

**Joint Meeting of the  
Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District  
Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District  
Headwater Authority of the South Platte  
May 14, 2025**

The quarterly joint meeting of the Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District, the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District, and the Headwater Authority of the South Platte was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at the water district offices at 548 Front Street, Fairplay, CO. Lynne Buchanan called the meeting to order at 2:20 PM.

The members present at the office from CCWCD were Lisa McVicker, Lynne Buchanan, Craig Steinmetz, Wallie Weld and Chris Fuller. The member from the Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District at the office was Jon Rice. Upper South Platte members present by teleconference were Glen Grothe and Lynda James. Representing HASP at the office was Jon Rice, Lisa McVicker and Lynne Buchanan. HASP Operations Manager John Matteson was present. Legal counsel Alison Gorsevski and David Shohet were present in the office. Also attending was Nola Knudsen, CCWCD Administrator and CCWCD Operations Manager Lisa Barden Brown.

Also attending was Garver Brown, Water Commissioner, Matt Loose and Christine Mugele with W.W.Wheeler, Dan Qualman, board member of Indian Mountain, Dawn Jewell from Aurora Water, and Ally Scott counsel for Aurora.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Presenter Matt Loose with W.W.Wheeler will be moved up to the top of the agenda after approval of the minutes. Jon Rice moved to accept the agenda as amended. Lisa McVicker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes was tabled to next HASP meeting in June.

David Shohet said HASP has authorized legal counsel to begin a long-term water study that will take place over the next three to four years. The first part of the water study, we are calling Phase 1, is asking what does HASP have, what does Center have and what does Upper have? We have never taken an inventory of where all of our water rights are located and where all of our customers are located. This is the presentation of Phase 1 describing what we have and what our operations looking like. The majority of that work was performed by Wheeler. They are here today to present their Phase 1 findings.

An extensive memorandum was prepared by Matt Loose and Christine Mugele providing a summary of the mapping they developed for Phase 1 of the Headwater Authority of the South Platte (HASP) long-range planning effort.

The primary purpose of the mapping is to graphically present the water rights and storage capacity presently available to HASP, along with the customers presently operating under HASP's augmentation plans. Seven maps were prepared to represent the following:

Figure 1A – Existing Water Rights and Storage Capacity Available to HASP.

Figure 1B – Existing Customers in HASP Augmentation Plans.

Figure 2 – Existing Instream Flow Reaches.

Figure 3 – Available Water Supplies and Committed Augmentation Water in Case No. 2CW389.

Figure 4 – Available Water Supplies and Committed Augmentation Water in Case No. 12CW50.

Figure 5 – Water Year 2024 Annual Depletions

Figure 6 – Existing Pond Surface Area.

Matt Loose described the functions of the maps and answered questions from the board members and guests.

Alison Gorsevski said the board approved moving ahead with phase 1&2 at the last meeting. Phase 1 was exactly this today. Phase 2 we're expecting to be presented at the next joint meeting and that's going to be more of a discussion of where does our system need further development? What other operations could be improved?

Girl Scouts – Matt Loose said he was up at the site this morning with Christine and Todd. They will prepare a memo for the board's consideration. Matt said they thought it was worth studying and has merit. It will be a good amount of work to make it usable. From a location perspective, it is above the instream flow and there are plenty of customers there.

**Garver Brown:** At this time of year, we're looking at run off and snow pack at the measuring sites. Last year there was above average, good run off, and filled all the storage buckets. This year, we are pretty low in Spinney, Cheesman is about normal at 84% for this time of year, West slopes are pretty good, and there is Dillion at about 85%. With the snow pack last week, we were in exactly the same spot, on the same day as we were two years ago in 2023. During that same period of time, we didn't get a corresponding snow event up here. We got a little bit of snow during the early May event. We managed to survive all summer with a meager snow pack of about 65-70%. So right now, we are looking at a low out of Rough and Tumble of 13% of normal for this time of year, and our high side is at Hoosier Pass at about 75%. Buckskin, SNOTEL, the upper headwaters of the Middle Fork, is around 60%. Out at Michigan Creek, our indicator for the Tarryall, is about 30% of normal for this time of year. We are running late 80's administrative calls right now. Without any major precipitation events, we're probably going to see late 1870's calls by the end of May. You might want to be thinking about what you're going to do with that Randall water, getting it in earlier this year if you can, and the fact that it will probably be a pretty tight summer.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Treasurer's report: According to the reconciled balances at the end of April, the balances for the bank accounts include BMO checking at \$49,827.46, Deer Creek Savings was \$19,344.01, and Colotrust is \$2,146,311.06.

2. Invoices and Warrants: We have received two attorney bills, the accountant bill, and John Matteson's invoice all set up for payment.
3. Financial Statements: The final audit was issued by the auditors. They turned over the digital report to the state and it was accepted. They have requested payment of \$8K for their fee.

## **OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT**

John Matteson presented the Operations Manager's report.

John emailed out the detailed account summary to the board. On page four, the current remaining water in the two plans are 11.736af in the 02CW389 plan, and 59.846af in the 12CW50 plan.

1. John reviewed the accounts that have had some activity since the last meeting.
  - An account previously owned by Yang is being transferred to Chamberlain. John Matteson has had numerous contacts with him and he reiterates he is agriculture use only. He appears to think he does not need augmentation. We will send him a formal notice that he will be removed from the plan.
  - Hartsel/Miller. We filed a lien on that property when we thought the property was getting sold and the lien might be paid off. The sale fell through.
  - The Jones property was sold to Barre who bought the property as an investment. He has a property manager who dropped by the checks on Monday; John is in the process of reissuing the augmentation certificate to the new owner.
  - LaBarre – The board approved a payment plan for the amounts due this year. They made payment for the 1<sup>st</sup> half that was due.
  - Gold Tamers – The board approved a payment plan for this account. They missed their 4/30 due date for the first half. The annual amount due is \$14,500. I have emailed twice since then and have not received a response. I will have to notify him he will get a cancellation of his lease.
  - Dora-on. This will be discussed more under the legal report.
  - Genesys Leasing. We went through the notice of application. The applicant elected not to pursue.
  - Red Canoe. We set up a lease for them that fell through. John thinks they are sub-dividing and selling the property. We sent a will serve letter to them.
  - Elk Park Mountain, LLC. They have a 12-space trailer park. I have sent them an estimated cost but I have not heard back from them yet.
  - Osborne. This is a new application John has received for two residences on one well, located near Pine.

2. John Matteson said the meeting minutes are now on the website as agreed last month.

Jon Rice moved to accept the Operations Manager Report as presented. Chris Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Duro-on/Tesla Campground status and possible action of the Board to either remove this account or require a deadline to close or other action:

John Matteson said every time he sends an email to Anna Duro-on, she indicates they are going to move forward. However, there are numerous reasons put forth as to why it has been delayed. Most recently, they have gone to a bank for financing and the bank wants to look at all of the paperwork and documentation etc. John suggested to David Shohet we might want to do something similar to a will serve letter. We are holding the water, almost 5af of water aside. It is not available to any other customers to use at this point. David said we want to move this forward but there are many reasons it hasn't closed. We are looking for direction from the board of whether the board wants us to continue holding this water, and the pattern never end, or turn it into more of a will serve letter where she is paying us for holding the water for a period of time. Or, should we give her a date such as 45 days and tell her if she doesn't close in 45 days, we will remove the account; she can always reapply. Lisa McVicker hasn't felt good about this account from the beginning. Lisa wants to return the 4.72af back to the 02 plan. She doesn't feel a 45-day notice or a will serve letter will make any difference. John Matteson said we tell customers when you close that you need to pay within 30 days. John said he hasn't ever given her a drop-dead date and he feels she should be given a firm time frame to get a check together. After two years, these 30 days will be firm. Lisa said if we stop and add up the time John and David has spent on this application administratively, we are way over our administrative fees. John said we normally collect a fee as part of closing. Lisa thinks the letter sent the applicant should say if she elects not to close in 30 days, nevertheless, she will owe this amount of administrative fees. We set the precedent to reserve water for the will serve letters. John suggests we can tell her if she pays the administrative fees and 10%, we will hold your water for 12 months. At that time, she must close on the water or we will be done.

David Shohet said he knows that Matt Loose sent time on this application. David will get Matt's time and his and send to John Matteson.

Jon Rice moved to send a letter to Doro-on, notifying her that if she pays 10% and the administrative fees within 30 days, HASP will hold the water for 12 months. If not paid within 30 days, she is done. Further discussion; Lisa asked if she decides not to go forward, does the letter include that she owes the administrative fee no matter what? The response was yes. The motion was seconded by Lisa McVicker and carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Long-Range Planning: Matt Loose presentation moved to top of agenda.
2. IMMD WSP Board discussion of potential sale to IMMD WSP of up to 2.5af (76 additional participants plus transit loss). John Matteson said the board established some time ago, that any application that requires more than one-acre feet of water requires board approval. We have received a preliminary application from Indian Mountain for a 6<sup>th</sup> tranche. John said a couple customers may have dropped out. Our last IGA allowed for some reserve credits. We are looking at exactly how many new participants we will have. Jackie provided us with a spreadsheet of 76 participants, with plus or minus 2. 76x.027 is 2.052af. There is probably going to be a little extra for transit loss. If the board approves up to 2.5af, John feels that covers us. He can then finalize the amount of water required and file a notice of

application. Indian Mountain's goal is to begin augmenting this tranche the first of 2026. This will come out of the 02 plan but the ultimate goal is to remove everything to the 12-plan. Alison said other previous sales to Indian Mountain have been pursuant to an IGA. We will need to enter into another IGA before moving ahead with this sale. Lisa McVicker moved to approve up to 2.5af subject to an IGA approval. Jon Rice seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Wild Horse Reservoir Update. Sara said so far we have gone through our conservation program with the latest meeting we have had. We are one of the most aggressive programs in the western US. Our next meeting tomorrow, is going to be about our demand. We are working on resource reports. The latest thing with the BLM is with the Pre NLI process. The way the alternative process works, is, we are required to go through a couple dozen alternatives. We have to make sure, here is our need, here's our justified need and the point of NEPA is seeing if you are impacting the least number of resources needed. In coordination with the BLM, the list was finalized to an enlargement of Spinney Mountain Reservoir and another is the location of Wild Horse South, which is about six miles south of the existing proposed site. It is the same size for the alternative. Another alternative is the half size of Wild Horse, plus aquifer storage and recovery in Aurora. That combination is another alternative. And what is called our no action alternative, is, should the project not get approved, then the action would be aquifer storage and recovery which doesn't meet the need 2075 in a major way. You will potentially see folks out in the Wild Horse south location. In the southern location, we are doing some geotechnical work. You might see drill rigs around the county. You may also see staff collecting cultural resource information.

We are hoping to formalize the process in January. The current timeline's most optimistic view is starting the EIS process the beginning of next year. We would start construction in 2028. We might be able to meet a mid-2030 construction time frame.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Future schedule for HASP and Joint Meetings: Jon Rice said there was some discussion of moving the Joint meeting to a different day which didn't work well for all. The final alternative Jon Rice heard was to move the HASP joint meeting up on Wednesday to 10:00am. Then Center could hold their meeting afterwards. Lisa McVicker proposes we could meet at 10:30am for the four quarterly meetings. Jon Rice moved that we move the quarterly joint meeting to 10:30 am on the second Wednesday of each month. Wallie Weld seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **LEGAL ISSUES**

**Case No 22CW3200:** David Shohet said the big news is that Alison Gorsevski has reached settlement with all opposers, The referee entered a ruling in this case in April and should be wrapped up in the next few days. It will be additional water that will be part of our planning process. Jon Rice said the Upper South Platte was told by the state they had to replace a headgate on Rosalee 6. The Upper South Platte has contracted an excavator to complete the replacement.

David said in terms of oppositions, a lot of these cases are where we are going back and forth with the applicants and there are no real big updates. A couple of these cases were wrapped up.

CPW had a junior water right on Michigan Creek; they had a decree entered in May. Will-O-Wisp and Schattinger Ranch are cases HASP has stipulated out of. The big one still lingering out there is the Johns Ranch change case. That case is on hold to allow Aurora to conduct further investigations primarily for their storage.

We have talked about Indian Mountain and we will have an IGA for the June HASP meeting. In regards to the Girl Scouts, we heard from Matt Loose about that and will have a memorandum about from him. The water buy-back will be an agenda item for the June meeting

## **PATRONS**

Dawn Jewell said for Johns Ranch, we put out an RFP for the feasibility study for the storage or recharge or what we can do on that site. Hopefully this summer, you will see some drill rigs out on Johns ranch. The Homestake pipeline has a small break that is just downstream and is impacting mostly Colorado Springs. It will be shut down for repairs sometime after June 15<sup>th</sup>.

The South Platte Forum is doing a presentation on storage in the 21st century. They want to know if HASP or Center would want to do a very short lightening round presentation. It would be 8 minutes with slides to highlight what we do here, what storage looks like. The date is Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **DIRECTOR'S ISSUES**

Jon Rice has asked Alison Gorsevski and David Shohet to find a water broker in order to be a little more knowledgeable of what is available.

Lisa Brown mentioned there is a large ponderosa pine tree that has succumbed to pine beetle and needs to be taken down and dealt with properly. Chris Fuller has some contractors she could review.

Lynda James said the South Platte Basin Roundtable is wondering about holding a field trip up here this summer. It will be in September at the regular Tuesday meeting. We will invite the Round Table, the South Platte Roundtable, and the Metro Roundtable. Some of the things they want to look at is the Montgomery Reservoir and to look at a transmountain diversion and how that takes place. They are also interested in what's going on at the London mine. Aurora has agreed to make a presentation and will bring the landowner up. The third thing the group is interested in is seeing a stream improvement project using the beaver deceivers. Lynda asked if the conference room could be utilized for the meeting if a small group responds. The meeting is held the second Tuesday in September on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Jon Rice moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chris Fuller and the meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.