HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting
September 22, 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 September 22, 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 by Zoom.
Guests: Doug Brgoch, Ed Diemer, Pauline Adams, Amos Mace, Mitchell Wardell, Mayor Gary Vezzani, City Administrator John Galusha, Kristan Lowe; by Zoom: Dale Lyons.

Agenda: Accepted on a Mace/Brown **motion**.
Minutes: Minutes of the August 25, 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 a draft budget to the board for comments and review.

Old Business: Thorne Ranch purchase contract to be discussed in executive session.
New Business:
Water court cases: 1) 2025CW3: David & Susan Colman – app for finding of reasonable diligence of Maley Springs (.04 cfs) trib. to Huerfano River, domestic household & lot irrigation. **2)** 2025CW3046: Maria Lake Grazing Assn. – app for finding of reasonable diligence & confirm absolute, Maria Lake Well #2 (15 gpm), trib to Cucharas River, domestic use & landscape irrigation. **3)** 2025CW3048: Town of La Veta – correction of erroneously described point of diversion, Mexican Ditch, trib to Cucharas River; municipal uses. Farr recommended taking no action on these cases. Board agreed.
DWR River Reports: Ed Diemer reported on both rivers: Huerfano flows are: 16.8 cfs at Manzanares, 10.3 cfs at Badito, and 1.27 cfs at I-25; the call is #12. Cucharas flows are: 8.24 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 1.49 cfs at Harrison Bridge, and 0 cfs at Hwy 10; the call is #5.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN
Augmentation Water Plan updates –
There was a Brown/Sikes **motion** to approve the proposed administration fees for 2026 water year Tier 1: $2,782.00; Tier 2: $347.75; Tier 3: $194.74.
SMAF – Dunn was instructed to contact Rural Development and ask that the unbudgeted funds not be deobligated; HCWCD wants to expand the project to a potential temporary storage downstream to hold the SMAF water while the project is under construction. Preference is not to waste the water by dumping it down the river. Funding implications need to be explored if riprap is stored onsite.
There was a Mace/Brown **motion** to enter a contract for riprap with Colorado Quarries Inc (Tezak) – size 6-12" as specified by Applegate Group, quantity of 3,300 yards (37,013 tons), at a cost of $16/ton FOB the quarry in Westcliffe. Board approved.
Purchase of a $1,715.50 valve for the SMAF reservoir was authorized by a Brown/Steffan **motion**.
Augmentation Plan Participant Updates – Smith reported next year's aug commitment is 46 af.
Flying Rockin' R – The purchase contract for 7 af of Tier 1 was approved on Steffan/Brown **motion**.
Mace – During discussion of the purchase contract for 3 af of Tier 2, Mace recused himself. The contract was approved on a Brown/Sikes **motion**, with Mace abstaining from the vote.
Congressionally Directed Spending – We are waiting to hear from Rural Development about expanding the SMAF Ballast Repair funding request and stockpiling the riprap.
The Arkansas Basin Roundtable voted to recommend the SMAF ballast repair project for CWCB funding of $114,800 to help with required local match. The CWCB meeting will be held October 10.

Dryup Seeding – A quote was received from Horizon Environmental to seed both the Wm. Craig dryup acreage (Site 1) and the Sheep Mountain reservoir site (Site 2). Details: Site 1 drill seeding $25,852; Site 2 disk, crimp mulch, $13,680; mobilization $7,285; for total of $46,817. Horizon will supply the seed to NRCS spec. There was a Brown/Mace **motion** to sign the quote and proceed with the seeding (planned for December). Board approved.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Report: King reported that the August meeting involved two farm visits, and irrigation was discussed.

Guest Comments:

John Galusha, Walsenburg City Administrator, reported FEMA is revising area flood maps. City Council authorized filing a change of use case for Walsenburg water. Mayor Gary Vezzani reported the City is selling water under its supplemental augmentation plan. They are trying to recoup some of the money that has been spent on all the water rights the City has purchased over the years.

Break – King called a break at 7:38 pm; meeting reconvened at 7:53 pm.

Bills: On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to $13,300.00 from ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total $20,713.40:

Mountain States Financial: Bookkeeping	$250.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: mtg, aug plan, Thorne, Pryor Ditch; aug participants	$4,891.25
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone	$2,409.15
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 August 2025 + Thorne Ranch	$2,135.00
Applegate Group: Aug plan acctg/projectn/admin, exchnge, Dredging Feas., SMAF liner	$8,545.00
Sadie Wardell: Wm Craig water operations, August + equipment use for ditch	$687.00
IOA/Walsenburg Insurance: bonds for Sikes, King	$200.00
Water Quality Control Division, SMAF water quality permit renewal	$351.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	$180.00
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	$65.00

At 7:59, there was a Steffan/Brown **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by attorney Farr, consultant Brgoch and engineer Smith to discuss legal ramifications regarding revegetation pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) and purchase and acquisition of land and water rights (Thorne Ranch) pursuant to CRS 24-6-402 (a).

On a Mace/Brown **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 8:37 pm and the regular session reconvened.

There was a Mace/Brown **motion** to amend the Thorne Ranch purchase contract as discussed in executive session. Board approved.

On a Mace/Brown **motion**, the attorney was asked to draw up an outline of landowner expectations regarding the revegetation on the Wm Craig Ranch.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

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Scott King, President Carol Dunn, Secretary