

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting October 24, 2022

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District, which had been properly noticed and was available for public participation, was called to order by President Scott King in person at Walsenburg Housing Authority, 220 Russell St, Walsenburg on October 24, 2022 at 6:02 pm.

Directors: Scott King, Beaver Edmundson, Lonnie Brown, Kent Mace, Sandy White (by Zoom).

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney:** Ryan Farr; **Engineer:** Steve Smith (by Zoom).

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Lenna Rauber, Carmen Lara, Amos Mace, Susan Ryan, Rob Piziali, Chris Humbert, Heidi Netter; by Zoom: Renee Martinez, Linda-Rose Meyers, Richard Gallegos.

Agenda: accepted on an Edmundson/Mace **motion**.

Minutes: The minutes for the September 26, 2022 board meeting were approved on an Edmundson/Brown **motion**.

Financial Reports: There was an Edmundson/Mace **motion** to accept the financial reports as presented. Board approved.

Budget: Dunn presented the 2023 budget as it will appear for publication. There was a Brown/Mace motion to publish the 2023 budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

Infrastructure improvements project – Farr reported we are still waiting to hear from the State AG about the revised easement.

NEW BUSINESS: There were no new water cases.

River reports – Doug Brgoch reported the calling right on the Cucharas was #3 (Walsenburg). Lenna Rauber reported the calling right is #29 & 33 on the Huerfano. Some of the drier tributaries are starting to run since trees are losing their leaves. Maria-Stevens Reservoir comes into priority for storage on November 1 for most of the winter.

Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan

Aspen River Ranch (ARR) Tier 2 augmentation application – Steve Smith talked to the applicant about the outlets, measuring devices, evaporative computations, and diversion structure that will be required. ARR may be interested in Tier 1 instead. Water Resources Division 2 will decide what structures they need. Applegate estimates evaporative loss = 1.5 af. **SCG Alternate Pumping Request** – Ryan Farr reported engineering has been finalized and agreed on by everyone, as well as approved by Water Division 2. He prepared a draft agreement amending the agreement now in force. Full payment of \$96,990 for all the augmentation water under contract is required before the agreement will be valid. Susan Ryan (Holland & Hart) assured the board payment was approved by executive leadership, is in process of being paid, and should only take a few days. There was an Edmundson/Mace motion that the new agreement – to increase pumping as shown in the amended agreement's

exhibit A – be signed by President King on the condition that payment of \$96,990 is first received by HCWCD. Board approved.

EcoTech Fuels – Linda-Rose Myers and Richard Gallegos with Respec joined by Zoom to explain a proposed biofuels project that would need augmentation water in about 2½ years. Waste wood will be converted to aviation fuel at the plant, south of Walsenburg at the Rugby Road exit. Estimated need is about 186 af of water per year for cooling, operating 336 days per year. The board advised that the location is in the Cucharas watershed, and there is not an augmentation plan yet that covers that area. The guests were also told it will be difficult to find that much water in this area.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility – The first official releases of augmentation water from the reservoir have taken place. Hydrologik has finished installing the equipment that was contracted about a year ago. Programming and fine-tuning will take place over the next year. Regarding degradation of the liner from wave action at the SMAF site, Smith contacted a Shockcrete contractor to get a better estimate of pricing. Brgoch asked whether we have looked into gunnite as an option.

Recharge Pond – Edmundson spoke with Steve Wardell about cleaning out the pond. We may need to install a settling pond above the measuring device.

Funding

CO Water Plan Grant – Grant for 90% design of Bruce Canyon Reservoir was approved.

PL-566 Potential Project – Our request for a PL-566 Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report (PIFR) has been submitted and is being routed through NRCS. The project, in the Cucharas River basin, would combine construction of Bruce Canyon Reservoir and enlargement of Maria-Stevens Reservoir. Letters of local support are still coming in.

BIP Coordinator grant application – White is working on the grant application to CWCB to employ a Basin Implementation Plan Coordinator for the Arkansas Basin for 3 years. The BIP coordinator's function is to help poorer areas apply for water project funding.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable report – King reported Gracy Goodwin is the new needs assessment coordinator. There is a new CWCB loan portal. The Roundtable is a voice for locally inspired projects.

Bills – On a Brown/Mace **motion**, board authorized the transfer of \$31,700 from ColoTrust savings and approved paying the bills, which total \$42,741.07:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping	\$170.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: bd mtg, aug plan, GPIC, aug app, reservoirs	\$5,697.90
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, postage, meeting supplies	\$2,001.14
Admin SCF Flood Mitigation grant	\$279.50
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin + monthly water analyst duties	\$350.00
Applegate Group: aug admin, water eng'g, SCG pumping, aug plan applicants	\$27,801.77
Colorado Water Congress, renew membership	\$525.00
Hydrologik: final programming at SMAF	\$5,697.13
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage + access fee at SMAF	\$153.63
Spanish Peaks Library: October rent	\$65.00

Break – King called a break at 7:39; meeting reconvened at 7:49.

At 7:49, there was a **motion** by Edmundson, seconded by Mace and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving water court cases and the revised SCG request for alternate pumping schedule. Discussion included purchase, acquisition, lease or sale of real, personal or other property interest as in CRS 24-6-402(4)(a); conference with an attorney representing the District for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b); and determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(e).

On a Brown/Mace **motion**, the executive session was closed at 8:12 pm, and the regular session was reconvened.

There was nothing from exec session that required action.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary