

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

The monthly meeting of the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District was held on Wednesday, October 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 1:07 PM.

The members present in the office were Chris Fuller and Lynne Buchanan. Present by teleconference was Lisa McVicker, Craig Steinmetz and Wallie Weld. Nola Knudsen, Administrator, was present in the office. Sedona Chavez, legal counsel, was present by teleconference.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1.1 Wallie Weld 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. Lynne Buchanan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2.1 Administrator's Review on Accounts: Nola Knudsen reviewed the check register with the Board. Checks for the month of October totaled \$28,535.73. Cash assets after payment of October invoices total \$2,795,833.27.

Nola let the Board know, she will be moving the check production to bill pay next month with the TBK bank. She will be out of the country next month during the November joint meeting. She will have all bills paid prior to leaving. Lisa McVicker asked whether we are starting at 10:30am next month. Nola will contact Dave Wissel and advise the board if the change is permanent.

2.2 Treasurer's Review: Lynne Buchanan said deposits in to the TBK Bank were for Knudsen Counseling rent and utilities. Today, we received the Dental office's rent and back utility payments. From Knudsen Counseling we received \$2, 445.25 and from the Dental office we

received \$2,602.70. In the Colotrust account, we haven't received taxes from Park County yet but we received interest in the amount of \$9,879.16.

2.2.1 FY2026 Proposed Budget Review

Lynne Buchanan said the budget was based on prior year budget plus a 3% increase. We know utilities are going up and we will take a look at that. The grant budget will be around \$84K. Regarding the grants, Lisa McVicker asked the board if we should have placeholder number and then just increase it with a resolution if needed. The Board agreed. Lisa asked Sedona about possible legal increases. David Shohet anticipated approximately a 5% increase. Lynne said she will make few adjustments and prepare the budget for approval.

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

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

Smelter Pipeline Reservoir (SPR):

- I visited the SPR 8 times in September. On September 1st, a gage height of 7.45' was observed, for 18.71 AF in storage.
- As mentioned in last month's report, the headgate replacement project was completed at the beginning of the month and the final walk-through occurred on September 4th. Wheeler is currently completing the as-built drawing set.
- With the new headgate completed, Matt Loose calculated and organized an exchange of 5.56 AF of HASP water stored in Spinney to be moved to the SPR. On September 13th, the staff gage read 7.44' for 18.68 AF in storage, and the headgate was opened. The desired gage height of 9.22' was reached, for a total of 24.24 AF in storage and the headgate was closed. Furthermore, it works great!
- I have been periodically clearing beaver dams from the driveway culvert throughout September.
- I am working on the accounting for the end of the irrigation year submittal to the state and will be making the augmentation release for Adventure Placer 2 in October, in addition to any "owe the river" amount accrued from evaporative losses. Fortunately, the

exchange in September has the reservoir much closer to full before the fall release.

- The state's dam safety engineer offered to do a courtesy non-jurisdictional dam inspection of the SPR. He had no concerns about the integrity of the dam and the spillway, except to continue to trim back willows. He did recommend purchasing an air tester and safety harness for safe entry into the valve vault. I researched these items, and a 4-gas tester is about \$750, and a harness is about \$120-\$150. I would like to purchase these items.

Chatfield Reallocation Project (CRP):

- There was no CRMC meeting in September. The annual CRMC Members' Meeting and regular bi-monthly board meeting will be held in person at Chatfield State Park on Oct 22nd. I plan on attending in person. However, I have recently received a jury summons for Oct. 21st. If all goes well, I won't be selected for the jury. The pending case might be a multi-day trial.

- o There is a vacancy on the Board of Directors that will be voted on to be filled at the annual meeting.

- o The proposed FY2026 budget will be finalized and voted on for approval at the regular board meeting. The estimated cost per share is \$152 for next year, down slightly from \$161/share this year. This amount includes additional tree removal this winter, which will take care of almost all of the remaining dead or dying trees.

- o Following the meetings, a tour of Sandstone Ranch Open Space Park is planned. This is one of the off-site environmental mitigation areas that has just cleared the five-year monitoring criteria for CRMC. The management of the property and continued monitoring have been turned over to Douglas County.

- Accounting was received at the end of September and has been updated to the state system through August. On August 31st, there was 122.0 AF in storage for CCWCD's use.

- The September OAC meeting was pushed back to October 2nd. Matt Loose provided some updates:

- o Reservoirs on the lower South Platte have been drawn down considerably,

however, irrigation demands are now much lower. Senior storage right calls are anticipated at the beginning of November.

- o The USACOE group that operates Chatfield are exempt from any government shutdown and operations will continue as normal.
- o Some participants are releasing water from Chatfield to meet customer demands.

James Tingle Reservoir (JTR)

- Accounting was received in September and had been updated through August 31st. CCWCD had 78.43 AF in storage.
- 4.4 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits were released at the end of the month.
- The second raptor tower is scheduled to be constructed next week. I visited JTR at the end of September to investigate how dry the desired location was, and as expected, was about as dry as it can get. I also inspected the first raptor tower and could tell that large birds have been using it.
- Park County requested the remaining 4.25 AF of Randall Ditch credits in September, when the right briefly came back into priority. The request was a bit unusual, in that they were exchanging the water to Spinney, rather than claiming the amount at the Michigan Creek gage. DWR charged a transit loss, and David Shoheit, Matt Loose, and I are scheduling a meeting to discuss this for future operations.

South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB):

- The monthly SPEB meeting was held at Highlands Ranch Water on September 17th, which I attended in person.
- Rick McLoud gave a very interesting presentation on the history of Chatfield Reservoir, including historical documents and photographs of the 1965 flood. He discussed the Reallocation Project, and the extensive approval and mitigation process that led up to being permitted to store the additional 20,600 AF, as well as the ongoing efforts to remove trees in the fluctuation zone.
- Denver Water reported that they are working with CPW to schedule a fish survey and work on the sediment reduction plan for Strontia Springs Reservoir. Lake Dillon is at the lowest level since 2018. The Roberts Tunnel is planned to remain on. They also reported

that Denver Water has a goal of being carbon neutral by 2030.

- The USFS reported that fuels reduction projects are ongoing near Pikes Peak and in lower reaches of the South Platte River.
- Highlands Ranch is investigating the feasibility of installing floating solar panels on one of their reservoirs.

CCWCD Website Issues:

- At the end of the month, Daisy reported that Host Papa had been giving a ton of high data usage warnings, which she had to spend an inordinate amount of time fixing. They also repeatedly started demanding that CCWCD purchase a hosting package upgrade to resolve this. This is the same issue that she dealt with before, and she doesn't have this issue with the other hosting provider she uses, which she recommended switching to. Lisa McVicker, Nola and I discussed this via email and it was decided that switching over would be the best solution. Daisy began switching the site over this past weekend.

Wild Horse Reservoir:

- I will be attending the upcoming Wild Horse meeting on October 16th.

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: Lynne Buchanan noted in the information about the Smelter Reservoir, that the state's dam safety engineer did recommend purchasing an air tester and safety harness for safe entry into the valve vault. She stated the items were estimated to be in the \$900 to \$1,000 range. Based upon Lisa Brown's estimate of the items to purchase, Chris Fuller made a

motion to approve up to \$1200 for the purchase of these items. Lynne Buchanan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Discuss Diligence and Water Rights Abandonment: According to Sedona Chavez, David Shohet wanted to have this tabled until he returns.

Sedona said David did prepare a memo and sent it to the Board. The memo summarized all of CCW and HASP and pending conditional water rights. He made a table that titled them with their case number and provided the next diligence due date. Sedona said she believes the next one is in the Spring of next year and the rest are spread out over the next couple of years.

OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Update on plans for water law class for Park County Citizens: The anticipated new date for the water law class was November 1st. David Shohet was to confirm with Dawn Jewel and Garver Brown. Both David and Garver are out of town and we will have to wait until they return to verify the date. Nola Knudsen said we have flyers we can distribute and a local realtor is willing to send out a notice to all realtors about the rescheduled date.

5.2 548 Front St. Building Updates: As mentioned earlier, we finally we received the back payment of utilities owed by the Dental office. After the change of name and some staff to Elevated Dental, there was confusion about the monthly payment; it appears to be worked out.

Nola Knudsen explained that during the month, there was a time when the air exchange was not working. The Dental office had called and when Nola investigated neither her side or the dental office side was working. It appears the unit needed a reset after not being used for some time. Nola said she started looking for an additional concrete sub-contractor when we didn't get return calls from Lozano. She found a couple other areas with the same stamped concrete and began locating other possible sub-contractors. In the meantime, Nola spoke with Small Town Drain and it turns out they did not renew their license for Park County. Nola was able to contact Agent Drain who just returned after a 5-month absence. He advised Nola the town did not want digging any further this year. Agent Drain will come up and determine the need and will be available early next year to complete the repair.

5.3 Update on 2025 Grant Agreements: No updates

UPDATE ON LEGAL ISSUES

Sedona Chavez provided a summary of the cases on Counsel's legal report.

22CW3185 This is an application by Aurora and HASP is the opposer. Aurora is seeking a change in some water rights on Tarryall Creek. The case is on hold while Aurora conducts further engineering.

23CW3153 HASP is the applicant seeking conditional exchanges on Deer Creek to gain diligence and to make the water rights absolute. There is an issue with the use of Spinney Reservoir. Alison Gorsevski is working through this with CPW and Aurora. This is on hold until it is resolved with the parties.

23CW3170 This is an application by the Girl Scouts. Alison Gorsevski is to provide comments to the applicant. Lisa McVicker said the feasibility report was not seemingly feasible and have asked Wheeler to change the scope of its feasibility study. And Lynne Buchanan did some great work looking at what Woodland Parks was doing in terms of providing ward. We just felt looking at the project, it seemed like we should step back before we commit to spending hundreds or thousands of dollars. Alison Gorsevski said no matter what we do going forward, the case is not going away,

23CW 3180 HASP is an opposer in this case. Central Water Conservancy District is seeking a change of water rights in Chatfield Reservoir. There is a trial setting conference for November 21st, and the proposed trial date is November 12, 2027.

24CW3134 This is an application by Park County. This case is also on hold while Aurora and Park County work out issues with the use of Spinney Reservoir. We are in that case just to monitor it and see how that issue gets resolved.

Other Legal Matters There have been no new applications in the last 30 days.

CCWCD/HASP Operations: The operations report from Wheeler wasn't ready at the time David Shohet was preparing this legal update.

JTR Agreement: Their council is working on a proposed revised agreement to update the operations agreement between Highlands Water Ranch (HWR) and CCW. David is expecting this to come through in next 30-60 days. Sedona said one of the attorneys working on this is no longer with the firm; the delay may be coming from this.

Retention Record Policy: A memo was prepared for this about the state archive application to get a retention schedule from them. Sedona sent the form to Nola to fill out and send out.

Director Terms: A chart was prepared to show when the director terms expire. Nola Knudsen thinks this is a good idea to ask for a record retention schedule. With board approval, she will fill it out and send it in. When she gets the information, she will also discuss with the USPWCD to possibly work out a plan to get the fire proof records room organized. Lisa McVicker asked about the process of scanning. Nola will see how much scanning is required. She did say she knows she will be retaining records related to legal litigation.

6.1 Adjourn to Executive Session

6.2 Reconvene as Public Meeting

6.3 Act on Executive Session Matters

PATRONS COMMENTS

None

DIRECTOR'S ISSUES

Lisa McVicker said thanks about finding out about the joint meeting start time from Dave Wissel and she will appreciate finding out about the Buckskin Cemetery tour.

Wallie Weld said he will be on a 17-day cruise next month in the Panama Canal. He will also be in Utah for his eye condition.

Chris Fuller moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Wallie Weld and the meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm.