

# HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting April 28, 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 April 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

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

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

**Guests:** Doug Brgoch, Amos Mace, Pauline Adams, Kristan Lowe, Ed Diemer, Lenna Rauber; by Zoom: Doug Winter.

**Agenda:** "City of Walsenburg new SWSP" was added; agenda was approved on a Brown/Mace **motion**.

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

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

The RFarmer, LLC engagement letter to audit 2024 financials was approved and signed by Dunn on a Brown/Mace **motion**.

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

New Business: There were no new water cases.

**Walsenburg SWSP** – discussion was delayed until executive session.

**DWR River Reports:** Lenna Rauber reported the call on the **Huerfano** is Read 29; flows are 17 cfs at Manzanares, 17 at Badito, 1.3 cfs at I-25. Ed Diemer reported the **Cucharas** flows are 25.5 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 25.8 cfs at Harrison Bridge, 6.95 cfs at Highway 10; the call is 62, Coler System.

### HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN

**Augmentation Water Plan updates** – Steve Smith reported Flying Rockin' R is now a participant and has completed the work agreed on. Applegate is trying to determine how much Tier 2 water will be needed to fill the ponds. The process nearly finished, and the Tier 2 application is expected soon. Brgoch asked if FRR has a conveyance back to the river. Rauber will go to FRR and visit with Wyckoff about this.

**SMAF** – Smith reported that he coordinated with Amos Mace, and the reservoir is essentially full after balancing the rates between recharge and augmentation releases. Kent reported there is a leak in the pumphouse from running silty water. The release valve for the reservoir still needs to be ordered.

The infiltration socks at the recharge pond have been replaced. Two solar collectors have been installed for the water meters. Mace recommended we upgrade the recording devices to 4 pressure transducers; one of the existing meters won't hold calibration. On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board approved purchase of 4 transducers that meet state requirements with a budget not to exceed \$2,000.

**Revegetation** – Brgoch reported the no-till seeding contractors for the SMAF property need the proper implement for crimped mulching that is in the specs.

**Flood Warning Gages** – The quote from Sky Hi Engineering of \$22,101 for annual management of the gages was accepted on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

**Hazard Mitigation Planning** – Environmental Law Institute contacted HCWCD for input on hazard mitigation planning. Steffan volunteered to get in touch with them.

**Congressionally Directed Spending** – Smith reported the Preliminary Engineering Report for the SMAF repairs was revised at the request of Rural Development to add the cost of legal expenses, full time project inspections, and limited construction management engineering.

**Community Project Funding** – Dunn is working on a request to be submitted to Congressman Hurd's office.

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable Report:** King reported Lauren Duncan wants to hold meetings around rural areas to get community input on water projects. Brown reported on the projects that were described.

**Break** – King called a break at 7:08 pm; meeting reconvened at 7:35 pm.

**Bills:** On a Brown/Mace **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to \$14,000 from ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total \$14,829.76:

Mountain States Financial: Bookkeeping April	\$250.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: meeting, Bear Bottom particip, Pryor Ditch	\$4,207.25
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, water	\$2,384.42
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 March 2025	\$1,385.31
IOA/Walsenburg Insurance: bond for Kent Mace	\$100.00
Applegate Group: Aug plan acctg/admin, mtg, annual projections	\$5,222.50
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$215.28
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

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At 7:38, there was a Sikes/Mace **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by attorney Farr, consultant Brgoch and engineer Smith to discuss: attorney advice regarding the Walsenburg SWSP and possible purchase of water rights on the Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers, plus grant funding to support those purchases. 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); and 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).

On a Mace/Brown **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 9:13 pm and the regular session reconvened.

On a Brown/Mace **motion**, the board approved proceeding with the memorandum of understanding regarding Thorne Ranch based on discussion during the executive session and convey it to Carl Young.

On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board approved submitting questions on the Walsenburg SWSP based on discussion during the executive session.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.

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Scott King, President

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Carol Dunn, Secretary