

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting June 22, 2026

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District, which had been properly noticed and was available for public participation, was convened in person: Walsenburg Housing Authority, 220 Russell St, Walsenburg on June 22, 2026, at 6:19 pm.

Directors: Scott King, Jacque Sikes, Lonnie Brown, David Steffan. Kent Mace was unable to attend due to closure of I-25.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Engineer:** Steve Smith. **Attorney:** Ryan Farr by online Teams meeting.

Guests: Pauline Adams, Amos Mace, Ed Diemer. By online Teams meeting: Paul Benedetti.

Agenda: Accepted on a Brown/Sikes **motion**.

Minutes: Minutes of the May 18, 2026 meeting were approved on a Brown/Steffan **motion**.

Financial Reports: Financial reports were accepted as presented on a Brown/Steffan **motion**.

OLD BUSINESS: Water Court case 2026CW6 – Attorney Farr recommended taking no action, and the Board concurred.

NEW BUSINESS:

DWR River Reports: Ed Diemer reported on flows on both rivers. Cucharas, 2.7 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 0 at the other gages, with #3 in priority; Huerfano, 9.82 cfs at Manzanares, 2.9 cfs at Badito, and .8 cfs at I-25, with #3 in priority.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN:

TKJ Investments – Because of default on an overdue invoice, TKJ Investments will be removed from the HCWCD augmentation plan as of July 16.

SMAF – The Wm Craig water right #7 has gone out of priority, so there will be issues with releases from the reservoir, which does have water in it.

Applegate is preparing a bid package: set of plans and bid sheet, so it will be ready when Rural Development gives the go-ahead to bid. It assumes the materials are already stockpiled onsite. Amos Mace reported the recharge pond has no water in it. He is considering using “shade balls” to keep down the growth of algae.

THORNE RANCH DILIGENCE:

Survey: BH2 Land Surveying finished the ALTA survey.

Historical irrigation: Steve Smith met with former Water Commissioner Ray Garcia and got more information about irrigation and historical consumptive use. Garcia described a consolidated Badito and Martin Ditch, with a decree for one diversion off the southside of Huerfano River. Apparently, in the past the users found a way around that.

Phase 1 of the Environmental Assessment by ERO Resources is finished. There were no issues of concern. Some plaster and drywall have been dumped on the Ranch, and it needs to be hauled away. Huerfano County will be asked to do that.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDING UPDATES –

- **Community Project Funding 2024** (Cong. Boebert/Hurd) – A Rural Development presentation of a symbolic large check will be held June 24 at 1:45 pm at Huerfano County

Courthouse in Walsenburg. The County Commissioners and Administrator, Congressional office staff, and press representatives have been invited.

- **Colorado Water Congress infrastructure survey** – On behalf of NWRA, CWC sent out a Western Drought Funding survey requesting examples of water infrastructure projects that we would pursue if a \$10-billion fund was created by Congress for drought funding. We will submit: 1) Thorne Ranch reservoir and accompanying infrastructure upgrades (\$8.5-million); 2) Bruce Canyon Reservoir + Maria Lakes Reservoir Enlargement (\$32-million) joint project, previously submitted for PL-566 funding.

REPORTS:

Arkansas Basin Roundtable: King reported on the most recent meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Diemer reported the Purgatoire River is currently at 6 cfs; it is typically around 200 cfs this time of year.

At 7:22 pm, King called for a break. Meeting was reconvened at 7:38 pm.

BILLS: On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board authorized transfer of \$11,500.00 from ColoTrust and payment of the following bills, which total \$28,785.42:

Mountain States Financial: monthly bookkeeping	\$275.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: mtg, Walsenbg SO; Thorne; exchg stor.; aug plan	\$10,315.50
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone	\$2,709.55
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin	\$250.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract	\$500.00
Applegate Group: aug plan acctg/projection/admin, bd mtg, Thorne, Wbg case	\$4,407.50
Mace Water & Land: SMAF operations May 2026 + Ditch recharge report	\$1,980.81
IOA/Walsenburg Insurance: Bond renewal, Lonnie Brown	\$100.00
BH2 Land Surveying: ALTA survey of Thorne Ranch, NSPS survey plat	\$8,000.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$182.06
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

At 7:39, there was a Brown/Steffan **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by attorney Farr and engineer Smith, to discuss: water court case 25CW3052, the Welton Ditch, diligence for conditional storage rights on the Cucharas, and legal ramifications of the County's proposed revitalization projects; this session included a conference with the attorney representing the District for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b).

On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 8:05 pm, and the regular session reconvened.

There was a Brown/Sikes motion that HCWCD agrees to sign on to tax increment investment for the Huerfano County Gardner Main Street and the Rio Cucharas Inn Revitalization projects. Board approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.