

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting

March 24, 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 March 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

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

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney:** Ryan Farr

Guests: Mary White, Doug Brgoch, Gary Vezzani, Amos Mace, Ed Diemer, Kristan Lowe, Jimmy Schmidt, Cathy Garcia (Rep. Hurd). Zoom: Alana Mace, Doug Winter, Dale Lyons.

Agenda: Agenda was approved on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

Minutes: Minutes of the February 24, 2025 meeting were approved on a Brown/Sikes **motion**.

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

The RFarmer, LLC quote (\$7,200) to audit 2024 financials was accepted on a Sikes/Brown **motion**.

Resolution 2025-03-01 "Confirming Carol Dunn as Secretary/Treasurer and Establishing Physical Address for the District" was approved on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

The **certifications** required for the USDA Rural Development RDAApply application were reviewed by the board and approved on a Mace/Sikes motion. Dunn signed the certifications.

Old Business: Thorne Ranch discussion was delayed until executive session.

New Business: There were no new water cases.

Jimmy Schmidt, **Great Plains Irrigation Company**, introduced himself and said he would be available at the break for questions. GPIC would like to have a more open dialog with HCWCD. GPIC is working to bring the Welton water rights back into production. The plan is to use the Welton Pipeline instead of the ditch. GPIC is trying to eliminate the winter call and is working with ditch owners on that.

DWR River Reports: Ed Diemer reported: The call on the **Huerfano** is Orlando Reservoir; flows are 11.9 cfs at Manzanares, 10.8 at Badito, and 1.36 cfs at I-25; on the **Cucharas** the flows are 7.35 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 7.36 cfs at Harrison Bridge, and .63 cfs at Highway 10. Lenna Rauber sent a letter to water users to call her when they want to take water, so she can account for the usage. The goal is to teach water users where to look on the DWR website to see what the call is on the Huerfano River.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN

Augmentation Water Plan Updates – Steve Smith's written report was reviewed. Farr explained the Bear Bottom lease-purchase contract has been sent to the owner/participant to sign. For Flying Rockin' R, Farr reported the public notice has expired. He has sent the notice to the court that FRR is now officially part of the Huerfano Basin Augmentation Plan.

SMAF – Kent reported he believes he has found the right size angular ballast material near San Isabel. Luke Vargas quoted \$780/load (25-26 tons) delivered; timing could be an issue. We will need a porosity report, which Gary Vezzani will assist with. The infiltration socks at the recharge pond are plugged and need to be replaced.

After attending a cybersecurity training seminar, Alana Mace presented a report advising that HCWCD should handle this issue inhouse. Amos Mace presented a report on signage. He may find a way to leverage SMAF in relation to the meteorological information in the Gardner area.

REPORTS

Arkansas Basin Roundtable: Brgoch reported on discussion during the Roundtable meeting, especially on a Dredge & Fill Regulation (87).

Arkansas Basin Water Forum – Brown and King attended the conference in early March. At the awards luncheon, Sandy White posthumously received the Bob Appel Friend of the Arkansas Award. Mary White attended to accept the award on Sandy's behalf. During this board meeting, Mary encouraged the board to continue doing the important work of the District. She presented bound award nomination packets and read her speech from the luncheon: "Behold I am doing a new thing; it springs forth now. Don't you know it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." *Isaiah 43:19*. She encouraged the board to continue being water leaders.

Break – King called a break at 6:54 pm; meeting reconvened at 7:05 pm.

Bills: On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to \$70,500 to ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total \$13,917.04:

Mountain States Financial: Bookkeeping March + 1099 form preparation	\$507.30
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: meeting, Bear Bottom particip, Pryor Ditch	\$3,244.50
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone	\$2,485.99
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 February 2025	\$1,095.00
Scott King: Expenses for Arkansas Basin Water Forum	\$438.46
Lonnie Brown: Expenses for Ark Basin Water Forum	\$91.00
Applegate Group: Aug plan acctg/admin, mtg, annual projections	\$4,585.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$404.79
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

At 7:09, there was a Brown/Sikes **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by attorney Farr, consultant Brgoch and Mayor Gary Vezzani to discuss possible terms and conditions for the purchase of land and water rights in the Huerfano River Basin and Cucharas River Basin; response to Welton Land and Water Company's Pryor Ditch change; discuss responsibilities of contractors for revegetation of William Craig Ranch; and acquisition of Twin Lakes water shares. Discussion in the executive session included purchase, acquisition, lease or sale of real, personal or other property interest as in CRS 24-6-402(4)(a); conference with an attorney representing the District for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b); and determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(e).

On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 8:35 pm and the regular session reconvened. On a Mace/Brown **motion**, it was agreed to proceed with attorney comments on the Pryor Ditch case. On a Brown/Mace **motion**, it was agreed to continue to use Twin Lakes shares as HCWCD has been doing. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.