

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting November 27, 2023

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 November 27, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Directors: Scott King, Kent Mace, Sandy White, Beaver Edmundson. Excused absence, illness: Lonnie Brown.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; Engineer: Steve Smith by Zoom; Attorney: Ryan Farr

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Amos Mace, Gary Vezzani, Jim Alt, Sharon Jakubowski Wolz, Tor Tschanz, Brett Corsentino, Jeff Montoya, Ed Diemer, Lonnie Spady, Rachel Zancanella, Dick Keyes; Doug Winter and Mike Castine by Zoom.

Agenda: Accepted on an Edmundson/White **motion**.

Minutes: The minutes for the October 23, 2023 board meeting were approved on a Mace/White **motion**. Edmundson abstained.

Financial Reports: There was a White/Edmundson **motion** to accept the October financial reports as presented. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: There were no new water cases.

DWR river reports: Huerfano River – no report; Lenna Rauber is about to enter her off season. Ed Diemer thanked HCWCD for doing cleaning on Wm. Craig ditch. He reported the Cucharas River was 5 ft at Boyd Crossing, 2 ft at Harrison Bridge, and 0 at Highway 10. Maria Stevens headgate is in the process of being cleaned out; Diemer checked out the flume and the siphon gage.

Rachel Zancanella, DWR District Engineer, reported on the Huerfano County Dist. 79 water users meeting held earlier in the evening at the Gardner Community Center. She clarified that admin numbers that are being given to water users do not replace priority numbers. They are helpful for future use to learn more about users' water rights. Huerfano County was first in submitting its list of requested fire suppression ponds. They will be under consideration.

City of Walsenburg – The new City Administrator, Sharon Jakubowski Wolz, was introduced by Mayor Gary Vezzani.

CWCB: Earlier in the day, White, Mace and Farr provided a tour of HCWCD projects, including PL-566 plans, to Anna Mauss and Lauren Duncan.

Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan

Bear Bottom Ranch – The requested lease renewal is for 3.5 af of temporary aug water for their SWSP. This was discussed further in executive session.

Siete, Inc – Siete has signed the lease and sent full payment. Smith reported Siete plans to draw their aug water from the south La Veta Lake. They should start pulling water this week.

SMAF – Releases have been started by Amos Mace. He will redo configuration of the Siemens meter. Amos will continue to work with Lenna Rauber on this.

Recharge pond – 13.7 af of water was recharged between 9/14-10/31/23. Repairs were successful.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable report – King reported on a water sale in the Arkansas Valley (Bent County) from Excel Energy to Colorado Springs Utilities.

Break – King called a break at 7:32; meeting reconvened at 7:45 pm.

Bills – On a White/Edmundson **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to \$30,000 from ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total \$32,835.87:

Mountain States Financial group: monthly bookkeeping	\$200.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet, Farr: mtg, aug plan, Bruce Cyn reservoir, exchg, GPIC	\$6,069.50
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, board dinner gifts	\$2,238.20
Admin SCF Flood Mitigation grant	\$1,294.18
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin and monthly water analyst	\$400.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract	\$500.00
Applegate Group: mtg; aug acctg; Wm Craig ops; PL-566, Siete, gages; aug apps.	\$16,525.06
David Steffan: remediation coordinator contract	\$285.24
Sadie Wardell: water operations contract, October	\$705.00
American Express: Software subscription renewals; cloud storage; ink; dinner gifts	\$783.64
World Journal: publish 2024 budget & budget hearing notice	\$199.32
IOA/Walsenburg Insurance: Bond – White	\$100.00
Colorado Div. of Water Resources (online): Satellite monitoring	\$2,311.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF	\$554.13
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

At 7:47, there was a **motion** by Edmundson/Mace and approved by the board to go into executive session, joined by the District’s consultant and engineer, to discuss: lease of excess water to Bear Bottom Ranch; potential purchase of existing water rights for benefits in both Huerfano and Cucharas basins. Discussion in the executive session 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 White/Mace **motion**, the executive session was closed at 8:34 pm, and the regular session was reconvened.

There was a White/Edmundson **motion** to instruct Farr to make changes to the proposed Bear Bottom lease for excess water as discussed in executive session. Board approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary