

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting

June 27, 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 June 27, 2022 at 6:03 pm.

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

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney:** Ryan Farr; **Engineer:** Steve Smith

Guests: Lenna Rauber, Jim Alt, Mayor Charles Bryant, Chris Humbert, Carmen Lara, Keith Sprau. No one called in to participate by zoom meeting.

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

MINUTES: The minutes for the May 23, 2022 board meeting were approved on a White/Brown **motion**.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: There was a White/Edmundson **motion** to accept the financial reports. Board approved. Dunn summarized the cash flow and grant & loan reports.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Water case 2022CW6 David Capp & Ruth Hennage application to make water right absolute – Silver Spring #3, tributary to Huerfano River. Board decided to take no action on the case.

River reports: Lenna Rauber reported the calling right on the Cucharas is #14; on the Huerfano it is #27 at Turkey Creek and #51 on the lower river.

Infrastructure improvements project: Farr reported that a template was sent to Huerfano-Cucharas Irrigation Company (HCIC) and Great Plains Irrigation Company (GPIC) for an easement for HCWCD to install and access a monitoring well in the silt bed of the former Cucharas #5 Reservoir. The two companies are reviewing it, and we're waiting to hear back from them.

Collaborative Storage Phase 5: Steve Smith reported Applegate has submitted the 50% engineering design on Maria Stevens Reservoir Enlargement. The Estimate of Probable Cost has been reduced because of several revisions in estimated work; it is now estimated at \$10.5 million.

A Colorado Water Plan grant application is ready to submit to Colorado Water Conservation Board for 90% Design of Bruce Canyon Reservoir. Due July 1, the \$345,000 grant will require a 50% local match. There was a White/Mace **motion** for HCWCD to commit to the \$172,500 match. Board approved. Dunn said local agencies and organizations will be asked in the coming months to contribute toward that amount.

Maria-Stevens Reservoir Dredging Feasibility: Smith reported the study continues with hydrologic hazard work.

Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan update: Keith Sprau was in attendance to explain that TKJ Investments has purchased ACME Growers. A request was submitted to have the ACME augmentation certificate transferred to TKJ. There was a Mace/White **motion** to approve the aug certificate transfer from ACME to TKJ Investments. Board approved.

Chris Humbert from SCG Holdings was in attendance. He introduced himself and explained the company's ownership changes.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility: Mace reported that Hydrologik has still not finished programming at SMAF. The entrance sign will be erected within two weeks. The pond was topped off three weeks ago. He told Rauber that he would like to add one or two more af asap. Rauber approved, but Pass Creek is still muddy – not good for the pump.

Regarding the reservoir, a scutcheon (storm collar) will be installed. The planned backflush hasn't been done yet. There was discussion about wind and splash in the pond causing the covering material to sluff off the cloth. There was a White/Brown **motion** for Applegate Group to do a wave runup engineering study of the SMAF pond. Board approved.

Farr reported that Singing River has decided to purchase 6.5 acre-feet of Tier 1 augmentation water to cover evaporative loss on ponds. He will be working on the purchase agreement. One pond will be drained to work on an outlet and refilled next spring; Singing River is hoping to do a one-year lease of possibly five af of Tier 2 water to refill that pond.

Smith reported Applegate Group is working on calculations for three ponds on the Aspen River augmentation application. There's no news from applicant on the Bear Bottom aug application.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable – King and White reported on the ABRT meeting. The low level of the Colorado River is affecting trans-mountain diversions. The full impact is not yet known. The Bureau of Reclamation will ultimately decide what will be done.

Break – King called a break at 7:13; meeting reconvened at 7:21.

BILLS – On a White/Mace **motion**, board authorized the transfer of \$23,500 from ColoTrust savings and approved paying the June bills, which total \$30,557.22:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping	\$170.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: exch storg, aug plan, GPIC, aug applicant, misc	\$7,790.63
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet service	\$1,849.85
Admin SCF Recovery Strategic Analysis	\$3,395.09
Admin MSR Dredging Feasibility grant	\$129.00
Admin SCF Flood Mitigation grant	\$172.00
La Veta Carpentry: Water analyst for diversion readings & website maintenance	\$350.00
Applegate Group: MSR Dredging Feasibility, water rights admin, aug applicants	\$15,507.50
IOA, Walsenburg Insurance: Bond, Kent Mace	\$100.00
Colorado Central Telecom, internet at SMAF, annual	\$978.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage + access fee at SMAF	\$150.15
Spanish Peaks Library: June rent	\$65.00

At 7:26, there was a **motion** by White, seconded by Edmundson and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving request by SCG regarding alternative pumping, Bruce Canyon Reservoir, and wording for a ballot question. 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/Brown **motion**, the executive session was closed at 8:16, and the regular session was reconvened. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.