

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting

May 19, 2025

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 May 19, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Directors: Scott King, Lonnie Brown, Jacque Sikes, Kent Mace, David Steffan.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney,** Ryan Farr; by zoom: **Engineer,** Steve Smith.

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Amos Mace, Pauline Adams; by Zoom, Dale Lyons.

Agenda: Added an item at the opening/Mace; Brown/Steffan **motion**.

Minutes: Minutes of the April 28, 2025 meeting were approved on a Brown/Sikes **motion**.

Financial Reports: Financial reports for January and April 2025 were accepted as presented on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

Old Business: Thorne Ranch discussion was delayed until executive session.

New Business: There were no new water cases.

Kent Mace presented a card from the Board and contractors to Carol Dunn to publicly recognize her for 18 years of service as HCWCD administrator.

DWR River Reports: There were no DWR reps on hand to report, but the river levels are dropping quickly. Amos Mace located the online site and reported for the Huerfano: 38 cfs at Manzanares, 11.7 cfs at Badito, and 2.17 cfs at I-25; the call is # 42.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN

Augmentation Water Plan updates – Steve Smith reported Flying Rockin' R still trying to determine how much Tier 2 water will be needed for initial fill of pond. Regarding the issue of having a channel to get water back to the river, Water Commissioner Rauber has reported to Smith that the situation is covered by what the applicant currently has in place.

Flood Warning Gages – Sky Hi Engineering has notified HCWCD that the Boyd Ranch gage is not functional. The board decided not to repair it. Brgoch said the gage is essentially redundant, as it's next to the DWR gage. It is also the only one over the past six years that has never gone into alarm. We will need to get a cost estimate to dismantle all the gages at the end of the 2025 monitoring season. Dunn will contact OTT/Hydromet to ask if they have a market to resell these active used gages, as well as the inactive Pass Creek gage.

Congressionally Directed Spending – Smith sent the revised PER and had a meeting with USDA Rural Development (RD) reps and make sure everything they need for project review is covered. RD requested some additions to appendices of the environmental report, and that has been completed.

Community Project Funding – Dunn provided a copy of the application submitted to Congressman Hurd's office. The request is for development of a source of augmentation water in the amount of \$585,280.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Report: King reported there is some opposition from upstream water districts to the State's purchase of the Shoshone water right on the West Slope.

Break – King called a break at 6:48 pm; meeting reconvened at 7:10 pm.

Bills: On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to \$22,250 from ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total \$22,713.26:

Mountain States Financial: Bookkeeping, May	\$250.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: mtg, aug plan, Thorne, exchg storage, Pryor Ditch	\$6,962.75
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, water for mtgs	\$2,423.45
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin	\$250.00
monthly water analyst contract	\$250.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract	\$500.00
Mace Water & Land: Operations of SMAF April 2025 + solar kits, pressure transducer	\$2,528.02
Visionary Broadband: Static IP wireless, SMAF pumping station (annual)	\$1,069.15
Applegate Group: Aug plan acctg/admin, Thorne, SMAF liner repair, Flying RR	\$7,657.50
Sadie Wardell: Wm Craig water operations and ditch cleaning	\$555.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$202.39
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

At 7:13, there was a Mace/Sikes **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by attorney Farr, consultant Brgoch and engineer Smith to discuss: attorney advice regarding the possible purchase of water rights on the Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers plus funding to support a purchase. 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); and 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).

On a Brown/Mace **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 7:40 pm and the regular session reconvened.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary