

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting

August 23, 2021

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 Ave, Walsenburg on August 23, 2021 at 6:03 pm.

Directors: Lewis “Beaver” Edmundson, Scott King, Kent Mace, Lonnie Brown, and Michael “Sandy” White.

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

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Mayor Brian Lalander, Dave Steffan, Don Sieke, Duane Helton, Rick Dunn, Jim Alt, Craig Harrison, John Schmidt, Dave Bower, Chris Larson, Andrew Rowell, Dave Rau, Zach Schmidt, John C. Stroh II.

The meeting **agenda** was approved on a White/Mace **motion**.

MINUTES – The minutes for the July 19, 2021 board meeting were approved as presented on a White/Mace **motion**. Board approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – There was a White/Mace **motion**, to accept the financial reports. Board approved. Dunn summarized the cash flow and loan information reports.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

Water Case 2021CW3037: Redwing Ranch, app for finding of reasonable diligence; 1st enlargement of Meses Y Company Ditch, 1 cfs, irrigates 80 acres. Brgoch gave a summary of the case. Board decided to take no action on this case.

River reports: Doug Brgoch reported the Huerfano River call is #20; the senior rights are being filled. On the Cucharas River, gages indicate 17 cfs @ Boyd Ranch and 13’ at Harrison Bridge; Welton is still the calling entity.

Flood Warning Gages grant project: Middle Creek channel work needs to be done to re-establish the channel (perhaps with a backhoe) so the flood warning gage can measure flow again. The engineer’s estimate was \$14,000, but the only bid came in at \$40,000. The gage is still transponding.

Great Plains Irrigation Company – Chris Larson introduced his company’s reps. They reported they have the resources to rebuild the dam on Cucharas #5 reservoir and are still in the process of developing long-term plans. They do not have a formal agreement with the Case brothers. Some of the land has been put back into ag production, and they are looking to acquire more. The Two Rivers Farming debt notes were acquired by GPIC and paid off. They now own 65% of the Welton. In the discussion about how GPIC and HCWCD might work together, Brgoch mentioned permission is needed for the monitoring well that’s pending in the silt bed of Cucharas #5.

Fire Remediation grant project: Dave Steffan reported damage to structures from three rain events, 7/21, 7/25, 7/31. Flooding was widespread, with debris, headcutting, boulders, and intrusion on CR 421, though it remains passable. The Sulfur Springs pool held the surge and filled with sediment, and wildcat ponds are serving as sediment basins. Most structures did their job and reduced the surge velocity and volume. Fortunately, surges from

the side canyons hit La Veta at different times, so no damage was caused in the town. The core team will be touring on 8/24 to choose the next potential projects and priorities.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility Phase 5 – The board opted to assign responsibility for finishing out the gravel mining permit to Applegate Group. An affidavit of assignment was approved by the board and signed on a White/Edmundson **motion**.

The test of the pump at the Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility reservoir was conducted on 7/21. The Twin Lakes water has been exchanged into the SMAF reservoir. Mace reported they are pumping .91 acre-feet per day into, and the level is around 20 acre-feet (14.5 stage feet). He has been running the pump remotely by mobile device. The plan is to link to the State’s Sutron site, so diversions automatically populate on the State’s website.

Collaborative Storage Phase 5: Steve Smith, Applegate Group, provided a written report. Engineering will be adjusted on Bruce Canyon Dam to accommodate the reclassification as an extreme risk, which will affect construction cost. For Maria Lakes Reservoir Enlargement, Applegate calculated an anticipated savings of \$4 million because three items of work will not be needed – slurry wall, moving the location of the dam enlargement, and overexcavation will be reduced. This will be confirmed during the 90% engineering.

Huerfano Augmentation Plan: SCG Services, LLC request for transfer of its augmentation certificates to Dan Pabon was approved by the board on a White/Brown **motion**.

Water Field Day – The date will be September 25 at the Gardner Community Center. Funding of \$1,000 will be requested from ABRT-PEPO, and approval is pending. Most of the invited speakers have been confirmed.

BILLS – On a White/Brown **motion**, board authorized up to \$17,000 for Hydrologik, approved transferring \$71,000 from ColoTrust savings and approved the following bills, which total \$85,938.44:

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| Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping | \$120.00 |
| Monson, Cummins & Shohet: Mtg, SMAF, exchange, aug plan, 2Rivers, Wbg SO | \$12,217.55 |
| Alpine Electric – SMAF pumphouse | \$10,998.34 |
| Dunn Write: contract, supplies, mileage | \$1,821.97 |
| Admin SCF flood mitigation grant 2020, 7/15 – 8/22 | \$645.00 |
| Admin Collab Storage Ph5, BCR, 7/15 – 8/22 | \$430.00 |
| Admin Collab Storage Ph5, MSRE, 7/17 – 8/22 | \$419.25 |
| La Veta Carpentry: water analyst, Ranch & SMAF + website maintenance | \$650.00 |
| Colorado Central Telecom: SMAF Static IP address | \$56.48 |
| Colorado Water Well – SMAF pumphouse | \$50,876.00 |
| Collector’s Specialty Woods – SMAF pumphouse equipment | \$1,641.91 |
| Applegate Group – 50% engineering on Maria Stevens Reservoir | \$3,419.50 |
| Glatfelter Insurance – addl property insurance for SMAF pumphouse | \$358.00 |
| CDPHE – renew water quality permit at SMAF | \$350.00 |
| World Journal – legal ad for Mace augmentation participating diversion | \$68.64 |
| San Isabel Electric: monthly access fee at SMAF | \$150.00 |
| <u>Spanish Peaks Library: August rent</u> | <u>\$65.00</u> |

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary