

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting August 25, 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 August 25, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

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

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

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Ed Diemer, Pauline Adams, Amos Mace, Kristan Lowe, Lenna Rauber, Mayor Gary Vezzani: by Zoom: Dale Lyons.

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

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

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

Old Business: Thorne Ranch discussion – Farr reported work is being done on a sales agreement. He is in communication with Huerfano County's attorney regarding any 1041 issues. Kent Mace would like to know more about the storage ponds and piping layout on the property. Brown will develop a list of people for Smith to interview who have personal knowledge about irrigation of the Thorne Ranch.

New Business:

Water court case 2025CW3037, Richard & Martha Caschette, app for findings of reasonable diligence: Caschette Pipeline (.016 cfs), Rainbow Pond (3.58 af), Appropriative Right of Exchange (.0095 cfs); tributary to Cucharas River; piscatorial, aesthetic, recreational, wildlife propagation. The board decided to not get involved in this case.

DWR River Reports: Lenna Rauber reported after a couple rain events on the Huerfano flows are: 15 cfs at Manzanares, 23 cfs at Badito, and 1.5 cfs at I-25; the call is #10. On the Cucharas, Ed Diemer reported: 10 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 2 cfs at Harrison Bridge, and 9 cfs at Hwy 10; the call is #5.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN

Augmentation Water Plan updates – Mace reported the recharge pond function still needs to be improved this fall. A budget of \$150 for signs to install at the Sheep Mountain reservoir/facility was approved on a Mace/Sikes **motion**.

Dunn was instructed to contact Rural Development and ask that the unbudgeted funds not be deobligated; HCWCD wants to expand the project to a potential temporary storage downstream to hold the SMAF water while the project is under construction. Preference is not to waste the water by dumping it down the river. We also need to investigate funding implications if riprap is stored onsite. There was a Mace/Brown **motion** to enter a contract for riprap with Colorado Quarries Inc (Tezak) – size 6-12" as specified by Applegate Group, quantity of 3,300 yards (37,013 tons), at a cost of \$16/ton FOB the quarry in Westcliffe. Board approved.

Letter template from Roundtable – Board discussed an optional letter to CWCB about the Shoshone Power plant hydropower water right. It concerns instream flow rights that exist due to agreements among Colorado River District, Bureau of Reclamation, Northern CO Water Conservancy Dist, Aurora Water, Denver Water, and Colo. Springs Utilities. The board took no action on this.

Maria Stevens Dredging Feasibility Study – The dredging feasibility study is on the backburner, but the other task in this project was the Hydrology and Hydrologic report. It will be required to enlarge the reservoir. After working with Mark Perry at DWR Dam Safety and others, Applegate has completed the HH study and issued its report. The report has been approved by the State. The dam has been

classified as an extreme hydrologic hazard. At a later date and before March 2027, Applegate plans to issue a report that dredging is not feasible either financially or timewise.

Aug Participant Updates –

Flying Rockin' R Rainbow Pond – 2 af of tier 2 water are needed. Wolfano pond was breached, but FRR wants to repair it. The other 2 ponds will require 4 af of Tier 2 in 2026. Farr will determine if FRR wants to purchase, lease or lease-purchase and develop the contract.

Bear Bottom Ranch requires ½ af of tier 1 water, now under lease-purchase contract. The Tier 3 (excess) water is being leased while waiting for fire suppression eligibility. There was a Mace/Brown **motion** that approved the Tier 3 lease renewal contract with Bear Bottom after the admin fee is set.

Congressionally Directed Spending – There was discussion on how to expand the funding request. **October meeting** was changed to October 20 on a Steffan/Brown **motion**.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Report: King reported that the August meeting involved two farm visits, and irrigation was discussed.

Break – King called a break at 7:50 pm; meeting reconvened at 8:12 pm.

Bills: On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to \$2,500.00 to ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total \$19,123.61:

Mountain States Financial: Bookkeeping, August	\$250.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: mtg, aug plan, Thorne, Pryor Ditch	\$3,522.00
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, internet	\$2,624.45
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 July 2025 + 1 HOBO MX transducer	\$2,319.66
Applegate Group: Aug plan acctg/projectn/admin, Twin Lakes, SMAF liner, Thorne	\$3,305.00
Sadie Wardell: Wm Craig water operations, July	\$547.50
IOA/Walsenburg Insurance: bonds for Dunn, Brown	\$225.00
OTT Hydromet, flood warning gages (5) service 3/22/25 to 3/21/26	\$5,085.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$180.00
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

At 8:14, there was a Sikes/Brown **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by attorney Farr and consultant Brgoch to discuss: attorney advice regarding federal grant funding. Discussion in the executive session included a question on federal grant funding in a conference with the 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 Mace/Brown **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 8:52 pm and the regular session reconvened.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary