

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting

July 17, 2023

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 July 17, 2023 at 6:01 pm.

Directors: Scott King, Lonnie Brown, Kent Mace, Sandy White, Beaver Edmundson.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Guests:** Sadie Wardell, Mitchell Wardell, Doug Brgoch, Gary Vezzani, Fred Eccher; **By Zoom online:** Doug Winter, Zach Schmidt; Steve Smith, Engineer; Ryan Farr, Attorney.

Agenda: Accepted on a White/Edmundson **motion**.

Minutes: The minutes for the June 26, 2023 board meeting were approved on a White/Edmundson **motion**.

Financial Reports: There was a White/Edmundson **motion** to accept the April and May financial reports as presented. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Thorne Ranch – Farr reported Huerfano County Commissioners would like to meet with the HCWCD board on August 22 at 1:30 to discuss. The board expressed to Farr that it wants a written answer to our outline by August 15 before we confirm we'll be at that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: There were no new water cases. There were no river reports. As of today, there is still water flowing in both rivers.

Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan

Bear Bottom Ranch (Tier 1 aug application) – Applegate's engineering letter has been sent to the board about the ½-af Dinner Pond. There was a White/Brown **motion** to add the in-stream flow edit and submit to DWR for comments. Regarding the temporary lease agreement for another 4-af of unallocated water, Farr said everything looks good and he recommends approval. There was a White/Mace **motion** for King to sign the agreement. Approved.

Mace (Tier 2 aug application) – The notice of inclusion has been published. Comments are due by mid-September.

Siete Inc – Applegate submitted the engineering letter. About 10-af (including transit loss) will be provided to Siete in November & December 2023 and June 2024. There was a White/Brown **motion** to submit to DWR for comments. Board approved.

Recharge Pond & Water Operations – Mace reported the cleaning work on the recharge pond hasn't been done yet. Sadie Wardell, with Mitchell Wardell as a backup, was recommended by Steve Wardell to take over the water operations at the Wm Craig Ranch. There was a White/Edmundson **motion** to approve the contract with Sadie Wardell for water operations. Board approved and King signed.

SMAF – Mace reported the reservoir is full. Straightline Construction is scheduled to start on the pumphouse repair at the end of July. We may need to hydromulch the disturbed part of the site in the Fall to establish vegetation so we can get the mining permit released. Options were discussed.

SCF Flood Mitigation Project – Brown reported NRCS engineers are planning to meet with involved parties at the site of the Middle Creek flood warning gage so they can look at potential projects. David Steffan is coordinating.

Infrastructure Project – Farr reported Great Plains backed off permission for HCWCD to put in the monitoring well after talking to Div. Engineer Rachel Zancanella, who told GP that DWR doesn't need

the info anymore. Farr will follow up. Brgoch advised there is a time limit on the other monitoring well easements. They will need to be renewed.

PL-566 Project – Brown reported Jones & DeMille Engineering, which is doing the PL-566 PIFR, will meet with the HCWCD board for the sponsor kickoff on July 20 at 2:00, beginning in La Veta and followed by site visits to the Bruce Canyon location and Maria-Stevens Reservoir.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable report – White reported Anna Mauss is considering attending a Board meeting in the near future. The PL-566 PIFR stakeholder meeting in September might be a good opportunity.

Water consultant report – Brgoch discussed water operations with Walsenburg Mayor Gary Vezzani and City Council member Fred Eccher. The exchange of Twin Lakes water was explained and the need for and mutual benefits of storage in City Lake. Of the total Twin Lakes water 3.9445 acre-feet were recently exchanged to the La Veta Lakes.

Break – King called a break at 7:58; meeting reconvened at 8:10.

Bills – On a Edmunson/Brown **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to \$15,000 to ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total \$17,525.13:

Mountain States Financial group: monthly bookkeeping	\$200.00
Monson,Cummins,Shohet,Farr: mtg, aug plan, exchg, GPIC, SMAF, Thorne	\$5,398.50
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, meeting & office supplies	\$2,025.31
Admin SCF Flood Mitigation grant	\$472.50
La Veta Carpentry: mo website admin + mo water analyst	\$400.00
Applegate Group: mtg, water acctg, SMAF fills/releases, aug plan apps	\$6,920.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly contract	\$500.00
Div. Mining Reclamation: mine permit fee at SMAF	\$792.00
David Steffan: remediation coordinator contract	\$425.06
San Isabel Electric: Monthly usage at SMAF	\$326.76
Spanish Peaks Library: July rent	\$65.00

At 7:58, there was a **motion** by Edmunson/Brown and approved by the board to go into executive session, joined by the District's consultant, to discuss negotiations with Huerfano County. 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 White/Brown **motion**, the executive session was closed at 8:57 pm, and the regular session was reconvened.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary