

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting November 25, 2024

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 November 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

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

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Engineer:** Steve Smith (by Zoom); **Attorney:** Ryan Farr

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Amos Mace, Pauline Adams, Dale Lyons, Ed Diemer, Rick Dunn, Kristan Lowe.

Oath of Office – King administered the oath to Jacque Sikes and David Steffan. Sikes fills the expired director position of Louis “Beaver” Edmundson; Steffan will fill out Sandy White’s unexpired term.

Agenda: Agenda was approved on a Brown/Mace **motion**.

Minutes: One correction was made to the minutes of the October 28, 2024 board meeting. Brown was in attendance and Edmundson was not. Minutes were approved on a Brown/Mace **motion**.

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

Old Business: Thorne Ranch—Smith plans to have a preliminary HCU (historic consumptive use) report for HCWCD by the December 9 meeting.

New Business: Water Case 2024CW3044: Town of La Veta application for finding of diligence, Mexican Ditch appropriative right of exchange; original decree 7/19/10; integrated municipal water supply system. The board agreed to take no action on this case.

DWR river reports: Ed Diemer reported on both rivers. Huerfano flows: 16.4 cfs on the upper Huerfano at Manzanares, 20.4 cfs at Badito, and 17.6 cfs at I-25. Cucharas flows: 8.8 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 13.2 cfs at Harrison Bridge, and 0 at Highway 10. The call is Maria Stevens Reservoir. There was discussion about the possibility of performing the desired water exchange (admin) up the Huerfano in the next few days. Amos Mace said there is room for four to five af in SMAF; time estimated at about three days.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN

Augmentation water application – DWR Division 2 provided its comments to the Flying Rockin’ R (FRR) Ranch application; Applegate added that the required fills were not included in the application. The refill amounts were calculated; Smith will talk to Wyckoff about this on Dec. 2. There may be flexibility in assuming the ponds will constantly be full. Staff gages will be needed to measure that. The request is for 7 af (6.2). It was decided to wait until FRR has a legal source for fill water, then the attorney will be authorized to develop the Notice of Inclusion for publishing.

SMAF

Pond liner/ballast repair: Applegate developed an alternative angular riprap size to be added to the preliminary engineering report (PER) that will be attached to the USDA Rural Development grant application. There was a Mace/Brown **motion** authorizing Carol Dunn to work on and submit the required USDA Rural Development application to access the Congressionally Directed Spending that HCWCD has been chosen to receive for its SMAF ballast repair project. Board approved.

Grounding System: Mace reported there was a San Isabel power surge at SMAF recently, but everything seems to be running ok. Amos Mace is checking into HCWCD’s exposure to cyber breaches and other issues.

Ranch Revegetation: Brgoch presented the quote from Horizon Environmental Services for reveg of the dryup acreage (92 ac) at Wm Craig Ranch (WCR). If HCWCD provides the seed, the quote is \$36,457. Brgoch will continue to get other bids and a better seed cost, with a target seeding date around April 2025. Mace spoke with the landowner (Kenney), who promised to keep the cows off that entire section of the ranch after it is seeded.

REPORTS

Arkansas Basin Roundtable (ABRT): King reported on the meeting. CPW had a presentation on the highly invasive plant Eurasian watermilfoil. ABRT anticipates the water plan grants program may suffer because of the state's budget shortage. It came to light that the State's new water quality dashboard does not include the Huerfano and Purgatoire Rivers.

Committees:

King made appointments to fill the committee vacancies as follows: Contracts, Finance & Invoices: Jacque Sikes; Permits, Property & Personnel: David Steffan; Funding: David Steffan.

Public comments: None.

Break – King called a break at 7:26; meeting reconvened at 7:38 pm.

Bills: On a Brown/Mace **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to \$22,000 from ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total \$29,472.14:

Mountain States Financial Group: monthly bookkeeping	\$220.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet, Farr: mtg, Thorne Rnch, aug plan & particip, Pryor Ditch	\$5,438.75
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, office supplies	\$2,198.60
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin	\$200.00
monthly water analyst contract	\$200.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract	\$500.00
Applegate Group: mtg, aug plan acctg, admin, apps; Wm Craig;Twin Lakes; SMAF	\$5,417.50
Sadie Wardell: Wm Craig water operations; ditch maintenance, shutoff October	\$165.00
Mace Water & Land: Operations of SMAF October 2024	\$1,082.00
Div Water Resources: Satellite monitoring at Badito and Harrison Bridge	\$2,311.00
American Express: CWC conv King; 2 software subscription renew; ann dinner gifts	\$1,414.54
Huerfano County Clerk: recording Aught Six augmentation certificate	\$46.00
Sky Hi Engineering: Flood warning gages operations 2024, July to shutdown	\$9,878.75
World Journal: Legal ad for 2025 budget & hearing	\$165.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF	\$170.00
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

At 7:39, there was a Brown/Mace **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by HCWCD consultant Brgoch and engineer Smith to discuss the potential purchase of real property interest. Discussion in the executive session included purchase, acquisition, lease or sale of real, personal or other property interest as in CRS 24-6-402(4)(a). On a Brown **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 8:14 pm, and the regular session was reconvened. There was no business resulting from the executive session discussion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary