

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting October 25, 2021

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 Ave, Walsenburg on October 25, 2021 at 6:02 pm.

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

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

Guests: Lenna Rauber, Doug Brgoch, Mayor Brian Lalander, Rick Dunn, Carl Young, Gerald Cisneros, Charles Bryant.

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

MINUTES – The minutes for the September 27, 2021 board meeting were approved as presented on a Mace/Brown **motion**. Board approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – There was a White/Mace **motion**, to accept the financial reports. Board approved. Dunn summarized the cash flow report and reported two more grants will be added to the grant/loan information report. There was a White/Mace **motion** to approve the budget for publishing in the newspaper. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

Carl Young, Huerfano County Administrator, and Commissioner Gerald Cisneros spoke to the board about using the SMAF reservoir for a dip site in case of a fire in the Gardner area. If that happened, refilling it would need to be done when the water right is in priority. Gardner Public Improvement District (GPID) manager Charles Bryant will be applying for a grant for phreatophyte control – masticator in spring and foliar treatment in fall for Russian olive and tamarisk removal. He wanted to make sure he wasn't duplicating efforts. Young and Cisneros told the board the GPID cannot afford to pay for the augmentation water it is leasing from HCWCD. There are severe capital issues, including sewer and water systems. They requested that HCWCD reduce the price of the augmentation water, which the board declined to do. The board suggested there could be negotiation on the length of term of a lease-purchase agreement or even the interest rate. Kent Mace will be the liaison with GPID and Huerfano County in working on a solution for this.

Water Cases 2021CW3046 and 2021CW3169: USDI app for surface water right, East Sheep Mountain Spring, tributary to Oak Creek, Huerfano River basin, .0011 cfs for livestock and wildlife use. The board decided to take no action on this case.

River reports: Lenna Rauber reported the Huerfano River has 11 cfs at the upper end and 7 at the lower end, with the call at #13. The tributaries are not adding much water to the river. The Cucharas River has 8 feet at the upper end and 2 cfs at Harrison Bridge, with the call at #3. There is still a lot of evaporation loss.

Fire Remediation grant project: Dunn reported ARWC sent one of the last invoices it will send. Monson reported on the contract for hiring on David Steffan to finish coordinating the grant work.

Thanks to Rachel Pittinger, we have another grant (CWCB purchase order) pending to conduct a strategic analysis of future treatments for the burn scar. Pittinger is awaiting a scope of work, budget and letters of commitment from collaborators, then CWCB can issue the PO. Dunn will work on those.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility Phase 5 – The electrical inspector has issued his final report. Mace recommends moving the access road down off the dam, regrading the existing access road, adding gravel, and improving the borrow ditches. He has gotten an estimate to build a fence around the reservoir to keep out livestock and people.

Collaborative Storage Phase 5: Steve Smith, Applegate Group, provided a written report and participated by Zoom. For Bruce Canyon Reservoir (BCR): finalizing hydrologic hazard sensitivity analysis; confirmed spillway alignment to the north; work on 50% design. For Maria-Stevens Reservoir Enlargement: Working on hydrologic hazard analysis; work on 50% design drawings; calculating storage added by the proposed enlargement.

Huerfano Augmentation Plan: Monson reported on the status of the Mace and Singing River augmentation water applications.

BILLS – On a White/Edmundson **motion**, board authorized the transfer of up to \$14,000 from ColoTrust savings and approved the following bills, which total \$88,013.22:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping	\$120.00
Monson, Cummins & Shohet: SMAF, aug plan, misc.	\$3,396.25
Dunn Write: contract, supplies, mileage	\$1,870.79
Admin SCF Flood Mitigation grant	\$1,322.25
Admin Collab Storage Phase 5 BCR	\$301.00
Admin Collab Storage Phase 5 MSRE	\$172.00
La Veta Carpentry: Water analyst for diversion & website maintenance	\$350.00
Applegate Group: 50% engineering for BCR & MSRE; water admin; SMAF; Tier 2	\$12,566.50
ARWC: Spring Creek Fire flood mitigation 2020 project	\$64,740.35
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage + access fee at SMAF	\$644.08
Bar 7 LLC: Fence at SMAF reservoir, down pmt	\$2,465.00
Spanish Peaks Library: October rent	\$65.00

At 9:26 pm there was a **motion** by White, seconded by Edmundson and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving Maria Stevens Grazing Assn proposal; proposed contract with David Steffan; matters involving an augmentation plan in the Cucharas River basin. Discussion 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).

At 10:02 pm there was a White/Brown **motion** to leave executive session and return to regular session. Board approved. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:03 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary