

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting August 24, 2020

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 online with GoToMeeting on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Directors participating: Lewis “Beaver” Edmundson, Michael “Sandy” White, Scott King, Lonnie Brown, Kent Mace.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney:** Ryan Farr; **Engineer:** John Faux.

Guests identified: David Steffan, Rachel Pittinger, Dennis Hoyt, Brian Lalander, Theresa Springer.

The meeting **agenda** was approved on a White/Mace **motion**.

MINUTES – The minutes for the July 13, 2020 board meeting and August 7, 2020 special meeting were approved as presented on a White/Brown **motion**.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – The July 2020 financial reports were reviewed and accepted on a White/Mace **motion**. Dunn summarized the cash flow and the loan and grant information reports.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

Water case 2020CW3037 – There was no recommendation for involvement in the case.

The Town of La Veta is on full water restrictions. Lenna Rauber is no longer water commissioner on the Huerfano River basin.

Fire Remediation grant projects: On behalf of ARWC, Dave Steffan reported on 2019 Phase 3 progress. A coordination meeting among CWCB, ARWC, Enginuity and HCWCD will be coordinated by Dunn. On-the-ground projects are being evaluated. Steffan has a list of 20 projects of “unmet needs,” which he is sending to HCWCD. He reported that Indian Creek drainage has the highest rated projects. He suggested there could be complementary projects next spring in cooperation with Huerfano County. Theresa Springer was also in attendance on behalf of ARWC.

The **flood warning gage** on Pass Creek was swept away during a flood event on July 27. Since the equipment at the North Abeyta Creek site is no longer required, it will be used to replace that radar unit. In the same event, twenty feet of cable for the Indian Creek site became exposed. The experts believe we need a steel superstructure upstream to protect the gage against future flooding.

For the **2020 fire remediation project**, Chelsey Nutter and Dunn will work online with Rachel Pittinger to reduce the original project budget of \$700,000 to \$500,000, which was the amount the grant was approved for.

Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan – John Faux reported HCWCD still has augmentation credits. **SCG Services** has applied for additional augmentation water. On a White/Mace **motion**, the board agreed to sell SCG/John Sakun another acre-foot of augmentation water on a 5-year lease-purchase agreement conditioned upon receipt of the first payment of \$19,380.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility Phase 4 – Faux reported Frontier Environmental is ready to mobilize, so the kickoff meeting for the project will be held August 27 online.

Wm. Craig Ranch – Edmundson reported the ditch water has been turned off, but there is still water in the recharge pond. A purchase offer has been received for HCWCD’s Ranch. It will be discussed in executive session.

Ark Basin Roundtable – There will not be much grant funding through CWCB in the next few years.

King called a break at 6:40; meeting resumed at 6:53.

BILLS – Mace **moved**, White seconded, and board approved making a \$13,000 transfer from ColoTrust and paying the following bills, which total \$42,686.07:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping –	\$120.00
Monson, Cummins & Shoet – legal	\$5,859.00
Applegate Group – Collaborative Storage Phase 5	\$13,886.75
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, postage –	\$1,831.58
Dunn Write: Collab storage Phase 5 grant admin 7/13 – 8/23/20 –	\$336.00
Dunn Write: Spring Creek Fire Flood Mitigation grant admin 7/13 – 8/23/20 –	\$955.50
La Veta Carpentry: water analyst, Ranch –	\$200.00
La Veta Carpentry: water analyst, SMAF, kickoff meeting –	\$300.00
La Veta Carpentry: website maintenance –	\$150.00
Century Link, August phone bill (autopay 9/1) –	\$63.90
Walsenburg Insurance, bonds for King, Edmundson, Dunn –	\$325.00
Spanish Peaks Library, August rent –	\$65.00
Lamp Rynearson: SMAF Phase 4 –	\$15,237.90
World Journal, legal ad for board vacancies –	\$55.44
Dixon Waller & Co, audit of 2019 financials –	\$3,300.00

At 6:55 there was a **motion** by Mace, seconded by White and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving the sale of HCWCD’s Ranch, ACME Growers past due invoices, and a meeting with Maria Lakes Grazing Association: including the 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).

At 7:43 pm, Edmundson **moved**, Mace seconded and board approved closing the executive session and returning to open session. The meeting was called back to regular session at 7:43 pm.

Mace **moved**, Brown seconded and board approved pursuing the course of action discussed in executive session regarding ACME Growers’ payment default.

Mace **moved**, Brown seconded and board approved rejecting the current purchase offer on HCWCD’s Ranch.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary