

# HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting September 27, 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 Walsenburg Housing Authority, 220 Russell Ave, Walsenburg on September 27, 2021 at 6:02 pm.

**Directors:** Scott King, Kent Mace, Lonnie Brown, and Michael "Sandy" White.

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

**Guests:** Lenna Rauber, David Steffan, John C. Davis, Mayor Brian Lalander, Rick Dunn, Carl Young, Russell Hickey.

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

MINUTES – The minutes for the August 23, 2021 board meeting were approved as presented on a Mace/White **motion**. Board approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – There was a White/Brown **motion**, to accept the financial reports. Board approved. Dunn summarized the cash flow report.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

Carl Young, Huerfano County Administrator reported the Town of La Veta has asked for help with maintenance of flood warning gages. He will follow up with Doug Brgoch.

**Water Case** 2021CW3012: Samuel Knight Jr. amended app to make conditional rights absolute. Little Lake Dalton, 27.3 af. Farr gave a summary of the case. The board decided to take no action on this case.

**River reports:** Lenna Rauber reported the Huerfano River has 11 cfs at the upper end and 7 at the lower end, with the call at #8, cutting to #7 soon. No tributaries are feeding it. The Cucharas has 7 feet at the upper end and 1.5 at Harrison Bridge, with the call at #8.

**Fire Remediation grant project:** Dave Steffan reported that, after the 7/31 flooding, debris was a problem. The core team decided to make that a priority. Genova Gulch needed one or more cribwalls. Swift crews have been on the project intermittently. They arrived on this date, starting work on Middle Creek. Slopes facing northeast will have priority for slope treatments. On-the-ground tasks are labor intensive, attempting to slow the flow of water.

Board discussed hiring Steffan as a subcontractor, since he is no longer working with ARWC, and they don't have anyone on staff who knows as much as he does about the project. The attorney will develop a contract to engage David Steffan to complete the work under our CWCB grant.

HCWCD is developing a grant proposal to do a feasibility study of treatments for the burn scar area. There was a White/Mace motion to commit up to \$15,000 in the HCWCD budget toward the Spring Creek Fire feasibility study. Board approved.

**Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility Phase 5** – The electrical inspector has issued his final report. Mace has decided to move the access road down off the dam, regrade the existing access road, add gravel, and improve the borrow ditches.

**Collaborative Storage Phase 5:** Steve Smith, Applegate Group, provided a written report. For Bruce Canyon Reservoir (BCR), the engineers are trying to reorient the spillway so they can reduce the “extreme” hazard classification back down to “high.” Work continues on 50% design drawings. For Maria-Stevens Reservoir Enlargement, they are working on a breach hydrograph and the 50% design drawings. A three-month extension was approved by CWCB for the BCR design, expiring 12/31/21.

**Huerfano Augmentation Plan:** On a White/Brown **motion**, the board accepted the application from Singing River LLC for 6.51 af for pond evaporation augmentation.

**Water Field Day** – Dunn reported on attendance (50) and a summary of the evaluations.

**Colorado Water Congress** – HCWCD will sign up Scott King for a regular membership.

King called for a break at 8:28. Meeting reconvened at 8:41.

**BILLS** – On a White/Brown **motion**, board authorized the transfer of up to \$69,000 from ColoTrust savings and approved the following bills, which total \$188,531.34:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping	\$120.00
Monson, Cummins & Shoheit: SMAF, aug plan, misc.	\$1,488.90
Hydrologik:	\$12,000.00
Alpine Electric – SMAF pumphouse	\$10,998.34
Dunn Write: contract, supplies, mileage	\$1,943.12
American Express: Laptop computer, 2 mo data hotspot, Water Day expenses	\$885.14
La Veta Carpentry: Water analyst for diversion, SMAF and website maintenance	\$650.00
Yvette Vialpando: lunch and drinks for Water Day	\$550.00
Colorado Water Well: balance due on SMAF pumping station	\$50,876.00
Collector’s Specialty Woods: SMAF trash screen & signs; Water Day flyers	\$808.73
John Valdes: Mowing at SMAF, 14 hours	\$910.00
Gardner Garage: SMAF pipeline repair, excavator & backhoe work	\$1,020.00
Applegate Group: 50% engineering for BCR & MSRE; water admin; SMAF; Tier 2	\$15,272.52
Walsenburg Insurance – bonds for C.Dunn, King & Edmundson	\$325.00
ARWC: Spring Creek Fire flood mitigation 2020 project	\$86,691.76
Dixon Waller & Co: Audit of 2020 financials	\$3400.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage + access fee at SMAF	\$526.83
Spanish Peaks Library: September rent	\$65.00

At 8:43 pm there was a **motion** by White, seconded by Brown and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving competing augmentation plans; requirements of revegetation by Mined Land Reclamation Board; filing diligence and make absolute the conditional decrees after the exchanges of Twin Lakes water. 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).

At 9:26 pm there was a White/Mace **motion** to leave executive session and return to regular session. Board approved. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

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Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary