

# HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting May 13, 2024

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 May 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

**Directors:** Scott King, Kent Mace, Lonnie Brown; Sandy White and Beaver Edmundson by Zoom.

**Secretary:** Carol Dunn

**Engineer:** Steve Smith and **Attorney:** Ryan Farr (by Zoom).

**Guests:** Dale Lyons, Gary Vezzani, Lenna Rauber, Doug Brgoch, Kristan Lowe, Roger Tinklenberg; and David Steffan, (by Zoom).

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

**Minutes:** The minutes for the April 22, 2024 board meeting were approved on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

**Financial Reports:** The financial reports were accepted as presented on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS:

There were no new water cases.

**DWR river reports:** For the Huerfano River, Lenna Rauber reported: 42' on the upper Huerfano at Manzanares, 51' at Badito, and 37' at I-25. On the Cucharas River, Rauber reported: 37' at Boyd Ranch, 70' at Harrison Bridge, and 79' at I-25.

**Bo Boyce Water Right:** White suggested discussing this in executive session; approved.

**Spring Creek Fire Mitigation Project:** David Steffan reported by Zoom that the final project map has been submitted to the State Land Board as required by the temporary access permit. The Toll Gate ditch owner (David Andreatta) has committed up to \$15,000 for the SCF flood mitigation work planned by Steffan. Larry Morgan's estimate and details will be ready within the week. There was a Mace/Brown **motion** to approve the work to proceed with a not-to-exceed limit of \$65,000. Tasks may include ditch infrastructure, a cutoff wall, raceway to the Tollgate Ditch; restoring Middle Creek to its original channel; NRCS recommendations to stabilize the stream channel, which could be crossvane weirs; and adding silt impoundment in the flood channel below the stream diversion. It was agreed that King could execute the contract for the work with exact task details about May 20.

**Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan**

**Aug water application:** The Flying Rockin' R LLC application is being reviewed by Applegate Group. The estimate of water needed is 3.6 af (4 by program requirements). Smith plans to finish the engineering report by the HCWCD meeting on June 17.

**SMAF:** Smith reported SMAF is just short of being topped off. Kent Mace suggested we make sure the water is clean before we pump it in, and Rauber advised the water is clean enough today to be pumped. Mace reported the shut-off valve has not been installed yet.

**Wm. Craig Ranch:** Brgoch will contact NRCS about seeding the dryup acreage. Wardells cleaned out the ditch that carries the return flow from the aug station. Smith is still planning to talk with Jasper Kenney about the timing for HCWCD contractors to access the property for ditch activities.

**Flood Emergency Warning Gages:** Brgoch will connect with Caleb Brown of Sky Hi Engineering to find out if the OTT/Hydromet cloud gateway is working. King signed the contract with the revised quote of \$16,887.50.

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable report:** Brgoch reported that a Colorado River assessment will be done; "freedom of the river" was discussed. Aurora has purchased Diamond A Farms, a 5200-acre farm with water rights near Rocky Ford, for \$80.5-million – about \$15,500 per af. The city's reported plan is to take water every three of five years, however Aurora is only half built out. This transaction may end up

in water court. The Roundtable is starting an intern program for students in water studies through CSU Pueblo.

**Water consultant report** – Brgoch recommended holding this discussion in executive session.

Public comments – Dale Lyons asked if HCWCD has ever considered sponsoring a water mentoring program. Rauber said she has invited people to attend meetings to no avail. There is a need to interest people in the HCWCD board, so there are replacements as directors leave the board.

**Break** – King called a break at 7:02; meeting reconvened at 7:18 pm.

**Bills:** On a Mace/Brown **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to \$18,000 from ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total \$17,907.40:

Mountain States Financial group: monthly bookkeeping	\$220.00
Monson, Cummins, Shoheit, Farr: mtg, aug plan, Flood gages, Pryor Ditch case	\$6,862.25
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, office supplies	\$2,149.19
Admin SCF Flood Mitigation grant	\$229.83
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin	\$200.00
Monthly water analyst contract	\$200.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract	\$500.00
Applegate Group: Aug plan acctg, admin, bd mtg, DRMS permit, flood warn gages	\$4,795.00
Sadie Wardell: Wm Craig water operations; ditch ripping and maintenance	\$642.00
Mace Water & Land: Operations of SMAF Mar 2024	\$1,862.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF	\$182.13
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

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At 7:21, there was a **motion** by White/Brown and approved by the board to go into executive session, joined by HCWCD consultant Brgoch and engineer Smith to discuss: Bo Boyce Water Right and exploration of potential purchase of water rights on Huerfano and Cucharas Rivers and any commensurate terms and conditions therewith; legal issues concerning decree requirements, easement requirements and land use for the William Craig Ranch. 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 Mace/Brown **motion**, the executive session was closed at 8:02 pm, and the regular session was reconvened.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

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Scott King, President

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Carol Dunn, Secretary