

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting November 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 November 28, 2022 at 6:03 pm.

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

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

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Lenna Rauber, Jim Alt, Mayor Charles Bryant, Doug Winter (by Zoom).

Agenda: accepted on a White/Mace **motion**.

Minutes: The minutes for the October 24, 2022 board meeting were approved on a White/Mace **motion**.

Financial Reports: There was a White/Edmundson **motion** to accept the financial reports as presented. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Infrastructure improvements project – Farr reported the State Controller approved of the Great Plains company's amendments the easement to install the last monitoring well. GPIC still needs to sign it. Brgoch suggested it may be best to install in January or February 2023.

NEW BUSINESS: Water case **2022CW3071** Huajatolla Valley Estates, App for reasonable diligence exchange decree in Case 97CW108(C) – Coler Reservoir System to Willis Spring #1. Farr recused himself from the discussion; Lonnie Brown did not vote. Case **2022CW3075** Maria Lake Grazing Assn, App to correct decreed water right location of Maria Lake Well #2, 15 gpm. Board agreed to take no action on these two cases.

River reports – Doug Brgoch reported the calling right on the Cucharas is Maria Lakes. Lenna Rauber reported the calling right is #92 on the Huerfano, but most users are iced up. SMAF is out of season as of November 1 and will come back in on April 1. Brgoch confirmed the "wildcat pond" enforcement by DWR will continue in 2023.

Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan

Aspen River Ranch (ARR) Tier 2 augmentation application – Steve Smith reported ARR decided to go with Tier 1 water in the amount of 2 af. Motion by White/Brown to now submit the application to DWR. Board approved. Rauber will send a letter to ARR about all the ponds that the applicant is not going to augment.

Bear Bottom Ranch – Applicant hired an engineer and will revise and resubmit application.

Mace – Applicant will amend their application and add 2 more acre-feet of Tier 2 aug water. Mace acknowledged they will need a headgate and measuring flume.

SCG Alternate Pumping Request – Dunn reported partial payment was received for the \$96,990 due for all the augmentation water under contract. The SCG attorney Susan Ryan (Holland & Hart) was notified, and she is following up.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility – Mace reported Hydrologik will calibrate the pump so it doesn't have to be reset. The first official releases of augmentation water from the reservoir took place in October. Amos Mace will check into pump-jacking the sinking slab. He

is also going to dump rocks on a small section along the side of the reservoir to see if it will stay in place against the wave action.

Recharge Pond –Steve Smith reported he talked with Steve Wardell about cleaning out the pond. There was discussion about a potential 20-foot long, 6-foot wide, 5-foot deep, concrete bottom siltation basin upstream of the measuring device. Smith will arrange to meet onsite December 12 with Edmundson, Wardell and Jasper Kenney, the new owner.

Funding

PL-566 Potential Project – HCWCD’s request for a PL-566 Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report (PIFR) has been submitted to NRCS with letters of support received so far.

BIP Coordinator grant application – White is trying to gain support from CWCB staff for a grant to employ a Basin Implementation Plan Coordinator for the Arkansas Basin for 3 years.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable report – King reported on activities at the latest ABRT meeting.

Bills – On a Brown/Mace **motion**, board authorized the transfer of \$14,000 from ColoTrust savings and approved paying the bills, which total \$25,423.73:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping	\$170.00
Monson, Cummins, Shoheit & Farr: bd mtg, aug plan, GPIC, aug app, reservoirs	\$5,844.75
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, postage, meeting supplies	\$1,926.61
Admin SCF Flood Mitigation grant	\$1,023.96
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin + monthly water analyst duties	\$350.00
Applegate Group: aug admin, water eng’g, SCG pumping, aug plan applicants	\$3,746.25
World Journal: publication of 2023 budget, legal ad	\$178.20
Colo Div Water Resources: Satellite monitoring, Badito & Harrison bridge gages	\$2,310.00
ARWC: SCF Flood Mitigation project, monitoring & mapping	\$3,304.97
American Express: Renew Adobe software + gifts for annual board dinner	\$216.63
Illustrated Apparel: vests for board & contractors with embroidered logo	\$439.80
Enginuity: final billing for SCF Treatment Alternatives/Strategic Analysis	\$5,697.13
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage + access fee at SMAF	\$150.43
Spanish Peaks Library: November rent	\$65.00

Break – King called a break at 7:35; meeting reconvened at 7:46.

At 7:46, there was a **motion** by Edmundson, seconded by Mace and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving water court cases and the revised SCG request for alternate pumping schedule. 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 8:07 pm, and the regular session was reconvened.

There was a Mace/White **motion** authorizing King to sign the diligence application on Case 13CW3062. Board approved.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.