

Monday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## 2025 CSAS Annual Board Meeting

Date: Monday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9 AM to 4 PM

Zoom:

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Members present: David Kanzer (President), Keith Roush (Secretary/Treasurer), Heidi Steltzer (Advisory), Ella Bump (Research Scientist), and Jeff Derry (Executive Director), Jeff Deems (Vice President)

Members absent: Frank Kugel (Voting Member)

**9:36 AM JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> 2025 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY KANZER. DETERMINED THAT QUORUM IS ESTABLISHED. MOTION TO ACCEPT MEETING AGENDA BY ROUSH, SECOND BY DEEMS.**

### 2024 MEETING MINUTES

- Budget/payroll: Reviewed payroll for FY 2023/2024. Talked safety concerns in the field. Approved hiring Ella Bump fulltime at \$60,000/year, paid monthly.
- Research activities: Continued maintaining instrumentation for CREEL and receiving user fee from USGS NGWOS. CSU-USBR research project with the Cosmic Ray Neutron sensor. Reviewed CSAS-MSI collaboration, forest service permit was not approved.
- Program highlights: the Wright-Ingraham and MSI dust-on-snow workshops and event. Dust sample collection and research coming from the USGS.
- Finance: For income, we anticipated \$223,746, where actual was \$261,609. For expenses, we spent \$20,000 less than anticipated.
- Proposed budget: Similar to previous year, adding the payroll of Bump as a full-time employee and pay raise for Derry.
- Board business: Discussed advisory board concept and new board member.

**9:44 AM ROUSCH MOVES TO APPROVE 2024 MEETING MINUTES. DEEMS SECONDS THE MOTION. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### Summary 2024 of Action Items

- Last page of 2022/2023 minutes needs spelling correction of Tom Ryan
- Review SOP safety for field work
- Send Board contract from Zoe Courville
- Send Board Cosmic ray contract
- Send Board draft of USGS Research publication
- Ute Water – reach out for support
- Check with accountant about expensing/capitalizing equipment

- Fix discrepancies P&L and spreadsheet
- Funding table – project years out expenses and revenue
- Send emails/letters to potential advisory members and craft a summary advisory guideline document
- Write a general meeting summary of today’s meeting
- Retreat or special meeting for brainstorming CSAS’s future. Include special advisory group and board members.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- FY23/24 Staffing, Time, and Effort
  - Matt Hurley invoiced for \$660. Explained data transfer and processes involving the server.
  - Andrew Temple did not work for CSAS this year.
  - Ella Bump helped with summer field work and then started full-time Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Duties across the spectrum, R programming, data tools, website management.
  - Derry hours allocation – mountain system monitoring took up a larger chunk of time this year.
- Research Activities
  - Zoe Courville still intending to do field work in addition to the sensors we maintain onsite.
  - USGS NGWOS in our study basin, Bump and Derry to takeover some of the work to justify the user fee of \$2500. Deems: The user fee is justified by us maintaining the research permit for them to be there. We need to be sure to explicitly convey that maintaining access to the research area is a major benefit of working with CSAS. No presumption of additional benefits especially staff time which quickly outpaces the ‘user fee’, thinking more broadly. How has that USGS data performed? Sometimes we don’t use snow scale data from other NGWOS sites because they are not representative. Derry: The snow scale data is in a slight depression, so some of the data is useful, some not as useful.
  - Cosmic Ray Neutron project has 10-11 sites, 2-3 days per month. This coming winter we are including forest service roads with a snowmobile.
  - MSI Snowtopography site located adjacent to watershed, and still do not have a permit due to the Forest Service dropping the ball. Funding to support that may have evaporated. Project is on hold.
- SBB Data Utilization
  - New forecaster for the BoR using the Snow Dashboard that our data pushes too, named Wolfgang. We still are checking in and they are still using our data. Behery left the BoR, which is a big bummer for us. Her replacement Connor knows us and is a big supporter, will contact him in July. Our 5-year funding agreement ended this year.
  - Kanzer: Connor comes from the modeling world, focused on water supply, based in Boulder and grew up in Grand Junction, very aware of the water situation. Offers a meet and greet with Connor, which would be good. He’s focused on big basin – Colorado River – issues. He has 10+ years of technical experience. **Action item: set up meeting with Connor.** Derry: His schedule should be lightening up soon. He’s moving to Durango.

- Research Publications & Presentations
  - What's new: Derry engaged with the Arkansas Roundtable to lay groundwork for funding. They were not as engaged as we hoped.
  - Talked to Rio Grande Roundtable about WSRF funding, they are big supporters.
  - Kid's Water Day at Ft Lewis College, 5-6 fifth grade groups come for about 10 mins
  - Dust-On-Snow Seminar with MSI and Wright Ingraham Institute. Success. Now we are trying to funnel that energy and the ideas into funding and work. Steltzer: It was an amazing event. The current funding climate makes it hard, and people have lost their jobs. Wright Ingraham remains interested and exploring ways to fund what they began. Derry: It would be nice to reconnect and figure out what folks are up to, to check-in and feed off each other's progress.
  
- Program Highlights
  - Snow School a success, lots of variety of people showing up. Great to meet folks and create new supporters.
  - Wright-Ingraham Dust Group
  - CODOS Tours, Mar-Apr-May. Dust-on-snow program: only three events, pretty mild looking at our record.
  - USGS Dust sampling, research papers
  
- SBB Activities
  - All the work we did last summer rolled into fall, and re-configure website and server data inflow.
  - This summer: station maintenance, recalibration of solar radiation
  
- Current Grant Status: Derry reviews grants. See ED Report.
  
- Grants to apply for: WCCF for \$20,000, we should hear back in July. And we are going for WSRF Grant this fall, will pursue all the Roundtables this fall, for another four years of funding of \$30,000 from each roundtable.
  - Kanzer: Roundtable folks may not understand the data and how it might affect them. Basin specific products? Figure out what they want or need or identify gaps? Specific to each roundtable. They want actionable data and products. For Gunnison, supporting flows for invasive species, boatable flows etc.
  - Derry: Feasibility of Cosmic Ray for measuring the snowpack in certain watersheds, ground truthing for remote data acquisition
  - Deems: cautioned about the 'operational' wording. CODOS is pretty targeted in supporting operations. CSAS is applied research, operational uses are incidental. If we push with an

Monday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

operations support objective, and then can only deliver in a circumspect, roundabout way, could be tough to return to that funding. Research funding is tough. Suggested BP Community Funds

- Kanzer: Forecasting products, how have they been incorporating dust-on-snow, are they using our data, are they supportive and reliant?

**10:35 AM SHORT MINUTE BREAK**

**10:41 AM MEETING IN SESSION**

FINANCE

- 2024/2025 Fiscal Year
  - We brought in everything we projected to bring it, which was great.
  - Brought in \$228,901 omitting buying/reimbursement of cosmic ray and weather station.
- 2024/2025 Expenses
  - Payroll: Mostly the same.
  - Insurance: now over \$7,000
  - Email/Web Protection etc.: approx. \$2,000
  - Facilities: In the contract to increase rent each January, landlord did not do that this year. Kanzer: Is there a notification clause? Ask for forbearance, we should proactively request not to raise the rent. **Action item: Derry review lease.**
  - CODOS Program
    - Vehicle operations and domestic travel, always the biggest expenses
    - FedEx. Cheaper to hand deliver CODOS samples.
  - Research/Field Education Program
    - Conferences
  - CSU project – Cosmic Ray
  - Total Expenses: 214,491 (omit cosmic ray), about \$8-9,000 less than we projected, feel like that is a great success
  - Roush: Impressed how close we came to projections.

**KANZER MAKES A MOTION TO APPROVE 2024/2025 BUDGET. DEEMS MOVES TO ACCEPT. ROUSH SECONDS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- Proposed Budget 2025/2026
  - Kanzer: Remove Town of Silverton from potential Revenue in budget sheet. Any potential for a booth somewhere in Telluride to sell merch or leverage money from those tourists? Blues and Brews Festival? **Action item: research opportunities**

Monday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- Roush: Mountain Film? Booth at mountain village? Kanzer: Has a contact at Mountain Village.
- Snow school could be hit by Bureau of Rec contraction in funding. Maybe reach out to other organizations, advertise at universities, academic credit? **Action item**
- Deems: Let's invoice the DoD funding, get the okay from Zoe. Derry: It is for winter time work, so might be hard to justify. Deems: We should try anyway. **Action item**
- Kanzer: Colorado River District funding, link the WSRF funding idea? Go higher? Should we chat with someone? **Action item: Go to the river district site, come up with something to maybe ask for more than \$25,000**
- Proposed Expenses 2025/2026
  - Increased health insurance to provide \$400/month to Bump, Derry: Want to make her position a professional track job
  - Re-calibration of radiation sensors \$5500
  - Development and outreach spending increased, we need to get out there and look for funding, present, etc.
  - Snowmobile trailer could be paid for through cosmic ray project.
  - We're in the hole this fiscal year of about \$7,000. Estimated funds for FY25/26 of \$237,000, using the extra in the bank account to make up for the deficit.
  - Deems: Make a contingency budget. Zero out revenue sources that worst-case didn't come through, what is that bottom line? Derry: Thinking that the next fiscal year is going to be the big if, the year that could really hit us. Deems: Averse to counting chickens these days, lots of crazy things happen, so would encourage a contingency plan for this year. Resiliency tools? **Action item.**
  - Kanzer: Clarification on breaking down salary by activity
  - **Action item: Schedule a 3-month budget review. Review contingency budgets. As needed.**
  - Discussion of BP funding. Other oil and gas funding. Steltzer: is there potential for a relationship with the BP funding, how is the fossil fuel industry going to change, could we be part of that change. Deems: Could we be cast in a negative light for taking money from oil and gas, this could be less extreme due to the funding climate. Steltzer: Aligning with the political regime is more dangerous, having as little hypocrisy feels important as well. Roush: Oil and gas have their hands in renewables, that's the way things will ultimately go, especially in Europe. Derry: We called them partners in Alaska

**ROUSH MOVES TO APPROVE P&L, DEEMS SECONDS. PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

**DEEMS MAKES A MOTION TO APPROVE PROJECTED PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 20256/2026. KANZER SECONDS THE MOTION. MOTION PASSES BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

Monday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**11:49 AM MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION KANZER. ROUSH SECONDS.  
RECORDING STOPS**

**11:58 AM RETURNING TO OPEN SESSION. RECORDING BEGINS**

BOARD BUSINESS

- Organizational Development
  - Adding member to the board to make 5 voting members
  - Action item: Derry: Email to Tom Ryan about formally resigning
  - Action item: officially post minutes to the website, in compliance with state regulations, including bylaws
  - Marti Whitmore has formally resigned from the board. Roush: Knows lawyers who would be willing to do pro bono work
  - Derry: Taking on a non-voting member? Kanzer: would be good to get a lawyer. Alternate voting member? Derry: Tanya Petach, as a potential voting member. Action item: Invite Tanya to be a non-voting member
  
- Proposed meeting dates
  - 10 AM September 30, 2025
  - 10 AM December 2, 2025
  - 11 AM February 12, 2025
  - 10 AM April 21, 2025

Summary 2025 of Action Items

- Who can we talk to at Springs Utilities and Northern Water to inquire about possible funding.
- Set up meeting with Connor from BoR
- Invite new board member
- Derry review lease and notification clause, ask for forbearance if possible.
- Research opportunities about local events like Blues and Brews in Telluride, Telluride Mtn Village, take advantage of the tourism to sell merch.
- Go to the Colorado River District site for research, potential to ask for more than \$25,000
- Contingency budget development for this year and FY 2026
- Derry email Tom Ryan about formally resigning
- Officially post minutes to the website, in compliance with state regulations, including bylaws
- Invite Tanya Petach to be a non-voting member