

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting May 24, 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 La Veta United Methodist Church on May 24, 2021 at 6:01 pm.

Directors participating: Lewis “Beaver” Edmundson, Scott King, Kent Mace, Lonnie Brown, and Michael “Sandy” White by phone until 7:25 pm and then in person.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Engineer:** Steve Smith, by phone

Guests: Doug Brgoch, John C. Davis, Jim Alt, David M. Steffan.

The meeting **agenda** was approved.

MINUTES – The minutes for the April 26, 2021 board meeting were approved as presented on a Brown/Edmundson **motion**. Board approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – There was an Edmundson/Mace **motion**, to accept the financial reports. Board approved. Dunn summarized the cash flow and the loan and grant information reports. The HCWCD annual audit was held May 17.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – **Water cases:**

The board decided to take no action on case **2021CW7** Gregory & Sandra Smith, app to make absolute: James Spring #1-4 – .93 gpm total, irrigation.

It was decided to get more information on case **2021CW8** Gardner Public Improvement District, app to increase underground water rights up to 25 gpm each – Gardner wells A (now 12 gpm) & 3 (now 11.9 gpm), municipal water & bulk fill station. The district’s water engineer, Steve Smith, was asked to contact Huerfano County’s water engineer, Steve Kastner, for details on the water hauled vs. municipal uses.

River reports: Brgoch reported that both rivers are running high. There are strong flows coming off the burn scar into Pass Creek and the Cucharas River.

Fire Remediation grant projects: David Steffan reported the following activities – Indian Creek is still within its banks, not on the roadway; the crew is burning debris removed from the stream; the Sulfur Springs pool is being cleaned out again, but it has been damaged by repeated rock flows; the high stream flows are threatening a utility line, which will be addressed. On Middle Creek, a Loews earthen dam has been installed and the stream will be stabilized with rocks. Seeding will be done. A tour of the area is planned for the County Commissioners. Brgoch reported that the emergency warning gages were turned on March 1. The data is still readable on hydromet.com.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility Phase 5 – Mace reported the next work due to be started is the electrical work by Alpine Electric. Mace is trying to finish up the contract with Hydrologik. The amount of sediment in the river has been dropping over the last two weeks. There was a Brown/Edmundson **motion** to add extra insulation on the ceiling of the pump house. Board approved. There is also a woody debris problem that Mace hopes will be solved by inserting used rock crusher screens at the sluice gate. The pump equipment is

due to be delivered onsite about June 30. There was discussion about the exchange potential of water on the Arkansas River up to the Cucharas. Pueblo Board of Waterworks will be contacted about the possibility of water leases this summer.

Collaborative Storage Phase 5: Steve Smith, Applegate Group, updated the board on his statement of work in preparation for HCWCD developing a Water Plan Grant application to study a dredging option for Maria-Stevens Reservoir enlargement. CWCB staff decided the scope of the existing grant project cannot be revised. There was a White/Brown **motion** to allocate up to \$3,000 for local match for the grant project. Maria Lakes Grazing Association will be asked to contribute an equal amount. Dunn will develop the grant app before the next board meeting.

Augmentation Plan: Smith advised that his calculations indicate that the application for aug water from Kent Mace/Malachite Spring is doable. The proposed “glamp-ground” will use less than the acre-foot per year that’s requested, so the district can make those replacements. There was a White/Brown **motion** to have the attorney proceed with the legal requirements for adding the participating diversion. Board approved.

Regarding Tier 2 water, Smith has consulted with John Faux for information and will work with Monson to develop a model for making tier 2 water available for purchase. Applegate Group has already tested the recharge pond to determine how much water can be run through it. He will have more information at the June 14 meeting.

White and King reported the Arkansas Basin Roundtable is expecting a large influx of funding from Covid stimulus legislation. ABRT is looking for projects. White suggested this might be an opportunity to propose funding repairs and retrofits to headgates and diversions damaged by flooding originating on the Spring Creek Fire burn scar.

BILLS – White **moved**, Mace seconded, and board approved by unanimous roll call making a \$69,000 transfer to ColoTrust and paying the following bills, which total \$30,096.50:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping –	\$120.00
Monson, Cummins & Shohet: legal –	\$5,775.75
Dunn Write: contract, mileage –	\$1,810.48
Admin SCF flood mitigation grant 2020, 4/26–5/23 –	\$354.75
Admin Collab Storage Ph5, MSRE, 4/26–5/23 –	\$333.25
Admin Collab Storage Ph5, BCR, 2/23–5/23 –	\$206.94
La Veta Carpentry: water analyst, Ranch & SMAF + website maintenance –	\$650.00
Kent Mace: Exhaust fan & shutters for SMAF Phase 5 pumphouse –	\$3,282.58
Barry Rauber: SMAF Phase 5 pumphouse construction –	\$10,800.00
SMAF Phase 5, additional concrete work –	\$3,625.00
Applegate Group: Collab Storage Ph5, MSRE & water accounting/engineering –	\$3,072.75
<u>Spanish Peaks Library: May rent –</u>	<u>\$65.00</u>

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary