

# HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting April 22, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was called to order by President Scott King at Walsenburg Housing Authority on Monday, April 22, 2019 at 6:04 pm.

Directors present: Lewis "Beaver" Edmundson, Michael "Sandy" White, Scott King, Kent Mace.  
Secretary: Carol Dunn

Guests: Doug Brgoch and Lenna Rauber, Water Commissioners; Rick Dunn, Larry Waide, Jim Berg, Gail Terry, Sheryl Hanisch.

The agenda was approved.

MINUTES – White moved and Edmundson seconded to approve the March 25, 2018 minutes as presented. Board approved.

TREASURER REPORT – White moved and Edmundson seconded to approve the Treasurer's reports. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Regarding the board vacancy, the board previously authorized counsel to draft and file a motion for the District Court to amend the organic decree applicants can be qualified persons from the county at-large if there's no applicant from the requisite subdistrict. All four members of the board signed the petition at this meeting. The vacant term expires 9/30/19.

Town of La Veta needs a \$120,000 match for an HMGP \$1.2-million grant to install three detention ponds designed by Enginuity, which determined they would save 28 homes during flooding. Grant funding would come in 2020. Although the board was anxious to help by committing part of its WSRF grant, the concern is with timing. CWCB is hesitant to allocate the grant funds so far in advance. It was decided to wait to see what DHSEM requires in terms of a match commitment and revisit the issue at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – (No new water cases)

SMAF Phase 3 – Paul Morgan Excavating is working at the site. Mace showed pictures he took on this date; there are 2 scrapers, a bulldozer, and 2 water trucks on site. They have excavated down 3 feet, and the entire contour of the east embankment is set. Wachob & Wachob is supposed to be coordinating the boundary staking. There was a White/Mace motion, to accept the Simbeck Associates bid for \$165,924 to furnish and install the pond liner and that King will execute the purchase order after conferring with Nathan Baker at Lamp Rynearson about the warranty. Board approved.

Rauber reported the Huerfano River gage is indicating low at the I-25 gage. Brgoch explained that may be a result of it being a new crossvane weir. The tributaries are all reaching the Huerfano River now. Brgoch reported the Cucharas flow is 60 feet at Harrison Bridge. Water is being delivered to the Arkansas River and the Coler system. He estimated irrigators would start taking water in another week. The river flows are within normal parameters for this time of year.

Headgate restoration study – White reported on the Enginuity hydraulic and hydrologic analysis on the headgates and diversion structures below the Spring Creek burn scar. Gerald Blackler will determine which of the 110 headgates/diversions are most likely to be damaged or destroyed by post-fire flooding. About 20,000 acres of ag land are irrigated by those diversions. The goal is to inform owners of

damaged structures how they can quickly return to diverting water. This will need to involve the water commissioners, and the Army Corps of Engineers nationwide 404 permit will likely cover this work in the rivers as maintenance. There is a May 3 update conference call with Blackler.

Water Day will be postponed to September 14, all day, at the La Veta Community Center. Topics will be local water issues. The June 8 meeting will be changed to a "Headgate Study Update" meeting, from 3-5 pm at Washington School in Walsenburg.

Early Warning Gages – There will be a workshop on May 6 from 1-4 pm at the Huerfano County Commissioners' office. Each municipality will be represented along with law enforcement personnel who are directly involved in the flood gage warnings. All gages are expected to be installed by the end of April. The trigger for flood warning alarms will be velocity or height of water, not quantity of rain.

White drafted a response to the USFS request for public input on its 3,000-acre forest thinning around Cuchara. Most of the work falls within the vegetative management areas identified by Brad Piehl in the HCWCD pre-fire watershed assessment grant project. White's letter suggests that USFS seriously consider using the locally developed recommendations from the grant report. There was a Mace/Edmundson motion to sign and email the letter to USFS. Board approved.

Regarding the Two Rivers Water & Farming case status report, Brgoch reported that TRWF was purchased by a Canadian company. The status update states, "Two Rivers continues to seek financing and fully intends to pay all amounts due and . . . to rebuild the Cucharas Dam." Brgoch said the dam will need to be moved about ½-mile downstream, and the last cost estimate to rebuild was \$35-million.

King reported that the Ark Basin Roundtable meeting was delayed to coincide with the Water Forum later this week.

At 7:42 King called for a break. At 7:52 the meeting was reconvened.

Bills: Edmundson moved, Mace seconded and board approved transferring \$90,000 from ColoTrust and paying the following bills, which total \$127,950.92:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping	\$120.00
Monson, Cummins & Shohet: bd mtg, Ranch, aug plan; Wbg,Perrino&exch storage cases	\$12,614.57
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, snacks, postage	\$1,637.54
Dunn Write: early warning gages project admin	\$1,233.34
Dunn Write: Spring Creek Fire flood mitigation grant admin	\$790.00
La Veta Carpentry: water analyst	\$200.00
La Veta Carpentry: website maintenance	\$150.00
La Veta Carpentry: water analyst for SMAF Phase 3	\$300.00
Lamp Rynearson: water acctg & projection; Gardner meter issue; recharge pond; SMAF	\$6,182.09
Big-R: supplies for Early Warning Gage project site preparations	\$624.99
Rocky Mountain LP Gas: propane tank refill at Ranch	\$631.59
HRS Water Consultants: engineering on infrastructure improvements grant project	\$392.00
OTT Hydromet: satellite equipment and subscriptions for early warning gage project	\$102,944.80
Century Link: April phone bill	\$65.00
Spanish Peaks Library: April rent	\$65.00

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There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

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Scott King, President

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Carol Dunn, Secretary