

# HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting

February 23, 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 February 23, 2026, 6:00 pm.

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

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

**Guests:** Ed Diemer, Lenna Rauber, Doug Brgoch, Pauline Adams, Amos Mace. By online Teams meeting: Dale Lyons, Doug Winter.

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

**Minutes:** Minutes of the January 26, 2026 meeting were approved on a Mace/Steffan **motion**.

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

OLD BUSINESS: Thorne Ranch purchase was discussed in executive session.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Water Court case 2026CW3005:** Maria Lake Grazing Association, app for finding of reasonable diligence, Maria Stevens Reservoir, conditional water right; source Cucharas River/Duran Ditch. Board decided to discuss the case in executive session.

**DWR River Reports:** Ed Diemer reported on Cucharas River flows: 6.98 at Boyd Ranch, 3.35 cfs at Harrison Bridge, and .32 cfs at Hwy 10, with Holita sweeping. Lenna Rauber reported on Huerfano River flows: 7 cfs at Manzanares, 4.5 at Badito, and less than 1 cfs at I-25; Martin Ditch is sweeping, and the call is #27.

Farr and Smith met prior to this meeting and discussed the storage study and needs analysis that will be required for the Thorne Ranch purchase. Smith advised we could possibly use Rick Parsons to assist with this. The study will include what potential storage areas exist in the region. A demand analysis can be prepared for the Huerfano basin similar to what was done for the Storage Collaborative on the Cucharas basin. A “slam dunk” scenario would be to either show demand in the Huerfano basin or the ability to *exchange* to the Cucharas basin, where there definitely is a demand, based on the existence of about 80 “wildcat” ponds alone.

### **HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN**

**Augmentation Participant updates** – Payment has been received from Flying Rockin’ R (Christy Wycoff) for 7 af of Tier 1 water + 2026 administration fee.

**SMAF** – Kent Mace reported we are waiting for permission to add water to the reservoir.

**Recharge pond** – Doug Brgoch reported the Town of La Veta has a used “Solar Bee” that could be utilized for aeration at the recharge pond to reduce the algae load. We will look into possibly purchasing this.

**SMAF ballast project:** Smith’s staff has been working on a set of bid documents to use as soon as the infrastructure project funding is green-lighted. The board approved having Applegate Group finish the drawings and bid sheet.

### **REPORTS –**

