

**Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
November 12, 2025**

The monthly meeting of the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District was held on Wednesday, November 12, 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 Lisa McVicker, Craig Steinmetz, Chris Fuller and Lynne Buchanan. Lisa Brown, Operation's Manager was present in the office. David Shohet, legal counsel, was present by teleconference.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**1.1** Lynne Buchanan made a motion to add the discussion of the small grant for CO-CO under 5.2 of the agenda. Chris Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**2.1** Administrator's Review on Accounts: Lynne Buchanan said she and Nola Knudsen worked last week with Colotrust to create the second approval to allow Nola to move money from the Colotrust account to the TBK account. She also has paid all the outstanding invoices to date through the new bill pay system. We also have the ability to make monetary transfers between banks. Lynne said there was nothing out of the ordinary on the check register with the exception of Agent Drain. Nola was able to reach the owner of Agent Drain in Alma who came and completed another video to verify the need for repair of the drain in the women's bathroom. He also stated the town of Fairplay will not allow any digging after November 1<sup>st</sup> and the repair will have to wait until the Spring. Lisa Brown said she had talked with Nola about concrete contractors and Agent Drain has a number of guys he works with and he will coordinate with these subcontractors to complete the repair with the stamped concrete work. Nola had talked to a number of neighbors in the area and learned who not to use as well as reliable contractors. The repair should be okay to wait until the Spring. The Agent Drain owner said it is likely the compaction of the sidewalk before it was poured caused the drain to separate. Lynne Checks for the month of November totaled \$25,854.04. Cash assets after payment of November invoices total \$2,802,447.20.

**2.2** Treasurer's Review: Lynne Buchanan said deposits for the third quarter to the TBK Bank were for the Upper South Platte and rent and utilities from Summit. We received property taxes from the county for \$11,319.98. In the Colotrust account, we received interest in the amount of \$9,986.22.

**2.2.1** FY2026 Proposed Budget Review

Lynne Buchanan said she was expecting to get the budget paperwork from Craig Erickson for the updated budget but did not receive it before the meeting. I guess we'll have to wait until December to make the final approval and sign the budget. We approved the preliminary last month. I know we typically say the grant funding is at 4% of what's in the Colorado trust account so I told Craig to make a few minor modifications like that. We should have all of the paperwork that we'll need signed and everything for the next December meeting and approve it at that time.

**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 11 times in October. On October 1st, a gage height of 9.16' was observed, for 24.03 AF in storage. Many visits were to battle beaver dam activity in the access road culverts.
- The augmentation release of .35-acre feet for Adventure Placer 2 was made between October 24th and 27th. The gage height was lowered to 8.935' for 23.33 AF in storage. By October 27th, temperatures were in the 20's, and the Water Commissioner said he would allow the release of any owe the river water in the spring.
- I will be submitting the annual accounting and the report for Adventure Placer 2 in the next week.
- I purchased the recommended multi-gas air tester and have picked out a safety harness to order.
- I obtained a staff gage reading on October 31st, for the end of the Irrigation Year. A staff gage of 8.89' was observed, for 23.18 AF in storage. Ice is now beginning to form on Mosquito Creek, but not yet on the reservoir.

**Additional Information:** A better solution to deal with the beaver dam activity is something for the future to look into. The population has really expanded at the SPR. We may need more deceivers or something bigger; maybe concrete, or perhaps box culverts, or a bridge. The construction manager for FlyWater said a type of bridge called a quick bridge could be a possibility. He had worked in the Little Thomson after the 2013 flood, he did a lot of road construction, river habitation, and putting in robust culverts and bridges, and replacing them. Lisa will reach out to him to get further information.

Lisa has found an item, in conjunction with the safety harness, she wants to order. It is a line to haul someone up out of the vault. It is 16-17' to the bottom of the vault. Lisa said she realizes the board authorized her to order the harness but after she started looking at them realized they are personal and you have to get the right size. The board told her to purchase the one for her size. She will be pricing the lines because there is a safety bar that you raise up out of the vault when you open it up that you can clip onto. That would kind of alleviate concerns. Lisa was asked if she needed a tripod and she replied that's a whole other thing. I think with just having that clip on, that should be adequate. Tripods are a couple thousand dollars. Lisa did a lot of searching some of the recommended companies, however, Lisa McVicker said safety is important and it's not like you need to buy one every year. Lisa said she will look into that some more to see what we need.

Since Lisa Brown was out of town last meeting and didn't get to speak to the board, she reported the dam safety engineer came out in September and he didn't have any concerns. His biggest concern was the vault and safe entry into the confined space. Other than that, he said they would help us out if we need to recalibrate the gas sensor. Lisa Brown could send it down to the DWR Greeley office and they would recalibrate it for us. Lisa said she thought that was a nice offer of him to make. He was really complimentary of the new head gate and the river work that was done as well. Lisa was asked what was a gas sensor and what was being measured. Lisa said she will be measuring for oxygen, because you can have a depletion of oxygen, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen sulfide, and flammables gases. Hydrogen sulfide being the biggest concern as that's what kills you really fast. You can't even smell it. A story was relayed of multiple individuals going into an area and dropping one after the other. If it's at a certain level, you can't even smell it. It's so strong that it'll just blow out your nasal sensors and you can't smell it and you just drop immediately. Lynne Buchanan said it basically paralyzes your breathing mechanism. One of the things that I learned taking an online safe entry into a confined space course, is establishing a protocol of the procedure of somebody going in and you always have another person outside that never enters the space. So, in case something happens, you have a person in a harness, and you have a way to retrieve them, for example, if I were to slip and fall or something like that. This is why Lynne Buchanan asked about the tripod. She said if you're dead weight down there, could somebody actually lift you up on just a line. Lisa Brown admitted he got me scared. Lynne said it probably is not likely to have anything there, but we need to be prepared. Lisa Brown was told if an animal were to get in there and die and start decomposing, that's what could release that hydrogen sulfide gas. Lisa doesn't know how an animal could get in there because the vault lid is very tight; it's an unlikely scenario of something to get in there somehow. Lynne Buchanan said it's probably more likely if anything got in there, it's going to deplete your oxygen which will kill you.

Chris Fuller was at the SPR on Sunday and said there was a good 5' of ice in one area. Lisa was there the day before.

Lisa Brown said another concern is we have had visitors coming past the no trespassing signs. She thought about getting a game camera. They are about \$100 and you mount them up in a tree and it'll send a signal to my phone. Lisa McVicker asked about a locking gate and Lisa said we have a locking gate but they will walk around the polls. Lisa McVicker asked about the liability. The concept of fencing is to keep trespassers out but you can still get sued. The gate is across the driveway that is about 15 feet wide. Lisa said she had somebody ride a dirt bike around one side earlier this summer, and she put up stakes and barbed wire to close that off but on the other side you really can't close it off. Chris Fuller thinks we need to put in new poles and a real gate. Chris said it's so close to the road you can barely get up to it and stay off the road. The swing would probably be toward the river. Lisa Brown said somebody cut the old original lock that Dan Drucker had given her the combination to. There's a number of locks in the loop on the chain; there's a water commissioner loop and there's a keyed lock. It turns out that the lock wasn't actually cut, a link in the chain had been cut and a new lock had been put in its place attached to the gate. It was Delbert Scaggio that said he couldn't get the lock open so he cut out a link of the chain and put in a new one.

Lisa said his property is the surrounding, odd-shaped property there. She said he eventually wants to build a house on his property. Dave Shohet said it is the Center's responsibility to take care of the bridge as that's one of the things we took on when we acquired the SPR. If the guy's

going to build something he may come back to Center and say, we're having a hard time getting stuff in and out, trucks and access, so he may say, you guys need to fix this or make it better. Lisa mentioned to him that she was thinking about replacing the chain altogether, because it's an old cable attached to a chain and just doing some kind of streamlining. He said he had no problem with the gate or the chain.

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

- The annual CRMC Members' Meeting and regular bi-monthly board meeting was held in person at Chatfield State Park on Oct 22nd, which I attended.
  - o the vacancy on the Board of Directors was filled at the annual meeting. Britta Strother of Dominion Water and Sanitation District was elected as a new Director, and the rest of the slate of Directors remains the same for this year.
  - o the proposed FY2026 budget was finalized and approved at the regular board meeting. The cost per share is \$152 for next year, down slightly from \$161/share this year. Assessments will be sent in January.
  - o Contracts were approved for tree removal and water quality monitoring. This might be the last year that additional sediment sampling is required.
  - o Following the meetings, the group went on a tour of Sandstone Ranch Open Space Park. This is one of the off-site environmental mitigation areas that has just cleared the five-year monitoring criteria for CRMC. CRMC was instrumental in helping Douglas County purchase this property, which provides suitable habitat for Preble's Jumping Mouse, an endangered species found near Chatfield and surrounding areas of the Front Range. The management of the property and continued monitoring has been turned over to Douglas County.
- Accounting was received at the end of October and has been updated to the state system through September. On September 30th, there was 120.72 AF in storage for CCWCD's use.
- There was no OAC meeting in October.

**Additional Information:** If this is the last year that additional sediment sampling is required, that'll bring the cost of water quality monitoring down somewhat in the future. They also said this is absolutely the last year for helicopter tree removal, that it's going to remove a lot of these crucial stands that are dead and dying like over in the Plum Creek drainage side. We're also going to be able to do a lot more on land tree removal, which is obviously a lot more cost effective than helicopters. We'll start flying, I think, at the end of this month and operate into January or so. Chris Fuller asked when they needed to stop flying for the birds. Lisa said she thinks between March and August.

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

- Accounting was received in October and had been updated through September 30th. CCWCD had 66.69 AF in storage. The accounting, which reflected the requested releases of 4.4 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits and the remaining 4.25 AF of Randall Ditch credits for Park County were reviewed and confirmed by Wheeler. October's accounting has not yet been received.
- 4.1 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits are planned to be released during October.
- Construction of the second raptor tower began at the end of October. I visited JTR to

check progress and found that the excavated hole had infiltrated water in it. The contractor has since formed the foundation adjacent to the excavated hole, and will fill the bottom of it with an 8" layer of 3/4" crushed and compressed rock before lowering the foundation into the hole. He was giving the large concrete block time to cure before moving it. He also has a pump on site to dewater the hole.

- 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 Shohet, Matt Loose, and I had a meeting to discuss this and plan to discuss this in more detail at December's meeting.
- The invoice for Leased Reserved Water has been sent to Highlands Ranch Water. HRW used 124.12 AF in 2025 and was billed \$20,219.15.

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

- The monthly SPEB meeting was held at Highlands Ranch Water on October 15th, which I attended virtually.
- Matt Ashley, from Aurora Water, gave a presentation on the Wildfire Ready Action Plan for the North Fork of the South Platte that he has been a part of. He discussed partner agencies, the WRAP development process, and the prioritized list of projects that have been identified. The final report should be made available soon.
- John Geerdes attended the meeting and gave an update on CUSP. Highlights included an update on the completion of the Lake George diversion dam removal, an update on progress of design work for the Lake George fish ladder removal, and planned river restoration at Landis Ranch to remove gabions on Tarryall Creek. He discussed much trail work that has been done throughout Park, Jefferson, El Paso, and Teller Counties.
- The Pine Elk Creek Improvement Association sent a very nice thank you letter to the Board for the grant for the improvements to the Pine Historical Park. They mentioned a noticeable increase in visitation and many compliments on the improvements. Some of the pictures I took of the park will be used in SPEB's annual report.

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

- The website has been working well and no issues have been identified since transitioning to the new hosting site.

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

- The Wild Horse meeting scheduled for October 16th was cancelled. I plan to attend the upcoming meeting on November 20th.

**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**

**4.1** Update on plans for the water law class for Park County Citizens: Lisa Brown said she circulated the new date of April 18th and got three positive responses so we're going to set the class for that date. She will reach out again for the new year. Lisa will also get that date posted up on the website and will send out personal emails to all the people that did express interest. She will get flyers up and start doing advertising in the new year. Originally, David Shohet had offered a couple of alternate dates, one at the end of October, one last weekend, and neither of those worked for Garver. Then we talked about getting into chances of bad weather, then the holidays and people not really thinking about water but thinking about skiing. We think late spring is a good time when people are thinking about water and projects. Also, a lot of the interest that was expressed was from local realtors and that's when they're all gearing up for their season.

**4.2** 548 Front St. Building Updates: Lisa Brown reported the neighboring property has been purchased by the South Park Health Services District. They plan on continuing using it as a physical therapy center. They have been doing a lot of remodeling and last week they began scraping the gravel off and came in and black topped it. After they were gone, the black top has been stained and marked along our new stucco. She will figure out who to talk to about this. Lisa will take some pictures of the stained stucco and see what AV Plastering would recommend. There is additional concern about drainage. Chris Fuller asked about the town water treatment requirement. Lisa Brown said it didn't require any action but it was inadequate chlorine treatment.

**4.3** Update on 2025 Grant Agreements: Lisa Brown said there was a change with Webber Park. They changed their scope of work. What they had initially requested money for was mechanical treatment, and the forest service wanted more hand treatment in that area. They've modified that scope of work, and the question is whether they're still asking for the same amount of money, which was \$60,000, and nothing else has changed. Chris Fuller said it's funny because handwork is more expensive. Lisa said she thinks they will do the amount that they can do with what they have. Lisa is not sure if we need to modify anything. Lynne Buchanan said it doesn't change anything really. It is just a methodology change. Chris said that is the same so we are okay. Lisa said she will get them a contract.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1** Discuss Dates and Budgets for 2026 Scholarships and Grants: Lisa had ideas on dates. Both awards night. They typically are a week or two ahead. I am proposing that we stick to the same timeline as last year. That was that the applications were due by May 1st. We extended it to May 1st, and then the students and counselors were notified by May 15th, and students were requested to attend the board meeting on June 11th. Then, if we've already chosen, they could be announced at their senior award night. The way South Park has been doing it, is they've been keeping a secret from the students and they have them all come to the awards night and then they get surprised with whatever scholarships they're getting.

Regarding the grants, last year we had the grant cycle open from January 15th to March 31st. The applicants presented to the board on April 9th and final decisions no later than May 14th. Last time, however, the board ended up making the decision after they were here on the ninth and then awarded the contract by May 31st. If somebody needed to start early, we could adjust.

**5.2 Discussion of grant for Co-Co:** Lisa McVicker said I'm on the board of Co-Co Coalitions and Collaboratives, which is that offshoot Carol Ekarius of CUSP, the original director of CUSP, many years ago, decided that this would be a really good organization because so many small organizations were coming to CUSP with needs after the fire. So how do we take care of our watershed and what do we do about equipment and how do we get insurance for our contractors or our employees and how do we mobilize in order to take care of this small watershed? It started in Colorado and now it went nationwide. So, Carol created Co-co.

Coco's budget is funded a lot with National Forest Service grants. With the government shutdown, its staff has gone without pay and has been furloughed. The director, whose name is Jonathan Bruno, could still be paid per the bylaws but has chosen not to. Co-Co applied for a grant from Mackenzie Scott who is just Jeff Bezos ex and is actually doing something philanthropic with her money. It is a \$15,000 matching grant. Lisa McVicker said in our last board meeting two weeks ago, she said she would bring it up to the CCWCD board to see if perhaps the Center could do a grant. Lisa spoke with David Shohet about this. A lot of the work that COCO does is very specifically related to Park County. Jonathan said "here's some areas of overlapping interest and investment between CCWCD and Co-Co. In the Co-Co support network, we provide direct mentorship technical assistance to place-based organizations across Colorado to local communities including those within the CCWCD area. We continue to support CUSP and this year we'll be providing them with a \$25,000 award. Funding from CCWCD could help with that and augment that. Number two, the Central Colorado Forest Collaborative. The newly formed partnership focuses on forest health and wildfire related issues across Colorado's front range. It brings together stakeholders to identify and advance priority investments in forest resilience projects that protect critical water supplies and benefit all Coloradans and Park County residents. We're actively fundraising for this project. Forest Service funding is up in the air. Number three, through our action implementation and mitigation grants which they call AIM programs we continue to make significant financial investments across the state. Over 3.5 million to date including opportunities aligned with CCWCD's region, our training program and investments are supporting response and capacity with Park County and beyond.

Lisa McVicker said thinking about a grant of maybe five thousand dollars that would go towards the matching grant from Mackenzie Scott. I am asking the board if it's something that you would consider. Coco is very much, as CUSP was, about watershed health. Then, all of a sudden here comes the Hayman fire. Just a couple years after CUSP was formed, which then used to be called the Upper South Platte Watershed Protection Association.

David Shohet said he doesn't have any comments on the board decision or the business decision. Lynne Buchanan asked other than matching the Scott Foundation, is there a specific area that they would be generally paying salary? Lisa McVicker said, it would have to go specifically towards something that was on the ground in our Park County of CWCD. So probably out of the three of these, there's a match for CUSP, but the Central Colorado Forest Collaborative and the training program that is supposedly on the ground here in Park County for AIM, Action Implementation and Mitigation Grant Program. Chris Fuller said we haven't seen any of the money that he's talking about so she doesn't know. He said that he will be making a 25,000 award in the future. Chris Fuller said the one thing that she does like about Coco is they support education for all of us. They actually give scholarships to some of the CUSP staff when they

attend some of their education. So as an umbrella, they do a good job, they do a good work. Lisa said they do a lot of training.

The board was asked if anyone sees a red flag? Lisa asked if there was a legal red flag? David Shohet said the board needs to remember it's got to be part of your mission and it's got to be something benefiting your district. You can't use Park County money to say benefit the Douglas County project, but so long as it meets those two requirements, okay.

Lynne Buchanan is wondering if there's something more specific from Co-Co, we could have them report on. If it's a grant, it would be like other grants. It's very specific to this particular county. Lisa McVicker said she will tell him that the board would like to possibly offer a grant, perhaps offer a \$5,000 grant, but it would be subject to a specific description of how that would be used. Lisa will do that, and then we can vote on it in December.

## **PATRONS COMMENTS**

### **DIRECTORS ISSUES**

Chris Fuller did take care of the JTR and the SPR with weeds. It is late in the season but it didn't really hurt too much because those weeds soak up that stuff and it goes to the roots, which is the problem in the first place. The reservoirs look good, except for James Tingle being pretty low. The SPR looks fabulous. Chris did know that scentless comes down off the road, right all around the gate that's been a problem area. Lisa McVicker said it'll be interesting to see what Lisa Brown comes back with in terms of, what will be the best way to deal with the beavers. It's not a great issue. Lisa said it isn't, and she also conscripted a volunteer to help her. It is an ongoing problem every fall. The one beaver deceiver worked until they started focusing on the other culvert, which caused the water level to back up high enough that they could go over the top of the other beaver deceiver and plug up that culvert. It's going to be a matter of getting something like a grappling hook in there.

Lynne Buchanan said she had no issues other than I'll be in Arizona for the next few months. She will be calling in for the board meeting. She is leaving the 30<sup>th</sup> after Thanksgiving.

Chris Fuller had a question about the willows and wanted to know if Lisa Brown was concerned about them being overgrown now. She thinks they're looking like they're choking a lot out of Aspens on the road and along the river.

Lisa Brown said the only ones she is really concerned about are the ones at the base of the reservoir and she is going to cut those out. Lisa said a big disadvantage to taking too many out is when the runoff was high last year, she was coming across the road for six weeks and having all that vegetation and those willows held the road in place and I think it saved the roads from washing out. I do plan to take those out; the dam inspector said he recommended that just so that we could see better, if there's any seepage of the toe of the dam right. Craig Steinmetz asked if the bridge would be the ultimate cure. Lisa Brown is going to contact one of the contractors for information. It was suggested to request an FRP.

David Shohet said there's another project he was going to mention in the board, based upon one of Matt Loose's comments. The JTR and the head gate up there are inefficient and difficult to operate. I don't know if Matt wanted to have Wheeler look at possible solutions of whether they would want to line it or pipe it or do something for JTR, but that's one of Matt's identified

problems with the operation of the system. Lisa McVicker asked David if he could talk to Wheeler and he agreed. David said it will probably be Todd and Christine again, and that probably we'll get something back to take a look at it. Lisa Brown said she thinks lining may be the better option.

In reference to the stucco damage, Craig Steinmetz said we should approach the owner of the property and if the owner is not open to a conversation, then we file a claim with their insurance company and to get it repaired. The problem of involving an insurance company then you have to wait for an adjuster to come out and the adjuster has to be absolutely correct in whether it's two dimensions and areas and so forth. It just takes much longer than dealing strictly just straight with the owner. While aesthetics is important, the bigger concern is the drainage. If it is something that could be negative to their building, that could be a motivating factor for them to pay attention.

Chris Fuller made a motion to adjourn. Craig Steinmetz seconded and the board adjourned at 2:00pm.