talking about the historical water structures, ranches, etc. Glenn Grothe and I talked about how we might implement this.
- There was a panel discussion about reporting on water issues and the how journalism is evolving. Getting to know your local news organization was strongly encouraged.
- A presentation was given by Ryan Aids, Executive Director of the Greenway Foundation, which was formed in 1974 to revitalize the South Platte River corridor after the destruction caused the 1965 Flood. He talked about their 3 pillars: Education & Outreach, Community Engagement, and Stewardship.
- Kevin Stuart spoke about the 1965 Flood. Cherry Creek Reservoir was basically initially filled by the 1965 Flood. Chatfield and Bear Creek Reservoirs were funded by the Federal Government following the flood. New early detection technology was developed and implemented following the flood.
- A panel discussion with CO Cattleman's Association member, Phil Brink, TAPS (Testing Ag. Performance Solutions)- irrigation innovation, Amy Kremen, and Colorado Grain Chain, Lisa Boldt.

- Final panel on new projects in Colorado: Republican River WCD, Chatfield Reallocation Project, Wild Horse Reservoir, Chimney Hollow Project (Northern Water), Northern Integrated Supply Project and Glade Reservoir (Northern Water), and City of Greeley Terry Ranch Project.
- Lynda James awarded Friend of the South Platte for her decades of services.

6.3 2026 Monitoring Contract for JTR: Lisa Brown reported that Schnabel Highlands Ranch Water has been doing the monitoring since the reservoir was constructed and Highlands Ranch Water wants to continue their relationship with them. Their costs have increased but doesn't appear to be out of line. Lisa Brown didn't see any reason not to accept the proposal. Lynne Buchanan moved to approve the 2026 monitoring contract for the JTR with Schnabel. The motion was seconded by Chris Fuller and carried unanimously.

6.4 Proposal for Sessions Ditch Headgate and Canal System Evaluation: Lisa Brown said we have been talking about a potential for improving delivery of water via the sessions ditch into the JTR. Presently, there needs to be about a minimum of 2cfs you can run into there. At lower flows, it isn't effective to run the ditch because of seepage, leakage in ditch and evaporation. We talked to Matt about piping or lining the ditch. They propose a study that would evaluate those two options and what those might cost. Basically, will be doing site visits, hydrologic evaluations, and a design and would also meet with us for coordination. The proposed study is not to exceed \$19,500 for all of those tasks. David Shohet said one point to discuss is in terms of JTR we own 49% and 51% along with highlands water. David thinks even without Highlands Ranch Water we should do this once we get the proposal. Do we want Highlands to contribute to the study. Lisa McVicker said she thinks it is important to do this but we should show them the proposal ahead of time because we would like to have collaboration with improvements. She thinks now is the time to give them the heads up now. The timeline of when we should have recommendations back and we would like to collaborate with them on next steps for those improvements. Chris Fuller made a motion to approve Wheeler's proposal for the Sessions Ditch improve study not to exceed \$19,500. Craig Steinmetz seconds and the motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON LEGAL ISSUES

David Shohet there has not been a lot going on the last 30 days. One highlight is on the Girl Scouts case. They received a final decree on their augmentation plan. They got a ruling from a refer on December 17th entered in their case and they should have a final decree any day. With other legal matters, HASP received one application for a 3-lot subdivision in Pine for household use only. It has been a quiet holiday period.

Nola Knudsen reminded the board that she was given authorization to purchase a new computer for the district. She did not purchase one last year but wants to confirm the authorization to purchase the same computer as purchased by Lisa Brown. This will allow easy interaction between both the Operations manager and the Administrative manager. Lisa McVicker also suggested purchasing a scanner to allow for use with destruction of old records. The prior authorization is still valid.

Building Updates: Lisa Brown reported the stucco on the back side of the building appears to have been cleaned and then painted over it. This is not the conversation Lisa Brown and Craig Steinmetz had with the manager. At some point in the last week, they have covered over the spots. Lisa would like the board to take a look at the side of the building the next time here. Lisa did talk with Ishmel who applied the new stucco. He talked to suppliers and said the whole wall would need to be redone at an estimated cost of \$2800 to \$3200 to recoat the wall. Craig said it is the wrong time of year to do stucco work in Fairplay. The big concern is the drainage in the alley. Craig said what would seal the deal is if we file an insurance claim. We would want to put a hose out there if it shows movement of where water is going. He said to tight until next month.

PATRONS COMMENTS

None

DIRECTOR'S ISSUES

None

Chris Fuller made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lynne Buchanan and the meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.