

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting October 20, 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 October 20, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

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

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney,** Ryan Farr; **Engineer,** Steve Smith.

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Ed Diemer, Amos Mace, Lenna Rauber.

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

Minutes: Minutes of the September 22, 2025 meeting were approved on a Brown/Mace **motion**.

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

Budget: Dunn presented the finalized 2026 budget, which is ready for publication. There was a Brown/Sikes **motion** to approve this finalized budget for publication. Board approved.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Water court case: 2025CW3052, City of Walsenburg application for changes of water rights and amendment of augmentation plan; Walsenburg Ditch Shares and Gomez Ditch interest; Cucharas River, current use is irrigation: change to use, reuse and successive use to extinction. Farr recommended getting involved in this case. There was a Brown/Steffan **motion** to file a statement of opposition in this case. Board approved.

DWR River Reports: Lenna Rauber reported on Huerfano River flows: 24 cfs at Manzanares, 8 cfs at Badito, and 1 cfs at I-25; the call is #21. Ed Diemer reported on Cucharas flows: 8.24 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 1.27 cfs at Harrison Bridge, and 0 cfs at Hwy 10; the call is #5.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN

Augmentation Water Plan updates –

Water is still running into the pond. A contract with Flying Rockin' R is still pending for Tier 2 (4 af).

Water commitments for 2026: Tier 1 = 39; Tier 2&3 = 11. Firm yield = 52.

Smith suggested investigating an aerator for the recharge pond; it should cut down on the algae clogging the infiltrators.

SMAF – Kent reported that Colorado Quarries is producing the material/riprap for the ballast repair project and will store it at their location until we need it.

Amber Gibson, Environmental Protection Specialist with Mined Land Reclamation, met with Kent and Amos Mace at the SMAF site to discuss revegetation. She plans to revise the requirements for seeding the site. It was decided to contact Horizon Environmental about cancelling the seeding of the SMAF site.

Dryup Seeding, Wm Craig Ranch – Brgoch reported Horizon has a selenium report for the Wm. Craig Ranch and can get selenium tolerant seed if desired. Huerfano River is listed by CDPHE as high in selenium. Smith suggested getting Horizon Environmental to consult on planting into bindweed on the dryup acreage. This was approved on a Brown/Sikes **motion**.

Thorne Ranch tour – Smith, Farr, Amos & Kent Mace, **David Steffan**, and Rick Dunn walked and drove the entire ranch. Facilities viewed: 3 headgates, ditches, 3 storage ponds. Smith said the pond

liners are in good shape and estimated their remaining life at 20 years; only a few small patches will be needed. He characterized the headgates as interesting and historical. The flume is only a few years old. Eventually a pipeline will be needed. Smith recommended researching Lidar data or flying a drone to determine capacity of the ponds. Estimated yield of the ranch is 140 af consumptive use. An exchange potential analysis is needed on moving water to the Cucharas basin (and eventually to Bruce Canyon) – HCU analysis (#3, 6, 8); having #4 & 11 would improve yield. There was a Steffan/Sikes **motion** to have Applegate Group determine the capacity analysis for the ponds, do an exchange potential analysis for the Cucharas River, update the historical consumptive use analysis to add #4 & 11 Martin Ditch water rights, and determine a way to get water in and out of the ponds (possibly pumps and siphon system). Board approved.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Report: King, Brown & Brgoch reported on the latest meeting, including \$482,000 in grant funding. There is a study underway on water for recreational purposes.

Guest Comments: None.

Break – King called a break at 7:45 pm; meeting reconvened at 7:57 pm.

Bills: On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board authorized the paying the following bills, which total \$35,525.44 (no ColoTrust transfer was required).

Mountain States Financial: Bookkeeping	\$250.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: mtg, Thorne, aug participants	\$7,224.30
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, envelopes	\$2,465.00
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 Sept 2025, backflow valve, signage	\$2,884.64
Applegate Group: Aug plan acctg/projectn/admin, exchnge, data loggers, admin fees	\$2,770.00
Sadie Wardell: Wm Craig water operations, Sept.	\$450.00
IOA/Walsenburg Insurance: bond for Steffan	\$100.00
Sky Hi Engineering: flood emergency warning gages weekly ops May-Oct, turn on/off	\$18,136.50
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$180.00
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

There was no executive session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary