

Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 11, 2026

The monthly meeting of the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District was held on Wednesday, March 11, 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 1:06 PM.

The member present in the office was Chris Fuller. Lynne Buchanan, Lisa McVicker, Wallie Weld 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 Chris Fuller made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Wallie Weld seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1.2 Lynne Buchanan moved to approve the February minutes as presented. Craig Steinmetz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2.1 Administrator's Report: Nola Knudsen reviewed the check register with the Board. All board members were sent a listing of the bills paid via bill pay along with the minutes from the last meeting. The invoices totaled \$20,563.63. The total cash assets after the payment of bills are \$2,799,429.81. Nola was asked to provide a comparable of the cost when we were using propane with the present use of natural gas.

2.2 Treasurer's Report: Lynne Buchanan reviewed the deposit activity. Deposited into TBK Bank were rents and utilities from the Dental office for 1,000.00 and January rent from Knudsen Counseling for \$1000.00; interest received was \$5.29. The Colotrust interest was \$7,960.09 and the first half of property taxes received were \$264,875.13.

2.3 Invoices and Warrants: Wallie Weld moved to approve the invoices and warrants as presented. Craig Steinmetz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

Smelter Pipeline Reservoir (SPR):

- I visited the SPR 2 times in February. On February 1st, a gage height of 8.60' was observed, for 22.28 AF in storage. I visited again on the 20th, and it was extremely cold and windy, and I was unable to unlock the vault. With the reservoir completely iced over, the level can be interpolated from the next reading. Upon returning, I obtained a reading on March 8th of 8.62' or 22.34 AF. The gain is attributed to the recent snowfall, just over one foot.
- The access road needed to be plowed one time in February.

Chatfield Reallocation Project (CRP):

- I virtually attended the CRMC bi-monthly meeting on February 25th.
 - o The tree removal was about wrapped up, with grinding and removal of the remaining tree material. Remaining equipment was set to be removed last week. This season was more challenging, with no ground freeze, rising reservoir level, and lots of public interaction due to warm weather. However, the helicopter will not need to be brought back next year. If the reservoir is at a lower level at the end of this summer, it will enable further tree removal at ground level and stump removal. There are still stands in Plum Creek that are scheduled to be removed. One note was that larger “habitat trees” were left standing. The removal effort is coming in on budget.
 - o Monitoring reports were to be sent to the ACOE on March 1st. The ATMP report was already submitted to the ATMP Committee and was approved and sent to the TAC. On site success criteria have nearly all been met, with the exception of the persistent Hairy Willow Herb.
 - o Insurance was approved for renewal with Hix Risk Consultants.
 - o Two contracts were approved with Habitat Management (HMI) for noxious weed monitoring and management.
 - o Highlands Ranch noted that they are currently on drought watch, which means voluntary watering reduction. Their service area is listed as being in extreme drought (D3) since December, 2025. Rick McLoud announced that he will be retiring as Highland Ranch Water’s Water Resources Manager on May 15th.
- Accounting was received at the end of February and has been updated to the state system through January. On January 31st, there was 117.90 AF in storage for CCWCD’s use.
- Matt Loose attended the OAC meeting on February 25th, and provided some updates:
 - o The ACOE is planning to present the flood control outlook at the March OAC meeting.
 - o Reservoirs in the Lower South Platte River Basin are expected to fill by mid-March, except for Prewitt Reservoir. However, DWR anticipates direct-flow irrigation diversions and calls to begin early this year.
 - o The new Plum Creek and Marcy Creek gages are nearing completion. A variety of flow conditions will be needed to complete channel rating tables.
 - o Denver Water reported a 47% snowpack in it’s South Platte collection system (worst on record). The Colorado River collection system was at 56%.
 - o Other participants had similar observations for their systems.
 - o Matt relayed that he didn’t anticipate any operations currently for CCWCD.

James Tingle Reservoir (JTR)

- Accounting for February has not been received yet. 4.20 AF of stored Randall Ditch credits are planned to be released in March.
- I have reviewed the annual operations and maintenance billing and identified a couple discrepancies that we are working out.
- W.W. Wheeler began the study of the Sessions Ditch last week and did a site visit to obtain measurements.

Additional Information: Lisa Brown was asked by Christine Mugele if we had a digitized plan set for the Smelter Pipeline Reservoir. She said we did not, however, we do have a complete physical plan set and David Shohet has a partial digitized set which Lisa sent to Christine. Lisa plans to take the whole set to Lazer Graphics to have a full digitized set for our records

South Platte Enhancement Board (SPEB)

- I attended the February 18th meeting virtually.
- Colorado Whitewater gave a presentation. A main focus for them is access and conservation. Safety and instruction are other priorities.
- Nathan Elder reported on the snowpack. Drought restrictions will be enacted. The Frisco Marina has cancelled their season.
- Matt Ashley reported that Spinney is at the lowest level since 2002.
- The South Platte Ranger District has funding to hire 6 seasonal employees this summer.
- Preliminary designs for the fish ladder removal in Lake George are ongoing, and a planning meeting was scheduled to occur on March 10th.
- I am working on the presentation on CCWCD for next week's meeting.

Snowpack Report:

- Hoosier Pass is at 62% of median, Buckskin Joe at 50%, Michigan Creek at 54%, Rough & Tumble at 53%. The Upper South Platte Basin is at 40% of median. The South Platte Basin is at 70%. These numbers were obtained on March 8th, after the snowstorm.
- Porphyry Creek in the Headwaters of the Arkansas is the highest in that basin at 80%.

CCWCD Insurance:

- The insurance policy renewed on February 10th, and a new policy was sent to us. The invoice should have been sent by now, for the amount of \$5,223.20.

CCWCD Website Issues:

- The website has been functioning well. Updates are made in a timely manner and always great communication.

Wild Horse Reservoir:

- I attended the virtual CA meeting on February 19th. Aurora Water presented information regarding their decision to move forward with the Wild Horse South alternative as the preferred location.
 - No pumping is required, they had a land acquisition opportunity, this location avoids a known golden eagle nesting site, preliminary tribal feedback favored this location over WHR, a single dam versus three dams at WHR, and lower cost were some of the reasons given.
 - Next steps will be permitting and hoped for approvals, and continued engagement with Park County citizens via various outreach programs.
- The meeting scheduled for March 19th was just cancelled, as the BLM works through analysis questions and roles and responsibilities in light of Aurora's changed application.

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 2025 Grant Agreements: Lisa Brown has been in contact with Jim Legg from Winding River Ranch, and has a meeting with him to help him get his report finalized. She just received an email from Shawnee Water Consumers Association from Vincent Tolpo letting her know, as well as the Water, Land, and Trust Fund, that they have run into a snag with easements and property issues with some of the neighbors where the pipeline returning the river water was planned to cross. Apparently, Shawnee Water was under the impression they owned the water works road and a land owner thought he owned the road. They are trying to work that out and are looking at an alternative property. Tolpo said he has already laid down hundreds of feet of pipe which was what the majority of CCWCD's grant was for. Lisa asked him to give her a snap shot of what their budget looked like and how much has been spent. Lisa sent the budget spreadsheet to Vincent Tolpo, asking him to fill it in but has not heard back yet. Lisa said it seems like getting underneath highway 285 has become a question as well. This makes her wonder if the ditch already goes under highway 285, how is there a problem putting a pipe through it?

With SPEB, the fish ladder design is progressing and will be complete soon. Lisa did send a letter to Jennifer Baker at Stewardship West, asking them to rewrite their application and to focus more on how the surveys might relate to water shed health and the Badger Basin but has not heard back.

Lisa Brown said she has not received any applications yet for Grants for this year. Lisa has run advertisements for the grants and the scholarships all month in the Ute Country News, and advertisements placed in the hard copy of the Flume. Lisa said she is also going to have digital advertisement running constantly in the Flume for a month. At the end of the month, we will switch over to the announcement for the Water Law Class.

Lisa McVicker said she recently had a Co-Co Board meeting. At the meeting, Lisa mentioned that CCWCD provides grant applications and we had provided them a \$5,000 grant a month ago. Lisa McVicker asked Lisa Brown to have advertising sent to Esther Duke, with Co-Co. Lisa McVicker explained to the Co-Co board that the amounts can vary but in the application, they must be very specific and provide information on an application as to how it helps and applies to a water shed in Park County. Lisa McVicker said they are very active, and with the fire season coming up, Lisa thinks they will respond.

Nola reported on possible scholarship recipients. She spoke with the young woman from last year who indicated she would be putting in another application this year. Nola also spoke with the counselor, Stephanie Hatch, who indicated she had two or three possible candidates. She sent her a reminder email a couple of days ago. There is a new counselor at Platte Canyon high school who was emailed to look for the application on the web-site. Nola will follow-up with

another phone call to explain the program to him. She has also followed up with recipients from the prior years to remind them a second application is an option.

4.2 548 Front St. Conference Room Use Agreement Language: David Shohet said they started drafting some policies as well as an application form for possible rental of the conference room. David wanted to send that to Lisa Brown first and get her input before presenting to the Board in April. The policy will allow CCWCD to charge a fee or not. They could waive the fee if it is another water entity. Lisa Brown took a look at the Park County guidelines for facilities use. They charge \$25 per hour or \$100 per day for most of their rooms similar to ours. Some of their requirements are for cleanup of the space and bathrooms, collect garbage, sweep or whatever needs to be done. Another option is to pay the facilities to provide the cleanup for a fee.

4.3 CCWCD Water Law Class April 18th. Lisa Brown said the water law class is scheduled to meet from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. She had a planning meeting with Dawn Jewell, Garver Brown, and David Shohet. Everything is coming together nicely and there is one more planning meeting scheduled for April 16th at 9:00. Lisa said she has sent emails to everyone who confirmed last time and has received some confirmed RSVPs. Wallie Weld said Indian Mountain also has rules for their facility and he will send a copy of that to David Shohet.

NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Discuss Park County Draft 1041 Permit regulations language: Park County has a 1041 permit requirement. The 1041 permits are regulations enacted by counties that require certain development activities to go through the process to mitigate the impacts of the development activity. CCWCD needed to obtain one when the JTR was constructed. We mitigated by giving Park County 5af of the Randall water for perpetuity. These are very powerful regulations that counties have to ensure water projects and other projects in the county are properly mitigated and don't affect the community. Park County's regulations are about 30-years-old. The county has begun to try and update and revamp their proposed regulations. Their proposed regulations were provided in February and David said he presented soft comments on behalf of Center, not knowing what to do with HASP in terms of whether we were going to count Dave Wissel as having a conflict or not. Dave doesn't believe it is a conflict with Dave's representations both with the county commissioner hat and as the HASP Chairman. Dave will recuse himself from HASP to the extent we do have issues with the 1041 regulations. David said today he submitted fairly lengthy comments on behalf of HASP with more detail than the ones centered on CCWCD. They are likely going to have a public meeting in March or April to go over their regulations. A couple of general things we're suggesting, is that there may be some circumstances where an IGA will be more appropriate than a 1041 permit process. David said the 1041 process is onerous, a lot of fees have been upped. The previous fee was \$25K and now they are requiring \$50K. There is a lot being added in terms of monitoring plans, engineering plans that to be submitted as part of the 1041 permit. A lot of the comments we are focusing on are suggesting that scaling may be appropriate, and adjustment of fees depending on the size and scope of the project. We will do more commenting through HASP.

Chris Fuller said scaling makes things much more reasonable. If one is dealing with a million-dollar project, the fee might be okay but not if you have something like a \$100,000 project. David said the way the new 1041 is set up, is that any project requires a 1041 permit. As he interprets it, something as small as repairing outlet works at the JTR would require a permit.

However, there is something called a Finding of no Significant Impact (FONSI) that allows the county representative to utilize a FONSI. David said however, there is no standard as to what qualifies for a FONSI finding. He suggested Park County provide examples and criteria that would guide both applicants and the County Manager if they want to go this route. For example, David said the gaging on Deer Creek would have to have a 1041 permit the way the regulations are written. It would probably qualify for a FONSI, but you never know.

David's general sense is this is targeted toward larger non-Park County municipal water users and some of their projects as opposed to Fairplay or Alma, but they could apply to both. David said the first round of comments were due March 3rd. There was an additional deadline of today and he just submitted those comments on behalf of HASP. There is another comment period before the public hearing, David said if it is not an Industrial or municipal project, it may not require a 1041. For someone with a stock watering project, he's not sure it would qualify for a permit. He believes ranching and farming projects would be exempt from the 1041 process.

5.2 Discuss offer of MMRC shares: Jon Rice and Alyson were inquiring about finding a water broker for HASP. The idea was rejected at the last meeting as it didn't appear to make sense to hire one. However, making the contact to advise them of such, the water broker presented HASP with the potential purchase of Mountain Mutual Reservoir company shares. The broker has a client that has either 49 or 59 shares that were available for sale. Each share yields about .03af of water. One share was designed to provide a household use only well. The total amount of water is about 1.7 or 1.8af of water total that would be available with the shares for sale. The water broker indicated that he believes the shares are worth about \$40k per share. David does not believe they are worth it. He doesn't know what will happen going forward. This was offered to HASP to go forward for the acquisition. His recommendation would be to not go forward. The water is generally available on the Middle Fork, the South Fork, or the North Fork. Mountain Mutual has water rights like Guiraud 3T which is on the Middle Fork, they have storage in Spinney, and then they have their own storage facilities on the North Fork. It would be available in any of the areas that we operate in terms of water.

5.3 Discuss 2026 water operations: David Shohet said about this time each year, we get together with Wheeler to discuss how we are doing with storage, what the upcoming water year looks like for HASP and if Center needs to chip in. David said we have 195af of Randall and Sessions water. Whatever we don't use, we can lease the remainder to Highlands Ranch Water. The water planning internally helps us understand what we need to store. Matt Loose is estimating that Center needs 95af of consumptive use credits this year for direct replacement of summertime depletions for HASP plans and to exchange to refill reservoirs in the JTR and SPR. Matt's estimating about 100af left to lease to Highlands Ranch Water. We have a deadline to offer to lease it to them by April 1st. Chris Fuller made a motion to retain 95af of the Randall and Sessions water and to offer 100af to Highlands Ranch Water per our standing agreement. Wallie Weld seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

David Shohet told the Board that we have a 3-year planning that we operate on. Our supplies are meant to last for a 3-year drought period and we are not in bad shape for this season.

UPDATE ON LEGAL ISSUES

Water Court applications: David Shohet there is not a lot going on. we are waiting on a few things, in particular the case with Aurora and the Johns Ranch change case. They are still evaluating what to do for return flows and storage. We have two applications; in one we are an applicant and the other we are an opposer involving water in Deer Creek. Those are for exchanges into Spinney. The State Land Board said Aurora didn't have a right to sublease storage space. We are still working on those cases. Apparently, Alison Gorsevski said Park County has reached an agreement with the State Land Board in their case and we're going to ask for approval for stipulation in Park County's case at the HASP board meeting on Friday. David doesn't know what the agreement is but Alison has indicated HASP can probably cut the same deal in its pending application that involves Spinney.

Other Legal Matters: David Shohet said we have one, 6-lot subdivision application for HASP that is for household use only wells near Fairplay. He didn't have the operations report from Wheeler yet but will send it off as soon as he receives it.

James Tingle Reservoir: David Shohet said there are some issues going on with Highlands Ranch Water about how much water we each have in storage in terms of our absolute and conditional rights. The agreement with Highlands Ranch Water was completed prior to us constructing and operating the JTR. We have been talking about trying to come up with an agreement internally to allocate the various water rights within JTR amongst the parties, as well as modernizing some of the agreements in terms of the operation of the JTR. Late last month, we did receive a proposal from Highlands Ranch Water about the allocation of water but it really didn't have anything about modernizing the terms of the operation of JTR based upon actual operations since we constructed the JTR. Lisa Brown and David met with Matt Loose about Highlands Ranch Water's proposal. David said they will get back together and provide some comments back to them. David said they don't have an actual agreement for the board to consider at this time but they will meet and bring something back to the Board so they can't see where they are at this time.

PATRONS COMMENTS

None

DIRECTOR'S ISSUES

Lisa McVicker is looking forward to the water law panel and offers any help needed.

Lisa McVicker said we have two paid registrations available for in person attendance at the Arkansas Form and she plans to sign up to complete what she can virtually. Lisa Brown said she will be at the HASP meeting Friday and will offer the Arkansas Forum registrations to interested colleagues.

Craig Steinmetz is continuing to seek homeowners' associations information.

Lisa McVicker said Rick McLoud has been a really good partner of ours. She asked about providing a card to congratulate him on his retirement.

ADJOURN

Chris Fuller made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lynne Buchanan and the Board adjourned at 2:20pm.