

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting

December 8, 2025

The budget hearing and monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District, which had been properly noticed and was available for public participation, was convened in person: Walsenburg Housing Authority, 220 Russell St, Walsenburg on December 8, 2025, 6:00 pm.

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

Secretary: Carol Dunn;

By online Teams meeting: **Attorney**, Ryan Farr; **Engineer**, Steve Smith.

Guests: Ed Diemer, Kristan Lowe.

Budget hearing: Called to order by Board President Scott King at 6:00 pm

Discussion – Dunn noted the only changes from the published version were in the mill levy and resulting treasurer's fees. There were no comments from the board or the public.

The hearing was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

King called the regular board meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Agenda: Accepted on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

Minutes: Minutes of the November 24, 2025 meeting were approved on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

Minutes of the October 24 Zoom special meeting were approved on a Sikes/Brown **motion**.

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

Budget Resolutions: Resolution 2025-12-1 (Adopt 2026 Budget) was approved on a Sikes/Brown **motion**; Resolution 2025-12-2 (Set Mill Levies) was approved on a Brown/Steffan **motion**;

Resolution 2025-12-3 (Appropriate Sums of Money) was approved on a Steffan/Sikes **motion**.

OLD BUSINESS: **Thorne Ranch** – Farr reported there is no answer as of this date from Huerfano County on the purchase agreement for Thorne Ranch.

NEW BUSINESS: **No new water court cases.**

DWR River Reports: Ed Diemer reported on both rivers. Huerfano River flows: 13.6 cfs at Manzanares, 20 cfs at Badito (doubtful because of ice), and 10 cfs at I-25; the call is #27 (Turkey Creek). Cucharas River flows: 7.06 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 3.8 cfs at Harrison Bridge, and 0 cfs at Hwy 10; the call is Maria Stevens.

Steve Smith provided a written report on progress of the Applegate Group tasks. By online Teams meeting, he summarized the report and pointed out details for Thorne Ranch pond capacity; inlet/outlet alternatives for the ponds; pipeline options; exchange capacity to the Cucharas River. Diemer reminded that the exchange potential will be severely curtailed by June on both rivers.

The board agreed to be a sponsor at the \$500 level for the Arkansas Basin Water Forum on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN

Augmentation Participant updates – There was a Mace/Sikes **motion** for the attorney to draft letters of default and termination for aug plan participants TKJ and SCG with a warning that they will be removed from the augmentation plan for non-payment of 2026 administration fees. Board approved. Both are over 30 days past due, and Dunn has received no communication from either of them.

SMAF – Amber Gibson, Environmental Protection Specialist with Colorado Division of Mined Land Reclamation, notified HCWCD that, absent any appeals by January 3, 2026, the mining permit for SMAF will be released.

Dryup Seeding, Wm Craig Ranch – The schedule for seeding is now closer to late December. K.Mace made sure the owner, Jasper Kenney, is aware of the plans.

SMAF ballast project: HCWCD has not heard back yet from USDA Rural Development about the ability to use augmentation water certificates (part of the Thorne Ranch purchase) as match for the water infrastructure improvements grant.

REPORTS – Ark Basin Roundtable: Brown, Brgoch and King reported.

BILLS: On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board authorized payment of the following bills, which total \$36,082.81, and transfer \$36,000.00 from ColoTrust:

Mountain States Financial: monthly bookkeeping	\$250.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: mtg, aug plan, Thorne Ranch, Walsenburg SO	\$6,240.00
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone	\$2,405.73
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin	\$250.00
monthly water analyst contract	\$250.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract	\$500.00
Stiano's: estimate of annual dinner cost	\$1,600.00
Applegate Group: aug plan acctg/projection/admin, board mtg, Thorne Ranch	\$2,679.65
Arkansas Basin Roundtable – Water Forum sponsorship	\$500.00
Colorado Water Congress: annual membership	\$596.00
CO Div Water Resources: satellite monitoring, Badito & Harrison Bridge	\$2,311.00
American Express: software subscription renewals; gifts for annual dinner	\$649.24
American Express: board member electronic tablets (dated 2026, budgetary)	\$621.08
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$180.15
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00
Scott King: annual board service and mileage reimbursement	\$3,599.80
Kent Mace: annual board service and mileage reimbursement	\$5,409.00
Lonnie Brown: annual board service and mileage reimbursement	\$2,677.20
Jacque Sikes: annual board service	\$2,400.00
David Steffan: annual board service and mileage reimbursement	\$2,898.96

There was no executive session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary