

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting July 20, 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 July 20, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

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

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

Guests: Amos Mace, Ed Diemer, Lenna Rauber. By online Teams meeting: Dale Lyons.

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

Minutes: Minutes of the June 22, 2026 meeting were approved on a Sikes/Brown **motion**.

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

Hire auditor: Steffan/Brown.

OLD BUSINESS: Water Court case 23CW3051, Welton Land & Water Company: Attorney Farr reported that the water referee requested comments from the applicant about there being no prior use indicated. The judge finished the decree without the comments.

Attorneys for HCWCD, Cucharas Sanitation & Water District and Town of La Veta have been working on the Cucharas exchanges diligence case, and it is set to be filed soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

DWR River Reports: Ed Diemer reported on the Cucharas River: 2 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 0 at the other gages. There has been a huge transit loss. Lenna Rauber reported on the Huerfano: 5 cfs at Manzanares, 0.32 cfs at Badito, and 0.23 cfs at I-25; no one is taking water. Ed and Lenna are doing structure inspections. Diemer reported Trinidad Reservoir has 0 going into it right now, similar to the conditions in 2002.

Emergency gages: Doug Brgoch offered to meet with whatever agency is interested in putting the decommissioned gages to use. Farr suggested that HCWCD allow them to use the gages on loan as long as they need them, then return them to HCWCD.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN:

TKJ Investments – TKJ Investments was removed from the HCWCD augmentation plan as of July 16, 2026. DWR sent a letter listing the depletions that must still be replaced under the aug plan.

Schwazze/SCG – Farr sent a certified letter to Vireo Growth Inc, Canada, which purchased SCG/Schwazze. The company can't use the well involved in their operation until the certificate is transferred to the new company. Rauber and Diemer plan to visit the grow operation and determine if the well is still being used without usage being reported. The last meter reading SCG reported was in November 2025.

Bear Bottom Ranch – There will be two applications: Tier 1 for Beaver Ponds 1, 2 & 3. Much of the engineering has already been done by Applegate for these. A Tier 2 application is for Sheep Rock Lower Pond; not much engineering was done previously on these when Bear Bottom was negotiating on which ponds were to be augmented. The Board decided a \$10,000 app fee can cover both applications, since part of the engineering work has already been done.

SMAF – Mace reported the reservoir is looking low; Amos has been releasing 16,800 gallons per day. Steve emailed DWR, Division 2 to ask about releasing water to the essentially dry river. Rauber said she is meeting with Div. 2 on 7/21, and that is on the agenda.

THORNE RANCH DILIGENCE: Discussion was postponed for executive session.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDING UPDATES –

- **Community Project Funding 2024** (Cong. Boebert/Hurd) – We are still waiting for Rural Development permission to either stockpile or go to bid.
- **Meeting with Sen. Hickenlooper** – Kent Mace and Jacque Sikes attended the meeting in Walsenburg on July 10 about potential federal funding for water infrastructure.

REPORTS:

Arkansas Basin Roundtable: King and Brown reported on the most recent meeting, including a presentation from Denver Water. There will be about \$1-million in CWCB grants available between the state account and basin accounts. There was also a presentation by another “rain maker.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

At 7:16 pm, King called for a break. Meeting was reconvened at 7:38 pm.

BILLS: On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board authorized transfer of \$28,500.00 from ColoTrust and payment of the following bills, which total \$28,413.74:

Mountain States Financial: monthly bookkeeping	\$275.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: mtg, Walsenbg SO; Thorne; exchg stor.; aug plan	\$8,799.65
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone	\$2,737.81
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin	\$250.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract	\$500.00
Applegate Group: aug plan acct/projectn/adm, bd mtg, Thorne, Wbg case, travel, SMAF	\$6,680.14
Mace Water & Land: SMAF operations May 2026 + Ditch recharge report	\$1,980.81
Sadie Wardell: Wm Craig ditch maintenance, recorder calibrations	\$585.00
ERO Resources: Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment, Thorne Ranch	\$6,000.00
Mitchell Wardell: Wm Craig water data retrieval in March, April, June	\$360.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$180.33
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

At 7:37, there was a Brown/Sikes **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by attorney Farr and engineer Smith, to discuss: Thorne Ranch diligence, which included a conference with the attorney representing the District for the purposes of purchasing property according to CRS 24-6-402(4)(a) and receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to 24-6-402(b).

On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 8:02 pm, and the regular session reconvened.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary