

**Joint Meeting of the  
Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District  
Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District  
Headwater Authority of the South Platte  
February 11, 2026**

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, February 11, 2026 at the water district offices at 548 Front Street, Fairplay, CO. Jon Rice called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm

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

Also attending was Garver Brown, State Engineer's office, Upper South Platte; Christopher Olney, Kim Gortz, and Maria Pasture from Colorado Springs Utilities; Dan Qualman from Indian Mountain board; Dawn Jewel from Aurora was present and Sarah Young from Aurora attended via teleconference; Michael Gustafson, counsel for Colorado Springs Utilities joined by teleconference as did Matt Loose with W.W. Wheeler and Associates.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Jon Rice moved the update of Wild Horse Reservoir to be presented after the approval of the minutes, and Colorado Spring Utilities update right after The Wild Horse Reservoir update. The water broker discussion will be moved to the executive session. Lisa McVicker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Lisa McVicker moved to approve the minutes for November and December 2025. The motion was seconded by Bob Slagle and carried unanimously.

**Wild Horse Reservoir Update:** Sarah Young said she had some news to update on a pretty big shift on the Wild Horse project. She provided a slide presentation first explaining why South Park area is a prime location and how it meets the needs of Aurora. She reviewed the alternatives evaluated and how Aurora came to view the present Wild Horse site as a feasible solution to their needs. The various benefits of this site were discussed including (1) pumping not required (2) a single dam vs three dams (3) lower operational and construction risk (4) minimal wetlands impact (5) no BLM surface lands and (6) potentially few concerns for local tribes. Also, there are no endangered species with the new site.

Sarah said they have been in contact with the residents and more information will be coming out. They have been doing some surveys so residents are aware of this alternative. They have an open house locally on the 27<sup>th</sup> and have a virtual version as well and discussed other media outlets.

Sarah reviewed the required permitting and approval process which includes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Park County's 1041 permit with the new regulations recently released. Additionally, they will work with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), regulation 87, the dredge and fill program.

Sarah Young finished with a review of why this is an environmentally responsible project and the benefits to Park County. Those included recreational opportunities, creation of jobs and job training, short term and long-term economic benefits such as tourism, construction, and recreation, and the creation of wildlife habitat.

Colorado Springs Utilities Update: The Colorado Springs Utilities representative provided some updates on the Montgomery Reservoir project. Colorado Springs is planning to enlarge Montgomery Reservoir approximately 8100af. They have been engaged in the pre-permitting activities for the last several years with the Federal, State and local agencies that will be providing the permits. They are still on an environmental assessment pathway vs environmental impact statement. They are planning on submitting the 404 which is the core permit application and the 401 which is the CDPHE water quality application this August. On the tail end of those applications, they will be submitting the Park County 1041 permit application. They understand that Park County has their new regulations and they will be reviewing those. They understand the moratorium on those applications will be lifted. They are planning town hall public meetings in April for Fairplay and Alma. Additional project information can be found on the Park County website, and Colorado Springs Utilities website. There is a letter of intent between Colorado Springs Utilities and HASP for potential purchase of storage in an enlarged Montgomery Reservoir. That agreement states that once they have received their permits that they would finalize the negotiations for HASP purchase. Alison Gorsevski asked about when they would possibly start negotiations with HASP and was told with the permits being submitted in September, there is about a one-year clock for an EA pass, so that would be when they would detail in the letter of intent that a purchase sale agreement could be finalized and that would set forth the final terms. David Shohet said he didn't think it would hurt to start outlining what an agreement would look like. We don't have to have every detail, but at least start that process.

With their intent to negotiate a purchase/sale agreement, their agency will become the beneficiary of the project, and as far as the new 1041 language, they are seeing, they will have to disclose that information and potential operation, and ultimately will have to have something more concrete on what that information looks like. David Shohet clarified what would be more concrete as what the source of fill would be.

## **UPDATE FROM WATER COMMISSIONER AND WATER RESOURCE ENGINEERING UPDATE**

Garver Brown provided an update on snow levels. Garver said recent reporting, as of yesterday for the February water supply, is from NRCS. There is mostly bad news mixed with a little bit of good news in there too. The South Platte Basin Reservoir storage is 102% of median, so we are at least going into this pretty severe drought okay on reservoir storage, but locally we have bigger issues. Aurora can back that as the Spinney Reservoir is low at 43% of capacity, 58% of median. Cheeseman is looking good at 83% full which is right in line with the rest of the basin;

102% of median. Coming to the meeting, Garver did not grab the numbers on the West Slope storage but thinks it may be 80 to 86% of where it should be. Eleven Mile Reservoir is at 100%, Antero is just a little low at 96% of normal. We are going into this with some okay reservoir storage. On the snow reporting side, South Platte Basin as a whole is about 65% of median, which is historically low. Here in the Upper South Platte, we're at 38.4% of median. Looking at some of the higher basins, the Poudre is sitting at 66% of median way up north and Clear Creek and Boulder just over 50%. Looking at the February snow surveys, a couple of local sites include Horseshoe Basin with 3.7" of snow water and Mosquito with 2.9" of snow water with 14" in terms of water on the ground; it should be 27". Down at 10,300 feet, at the Como site, we had .9" of snow water and 4" of snow pack while we would expect 16". The biggest number in the stream flow runoff forecast is Two Forks South Platte, where we are expecting 62%. The takeaway is this will be state wide. If Colorado receives normal snow fall for the rest of the season, from here going forward, it would bring us up to 70% of median peak snow water, but that is not forecasted to happen. The outlook is maybe we will get to 70%. It is as bad as it has ever looked. Lynda James asked Garver if he had any numbers on the North Fork as she is on the back side of Mt. Evans and the Wilderness area and doesn't believe there is any snow there. Garver said Echo Lake snotel was 16 to 18% of median.

Matt Loose said we provided a scope of work and cost estimate to do Phase 3A of the long-range-planning. Alison Gorsevski said when we first started talking about long-range-planning, this was divided into four distinct phases. The first was for the inventory we have, the second was identifying the spots in our operation that could be improved, the third was the big global one where we were going to have Wheeler help us look ahead and figure out what steps we needed to take. This is not only to resolve any existing issues in the system but to look at what we need in terms of water rights acquisitions, storage acquisitions, operational changes and possibly even extending into policy issues. The 3A and 3B concept emerged when it became apparent there is a lot of information that could be helpful to HASP to understand how we move forward. Alison said what we are anticipating as part of 3A is that Wheeler will go ahead and do an analysis of future demands. Matt will look at items such as where do we need capacity, where do we need infrastructure and additional water. Then, Wheeler will look at identifying what and where opportunities are present. Wheeler will consider this on a basin wide or service area wide concept and then provide the board with recommendations and highlights. Phase 3B will start when the board hears the results and then directs Wheeler where they would like to have them dig deeper if Wheeler believes there is more to uncover.

Jon Rice asked if more funds will be needed to allocate to Wheeler. David Shohet said yes, Wheeler is asking \$21,000 to \$25,000 for Phase 3A and there will be additional legal fees. John Matteson said for the first two phases, the board approved \$40,000 and to date, Wheeler has billed \$36,247. Lisa McVicker said she believes we need to keep going forward. Jon Rice moved that as Phase one and Phase two are complete and under budget, the board will approve \$25,000 to be paid to W.W. Wheeler for completion of Phase 3A. Bob Slagle seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Jon Rice asked if there was a timeline and Alison Gorsevski said they are hoping to bring information to the board in May. That will give them time to be ready with the big picture in the Spring.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Treasurers Report: John Matteson presented the Treasurer's report. He stated the bank balances as of January 31<sup>st</sup>. were as follows: BMO checking balance is \$59,285.25, Deer Creek Gage \$16,269.41, and Colotrust \$2,296,816.53.

2. Invoices and Warrants: These were sent out by email and we are current on those.

Remaining water balances in the 02 plan is 10.5af available and in the 12 plan there is 59.8af available. In neither of those two plans, is the water accounted for with two new customers. The two new accounts are the Boy Scouts who wants additional water supplementation for their camp just below Spinney for .1af, and Adam Zwingler for a five-lot subdivision for 1.35af.

## **OPERATIONS MANAGERS REPORT**

1. Customers updates re: new and changes to accounts: John Matteson said since our last meeting, we did close with Indian Mountain; they provided the funding and we are now providing them with 14.291 of augmentation water. For Elkhorn Ranch, we are providing .3af of water and an individual named McKenna for a 3-lot subdivision for .087af. John also foot-noted we have requests for spot sales that are continuations from last year. One is for Sportsman for 2af and the other is an individual wanting 1af for his tree irrigation. Matt Loose said we can probably do that but our official projections are not out until March 1st.

2. Annual billings – A/R (pmt plan for Kokanee): This year we did bill \$147,659 for lease and administrative. We are still owed \$16,700 that is made up of ten accounts John is actively working with. Some of them are in the process of getting checks out to John and some he will be sending notices. One of those accounts is Kokanee and he has agreed he owes the money. He owes \$4,640 and he will split the money in to two payments.

3. Confirm 2026 meeting calendar: The board all agreed to the joint meeting dates and that the time for the meeting returned to 2:00pm on the second Wednesdays as posted on the web-site.

4. Audit underway: John Matteson said the audit is well underway and the auditor will advise John of the selection of invoices she will want to review soon.

5. Possible IM Buy Back accounts/Banks Buy Back: At the last meeting, someone had requested to know how many accounts in Indian Mountain we were going to offer to buy back. John Matteson said we agreed at the last meeting we would do the buy back with Spangler. He has been transferred with part of the sixth tranche of Indian Mountain. John just filed a notice to remove him today. There are five other accounts, all in house, for .135af; if we were to buy water back it would cost \$11,334 less some handling charges to notice that. The suggestion from Jackie at Indian Mountain is that we send a notice to each of these people letting them know this is an option under the IGA. The board had said before a notice is sent out, they wanted to know the magnitude of the cost. John has provided that and he was directed to go ahead with the notice. John also had a request from an individual named Banks. He has a 3-lot mini subdivision and wants to return .0818af for a cost of \$8,000 plus cost of fees.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Long-Range Planning: Addressed earlier

2. Discussion of Water Broker Engagement:

3. Maddox Reservoir: After the last meeting, John Matteson sent an email saying thank you for keeping us in the loop, that we wanted to keep our communications open. John received a response about ten days ago stating he wanted to inform us that we could pay for the storage over time. He didn't offer to reduce the price.

4. Wild Horse Reservoir update (Aurora): Addressed earlier

5. CSU Update (Colorado Springs): Addressed earlier

## **LEGAL ISSUES UPDATE**

Alison Gorsevski said most of the work they have been doing has been related to long-range-planning as well as supporting John Matteson. As far as HASP applications, we still have the water court diligence case still pending; we are still hung up with the State Land Board and the city of Aurora. Park County has a similar case that involves diligence and they are also hung up on the exact same issue. Alison is communicating with Park County's attorney to see what they have done. Reportedly, they have been banging their head against a wall and Alison is asking Aurora for updates. She plans to have some more substantial updates for the next meeting. At this point, the case is almost sitting idle because we are waiting for the State Land Board and Aurora to resolve their underlying property issue.

Alison Gorsevski said as far as water court opposition cases, there is no update on the Johns Ranch case; this is sitting idle. We stipulated out of the Girl Scouts case, that case went to decree and we are almost done. We are still involved in the Central case involving Chatfield Reservoir and a change of water rights. David Shohet is handling that case and David said he is just waiting for accounting for Chatfield at which time they could probably get out of that case. There is more impact downstream than what is going on for us.

The long-range-planning has been discussed, and as David mentioned, there will be some additional legal costs on top of Wheeler's costs looking into various topics.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Jon Rice moved and Bob Slagle seconded that the board adjourn to executive session pursuant to Section 24-6-402(4)(b) C.R.S. for the purpose of discussion of potential contract with a water broker and acquisition of real property. The Board returned to regular session at 3:40pm. No decisions were made in executive session.

Lisa Brown informed the board she had gone to Soda Springs Two last week to check on the place and there were no issues there. She will remove the plastic sheets used to cover the downed trees.

## **DIRECTOR ISSUES**

None

Lisa McVicker moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lynne Buchanan and the meeting adjourned at 3:50PM.