

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting March 28, 2022

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 March 28, 2022 at 6:01 pm.

Directors: Scott King, Kent Mace, Lonnie Brown, Beaver Edmundson, Sandy White.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney:** Steve Monson

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Rick Dunn, Della Duran, Jim Alt, Mark Craddock, Matt Hayden.

The meeting agenda was discussed. It was approved on a White/Mace **motion**.

MINUTES – The minutes for the February 28, 2022 board meeting were amended on page 1 under River Reports to read 4 cfs, not 4 acre-feet. They were approved as amended on an Edmundson/White **motion**.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – There was an Edmundson/Brown **motion** to accept the financial reports. Board approved. Dunn summarized the cash flow and grant information reports.

OLD BUSINESS – Regarding the Infrastructure Improvements grant project, Monson reported that Great Plains Irrigation Company has decided not to allow the monitoring well to be installed in the sediment bed of Cucharas #5.

NEW BUSINESS –

River reports: Doug Brgoch explained the flow in both rivers. Huerfano River is on a bypass call, satisfying # 1 and 9 rights, which are taking all the water. On the Cucharas, the Walsenburg Read rights came into priority on March 1. Maria Lakes Grazing Assn. notified the State that they intend to irrigate 150 acres this season; they are working on fixing the siphon. HCWCD has exchange water stored in Maria-Stevens Reservoir. The Huerfano has 7.4 cfs in it, and the very top irrigation ditch is taking water. The Orlando call was turned off March 16 – they just finished rehab of their weirs on March 4.

White **moved** and Mace seconded to sponsor the Arkansas Basin Water Forum at the \$500 "Reservoir" level. This includes a free registration to the Forum, April 28-29 in Salida, which Mace will attend. Board approved.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility – Mace reported the fencing crew should get to work the week of April 4. They will also plant metal posts for the sign damaged by the wind. They will remove the old silt fence that was installed in phase 1. The router at the pumphouse got hacked, so it has been temporarily unplugged. The stilling well is due to be pumped out. A trash screen will also be installed in the river. White suggested we

download stats from the reservoir and show them on the HCWCD website. Bruce Bacon, Hydrologik, is still working on getting the Pass Creek emergency flood warning gage to report to Mace.

Collaborative Storage Phase 5: On March 14, CWCB issued the PO for the Maria-Stevens Reservoir Dredging Feasibility Study. The work order has been sent to Applegate Group, and they are proceeding with the study.

The Collaborative Storage operations committee meeting was held on March 15, but Walsenburg was not in attendance. We will try to hold another meeting to determine the water needs of the collaborative, coordinate future exchanges and establish processes.

Infrastructure improvements project: The final monitoring well needs to be installed before the grant funding expires in June 2022. The attorney is still trying to appeal to the new owner for permission.

Huerfano Augmentation Plan: A new augmentation application and fees have been received from the Mace Family near Gardner for 3-4 af of tier 2 water. There was a White/Brown **motion** to accept the application. Board approved. The application will be referred to legal and engineering.

Monson said the SRR application will be used as an example for the other two. SRR will purchase tier 2 water for a one-time fill of the ponds.

Guest comments: Mark Craddock encouraged the board to continue accepting guest comments in the meetings, even if they have to set time limits on presentations. Della Duran explained the Health Department used to require that people get on the agenda in order to present public comments when she was on their board.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable report – King and White related there was a report at the ABRT meeting that no more water would be released from Blue Mesa, Flaming Gorge or Navajo lakes to recharge Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Inter-Basin Compact Commission has determined many west slope water users don't have measuring devices. There are West Slope concerns about environmental and social values, so they would prefer to not send the 80,000 af of water through the transmountain diversions that typically go to the East Slope.

BILLS – On a White/Mace **motion**, board authorized the transfer of \$70,000 to ColoTrust savings and approved paying the March bills, which total \$9,359.17:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping	\$325.53
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: exch storg, aug plan & applicants, MSRE, misc	\$4,758.00
Dunn Write: contract, supplies, mileage	\$1,861.01
Admin SCF Recovery Strategic Analysis	\$580.50
Admin MSR Dredging Feasibility grant	\$236.50
La Veta Carpentry: Water analyst for diversion & website maintenance	\$350.00
Applegate Group: water eng'g, water rights admin, tier 2 water, aug plan apps	\$922.50
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage + access fee at SMAF	\$260.13
Spanish Peaks Library: March rent	\$65.00

King called a break at 7:59; meeting reconvened at 8:15. There was a **motion** by Edmundson, seconded by Brown and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving comments by the public at board meetings, Maria-Stevens Reservoir, pending matters with current owners of Cucharas #5 Reservoir, and the response to the CORA request. 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).

On a White/Edmundson **motion**, the executive session was closed at 10:02, and the regular session was reconvened.

No action was taken after reconvening. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:03 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary