

**Joint Meeting of the
Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District
Headwater Authority of the South Platte
November 12, 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, November 12, 2025 at the water district offices at 548 Front Street, Fairplay, CO. Dave Wissel called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

The members present at the office from CCWCD were Lisa McVicker, Lynne Buchanan, Craig Steinmetz, and Chris Fuller. The members from the Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District at the office was Jon Rice, Dave Wissel, Bob Slagle, and Glenn Grothe. Upper South Platte members present by teleconference was Lynda James. Representing HASP at the office was Jon Rice, Dave Wisell, 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 CCWCD Operations Manager Lisa Barden Brown.

Also attending was Garver Brown, Water Commissioner, Matt Loose and Christine Mugele with W.W. Wheeler, Dawn Jewell and Mikayla Vondi from Aurora Water,

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Lisa McVicker moved to approve the agenda as presented. Lynne Buchanan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Lisa McVicker moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Glen Grothe and carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Treasurers Report: John Matteson is excused from today's meeting. Jon Rice presented the Treasurer's report. He stated the bank balances as of October 31st. were as follows: BMO checking balance is \$52,733.54, Deer Creek Gage \$19,344.98, and Colotrust \$2,135,071.09.

2. Invoices and Warrants: Lisa McVicker stated all the invoices were up to date. Lisa McVicker moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Jon Rice seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Lynne Buchanan made a motion to pay the invoices and warrants. The motion was seconded by Bob Slagle and carried unanimously.

OPERATIONS MANAGERS REPORT

1. Customers – updates re: new and changes to accounts: David Shohet said one customer, Chamberlain, was removed on 7/21/2025. Indian Mountain has been noticed. The IGA has been signed for the sixth tranche.

David Shohet also provided the amount of remaining water. In the 10.966 af left in the 02CW389 plan with almost 56 af committed under that plan. In the 12CW50 plan there is 59.781 af left in that plan with 71af committed.

2. Annual billings out 10/1: Dave Wissel noted the annual billings were sent October 1, 2025. That cycle has generated our balance both in the operating account and the Colotrust account is up around \$2.1 million.
3. Processing payments and billing leases: see above

OLD BUSINESS

1. Long-Range Planning: Matt Loose said he had been working on a draft memo that has been circulated to board members. Alison Gorsevski said what all would hear from Matt is the Phase 2 of long-range planning. Phase 1 was our inventory and the maps came out of it to show what was going on and what our assets were. In Phase 2, the focus is on where our current activity is within the basin and how does everything fit together from an operations standpoint. Then, Phase 3 & 4 will be where we start looking forward and what do we do about it moving ahead. Matt Loose shared his memorandum on screen for the Boards and talked referring to the map. Matt said we are looking at the current issues and the operational restrictions. There is replacement water being delivered to two customers in the HASP service area and what we ended up doing for purposes of this planning is we identified hot spot locations. The hot spot locations were where he identified the current greatest amount of current depletion obligations. We also included in these areas where HASP has the existing storage capacity available. Matt also wanted to analyze the ability to get water to those locations so it could be stored and subsequently released for replacement of customer's depletions. To do this, we looked at three things. They were the terms and conditions and HASP's existing augmentation plan decrees that are really significant to the replacement operation. We also looked at the larger item; Matt did an updated analysis of the streamflow available to operate HASP's exchanges and the third element was looking at other operational constraints. There is a lot that goes on a lot of these stream systems, so we looked at constraints beyond water in the river that affect replacement operations. A lot of this was built on the experience gained over the past several years here of doing the accounting and coordinating the operations.

Matt talked about the decree terms and conditions. There are the three HASP decrees with two in Division 1 and one in Division 2. Matt made a table that was in the memo that summarizes what he felt were the key operational restrictions that were put in those augmentation plan decrees. The most restrictive terms and conditions involve replacing depletions that are at upstream locations with downstream water supply. Within the identified hot spots, Matt identified nine hot spots. From north to south, Matt reviewed all nine of the hot spots and why they were identified as hot spots. Of the nine hot spots, there are three where we don't have upstream storage at this time. They are Elk Creek, Trout Creek, and Tarryall Creek above Michigan Creek.

The second major task was looking at the stream flows available for exchange. He looked at exchanges for all of the nine hot spot locations. The reason he did the analysis was to identify the frequency in which HASP can operate exchanges. HASP relies on exchanges to replace depletions and to fill storage capacity. Matt further discussed looking at a study period of 2000 to 2024 that reflected current operations by senior water rights and is representative of average, wet and dry hydrological conditions.

From there, Matt talked about looking at stream gages. They relied on stream gage data within each exchange reach to determine the frequency in which HASP could exchange replacement

water to the hot spots. During the 2000 to 2024 study period, stream gage data was available for the exchange reaches to each hot spot location except for the tributary streams of Beaver Creek (to Lininger Lake) and Mosquito Creek (to Smelter Pipeline Reservoir). Matt discussed how streamflow was evaluated by estimating the drainage basin yield using the USGS. The results of the exchange potential analysis are summarized in the attached tables to the memorandum.

Matt said the third main part was to look at the other operational limitations. He reviewed the several other restrictions on HASP's replacement deliveries. Matt reviewed each of the nine additional specific operational limitations with the board that were detailed in the memorandum sent to the board members. He also addressed ways to work around and address these issues.

Lisa McVicker asked a question in terms of using the water from Chatfield. If the time was right and it would be available, could we store it in the James Tingle Reservoir? Matt said yes and we do have a decree exchange that is in the 12CW50 plan that goes to the JTR. Lynda James asked about whether Spinney was usually full and Matt said yes. Every year, Upper South Platte has a contract with Aurora and they get 37af which comes in October 1st of every year.

2. Girl Scout Pond Analysis: Prior to the meeting, a memo regarding the Girl Scout Pond Analysis was distributed to the board members. Matt Loose said he understood the direction of the board to do a water supply and demand prefeasibility assessment before investing in an expensive and exhaustive site-specific feasibility assessment. Matt said first they look at the physical operation of this pond; how it would be filled, how would water be delivered to storage, how would it be released for storage for HASP's replacement operation. Also, how would the water rights work, how would we support those diversions for those releases? The reservoir is known as the Lower Pond and was previously used by the Girl Scouts for recreational purposes but has been abandoned for over 20 years. Matt discussed the additional pre-feasibility information related to HASP's potential development of Lower Pond storage.

To operate the Lower Pond for HASP's replacement purposes, HASP would need to construct a new surface diversion structure on Trout Creek, a new pump station, and a new pipeline from the Trout Creek surface diversion to the Lower Pond. HASP would need to operate the Trout Creek diversion pipeline in reverse to make replacement releases from the Lower Pond to Trout Creek. Matt reviewed his memorandum in which is discussed the physical operations and structures needed to make this operation feasible. Matt also discussed the water rights operations. HASP does not presently have replacement water supplies located in the Horse Creek and Trout Creek Basins. Matt described the problems with the limited exchange reach and the existing exchange rights available to HASP. He was able to show a way that HASP could operate replacement releases from the Lower Pond to satisfy calls from the instream flow water rights.

Matt Loose described his work in analyzing streamflow availability and showed that based upon his analysis, there would be sufficient streamflow during portions of each year for HASP to fill the Lower Pond by exchanges from the South Platte River to the Lower Pond Trout Creek surface diversion. However in prolonged dry periods, Lower Pond releases to Trout Creek would not provide a reliable replacement supply for customer depletions at upstream locations. Matt's memo includes review of existing and future depletions in Trout Creek and Horse Creek Basins and provided charts summarizing committed augmentation water and water year 2024 depletions

for both basins. The final section of the analysis Wheeler estimated a rough cost of approximately \$7.4 million for the project. The estimated cost per acre-foot of increased firm yield is \$128,000 per acre-foot.

Lisa McVicker said the exhaustive study that was done was what was talked about earlier. Lisa said her opinion that a cost of \$7,000,400.00 which is \$128,000 per af based upon all Matt has explained in detail and the research Lynne Buchanan showed that Woodland Park has their customer base pretty well covered. She said regarding the Girl Scout pond, it seems we would be looking upwards of that number. Jon Rice asked Matt Loose if he would recommend not pursuing this project and he replied he would not. Lisa McVicker did say this was exactly the analysis that was needed.

3. Discussion of Water Broker Engagement: Alison said we had already discussed the concept of working with a water broker to help bring us opportunities that we might not be aware of. She has had another conversation with Greg and Gary. Last time this was discussed, they were still trying to figure out if they were interested in working with a group this size and with the dollar amounts that we were talking about. They are willing to work with HASP. The arrangements would be this is a commission based at about 10% of the purchase price. We would work out the details as we get closer but 10% is the number the board should keep in mind. Alison said they are raring to go and they are interested in bringing some ideas to the group. Alison is at the point she doesn't think it is necessarily needed to have a presentation to the full group about some of their ideas. Jon said he understood they were looking to have a couple of point people for HASP. Alison would like to have a couple of people join in on a telephone call to make the initial board committee be contacts and hear a few of their ideas. Jon Rice, Lynne Buchanan and Lisa Brown are willing to be part of that committee.

4. Wild Horse Reservoir update: Dawn Jewell was present to state that things keep chugging along. Chris Fuller shared that whoever was hired to do their recent repair were excellent in keeping things clean, traffic was handled, and all was looking very good.

Regarding Johns Ranch, Dawn said they are getting closer to their storage feasibility study done. The preliminary data they are looking at now is causing some concerns in that storage at Johns Ranch may not be feasible from a monetary standpoint. As soon as the feasibility study is done and if her board will allow it to be shared by email, she will get the study out to the boards. Dawn said she wanted to be as open as possible with the boards but it is causing some challenges in our change case. They will be looking for some creative solutions and is open to ideas from the boards.

Dawn also asked the board if they were aware of a new diversion structure going in between Strontia Springs and Chatfield called the Dominion Diversion. They are actively trying to get that in. Dawn was uncertain if it would cause Matt Loose any issues with those exchanges. She doesn't know if they are doing a bypass or a measured bypass structure but it is something for all of us to be aware of for any exchanges from Chatfield up. Dawn also mentioned she has brokers that sometime work with her. She is willing to give board names to those brokers. The board is in agreement.

Jon Rice informed Dawn of the gentleman that was looking to purchase the Twin Lake shares. He said if we are not interested, would we let anyone else know that might be interested.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026 Budget Review: John Matteson sent the preliminary budget out for review once again. David Shohet and Alison have both commented on the budget as well. Lisa McVicker moved to approve the preliminary budget for the year 2026 as presented. Jon Rice seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Spangler Buy-Back/transfer to IM WSP: Alison said Spangler joined HASP individually. Once they heard about Indian Mountain purchasing another tranche, Spangler decided he wants to get out of the direct contract with HASP and move into the Indian Mountain contract. He is currently within that 76 number of customers and has the direct contract with HASP. Because there is a price differential, we are not able to just take his water and transfer it over. What we worked out what we think is the fairest option, which is to offer a buy-back opportunity and then he can come in through the Indian Mountain group. This is on the agenda today because we need the board approval to proceed with the buy-back; it is going to be around \$2,000 to get that accomplished. David said they would pay the purchase price less the cost to remove them. We would just notice him for John and Alison's time. The cost would be nominal; perhaps just a couple hundred dollars. Jon Rice moved to remove Spangler. The motion was seconded by Bob Slagle and carried unanimously.

3. Opposition to Girl Scouts Application, Case No. 23CW3170, and consideration of stipulation: Alison said this is the case where some of the initial discussion of upper pond, lower pond came from. It is a 2023 case we became involved in. This case is about the Sky High Ranch upper pond. It is a reservoir that is functioning. It turns out they didn't have a water right associated with it and they needed to get a water right and an augmentation plan. Initially, they had come to HASP but since HASP does not augment ponds. First, they came to us under our moratorium and not under our current policy is presumptively a lease. They need a more permanent solution. They filed a water court case and they are getting a ground water right for a well that will be used to fill the pond, a storage right to the extent they can capture any surface flows that go right into that upper pond and then a plan for augmentation. Currently, their main source of augmentation water is Woodland Park effluent. Essentially, they have a contract and the augmentation source is upstream of the location where the pond depletions are. They are a little bit light on augmentation supplies and she wouldn't be surprised if they came back to HASP in a lease context. We have lingered in that case to allow us to have conversations about the lower pond and if there was a potential for cooperation. At this point, we are the last opposers in the case. They have sent Alison a proposed stipulation and a decree. The decree now, at our request, includes terms and conditions that would protect the instream flow. Alison is satisfied the terms included in the decree will accomplish that for us. She is recommending HASP approve us entering into a stipulation for this case. Jon Rice moved to approve legal counsel entering into a stipulation in this case. The motion was seconded by Bob Slagle. The motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE FROM WATER RESOURCE ENGINEERING

Matt Loose talked about Operations for the year as a whole. Matt said the Smelter was in a holding pattern most of the year with the issues of the headgate repair. Once it was completed, he was able to operate an exchange of about 5 ½ af from Spinney. Moving down the system to the Spinney which remains the work horse of the 02-augmentation plan. Every day, we were releasing water for replacement on the 02 plan depletions. We also made a couple of releases for a larger spot sale. We also operated an exchange in June of the Sessions Ditch credits that became available the early part of June. Once we got to October 1st, we did fill the 58af of storage that is available through Upper South Platte's contract. There is a 2 af lease capacity to HASP that was also filled. The James Tingle Reservoir was released quite a bit primarily in the off season for replacement of 12CW50 depletions. This was better than projected. We also made a release for the 02 plan. We have some stored Sessions water in the JTR in addition to the Randall credits. There was a local call on Tarryall Creek and we had that water available and we able to release it to make sure we provided replacement above that calling right. In terms of storing water in the reservoir, we did store some credits from the Randall Ditch water right which brought Center's capacity in the reservoir to almost the full amount. We hit everything we projected from the Randall Ditch credits. The Deer Creek water was used on a more limited basis. We are in good shape and can run the average amounts and will be just fine. We did use it a little in August and October for 12CW50 depletions. With the Deer Creek water, we did run an exchange for a little over 2 af to fill Center's capacity in Lininger. We basically let Chatfield sit. Center's capacity is 148 af but right now it is about 120 af due to evaporation. The big picture is that we did end up the year where we wanted to be. We did everything we needed to do; we got the storage in the reservoirs to the level we wanted.

LEGAL ISSUES UPDATE

David Shohet said that in the legal report sent out, there is not a lot going on in our water court applications. There is one application that has held up as Aurora continues to work with the State Land Board over the right-of-way issues with the State Land Board. The Aurora application with the Johns Ranch, we heard from Dawn Jewell on that. With the Girl Scouts we stipulated out and we are in one other case for Central Water Conservancy Water District. They have a large change case involving Chatfield. Matt Loose and David have been working on that but are waiting for accounting. Once they get that, they can probably recommend stipulating out of that case.

UPDATE FROM WATER COMMISSIONER

Garver Brown said we are a little behind starting off this irrigation year. Spinney is a pretty low but we are doing better in Cheeseman on the North Fork side. Just running up a call at Chatfield of 1899 and he would expect that would be a pretty common call around here. Garver thinks free water in the winter is probably something we are not going to see too much of from here forward.

Jon Rice moved to enter into executive session pursuant to Section 24-6-402(4)(b) C.R.S. for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding to discuss the potential acquisition of real property. The motion was seconded by Chris Fuller and carried unanimously. The board enter executive session at 12:03PM.

The Board returned to regular session at 12:13pm.

Bob Slagle made a motion to make an offer for \$25,000 per af for storage in Maddox Reservoir. Lisa McVicker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S ISSUES

Lynda James spoke about the Round Table Low and No Regret document that all round tables can get around for what needs to be done in the future. She will send the information to the boards. The first one is for storage and climate scenarios. Lynda will be representing the Upper South Platte on the committee.

Jon Rice said when on the tour to Montgomery, and learning they have cooperating agencies for that project, Jon asked Bob Slagle if he would become a cooperating agency with Colorado Springs Utilities and he said yes.

Bob Slagle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jon Rice and the board adjourned at 12:17pm.