

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting August 27, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was convened at the Spanish Peaks Library, Walsenburg, CO by President Scott King on Monday, August 27, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

Directors present: Michael "Sandy" White, Scott King, Beaver Edmundson.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; Attorney: Ryan Farr.

Guests: Rick Dunn, Gail Terry, Mickey Schmidt, Stephen Leonhardt, Randy Case, Jim Berg, Steve Mulliken, John C Stroh II, Mike Bronoski, Melanie Bounds, Joel Norton, Kent Hay, Lenna Rauber, Bill Tyner, Doug Brgoch, Delmar Janovec.

The agenda was approved on a White/Edmundson motion.

MINUTES – White moved and Edmundson seconded to approve the July 23 and August 14, 2018 minutes. Board approved.

King recognized late board member John Vallejos after his passing on August 18. He will be missed. Judge Claude Appel will need to appoint a member; Dunn will notify the Court.

TREASURER REPORT – White moved and Edmundson seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Edmundson reported that JB Vallejos will put a berm around the dryup acreage at the Ranch. The signs to monument the dry-up acreage are not up yet, but Rick Dunn has them and plans to install them in the coming week. We are diverting as much flow on the William Craig ditch as we can but not putting it in the recharge pond because of the silt/dirty water.

For construction of Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility phase 2, only one bid was received, and it was nearly double what the engineers projected. The District's water engineer John Faux is negotiating with Paul Morgan Excavating to see if the bid can be lowered. King reported it is possible that phase 2 will be postponed into 2019 with phase 3.

NEW BUSINESS – Water Commissioner Doug Brgoch introduced Bill Tyner, new Division 2 Engineer. The board offered Tyner congratulations on his new position. WC Lenna Rauber reported the call is #7 on the Huerfano River. A lot of headgates have been silted in and some damaged beyond repair from the fire aftermath. Brgoch reported there has been no significant rainfall in the last 30 days, and the flow is very low on the Cucharas. In the upper reaches the quality of water has degraded significantly. Water quality above La Veta intake is treatable for human consumption, with secondary treatment concerns for aesthetics.

Crown Valley Ranch presentation by Steve Mulliken, Steve Leonhardt, Randy Case and John Stroh.

Dunn will draft the letter to CWCB requesting extension of the loan which the board can review at the September meeting. Find out when the CWCB meeting is in January 2019.

Edmundson reported JB Vallejos will help with soil testing at SMAF on September 5 with TZA present. After the recent monsoon rains, there is some grass growing at the Ranch, but the hay crop didn't amount to much.

ABRT meeting – King reported that Huerfano County is fortunate to have Sandy White searching out funding sources for fire remediation. We are eligible for \$463K to build sediment ponds, but that grant requires 50% matching funds. One possibility is NRCS emergency watershed protection funding – but timing may be off. The HCWCD pre-fire study in 2014 identified many of the locations to stop debris flows. Avail now, needed in Nov-December. Most \$ would go to the Upper Cucharas, but sites need to be located on the Huerfano. FEMA and NRCS grants may present working challenges. Coloradofloodthreat.com has a precipitation map and predictions on what to expect from the fire scar. The formation of a south slope roundtable has been discussed – focusing on the common issues for water users south of I-70.

GUEST COMMENTS: Paradise Acres Homeowners Association members Mike Bronoski (President), Joel Horton (VP), and Kent Hay (VP) asked for options for paying for an acre-foot of augmentation water going forward. PAHA was devastated by the Spring Creek fire in July. Whatever the HOA decides, the payment will be due November 1. White suggested the HOA may want to go with a year-to-year lease.

King called for a break at 7:40 pm and the meeting reconvened at 7:50 pm.

BILLS: Edmundson moved, White seconded and board approved paying the following bills, which total \$71,720.70 and transfer \$39,000 from ColoTrust. Board approved.

EXCEL SPREADSHEET

At 7:54 pm, there was a motion by White, seconded by Edmundson, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving ongoing litigation and SWSP, 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 9:21 pm, White moved, Edmundson seconded and board approved closing the executive session and returning to open session. The meeting returned to regular session at 9:21 pm.

Dunn find out, what are the estimated legal and engineering fees for the Cucharas joint exchange case?

At October 22 meeting have an executive session with all parties in the Storage Collaborative and TZA and our attorney. **Notify them with "confidential" on the notice.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary