

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting

August 15, 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 August 15, 2022 at 6:01 pm.

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

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

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Lenna Rauber, Charles Bryant, Carmen Lara, Gerald Cisneros. Carrie Adair attended by zoom meeting.

Agenda: Mace requested that his Tier 2 water application be added to the agenda – added on a White/Edmundson **motion**.

MINUTES: The minutes for the July 11, 2022 board meeting were approved on a White/Edmundson **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 cases 2022CW3046, 2022CW11, 2022CW19, 2022CW22.

Regarding the protests of the Final Revised Abandonment List, Brgoch said a couple involve junior decrees. Board agreed to take no action on the water cases.

River reports: Doug Brgoch reported the calling right on the Cucharas is #62 today. Lenna Rauber reported on the Huerfano the calling right is #97 this date by authorization.

Huerfano County Land Use: Antheuisse Plat amendment in Cuchara – The board had no comment.

Infrastructure improvements project: Farr reported the redlined standard State easement for HCWCD to install and access a monitoring well in the silt bed of the former Cucharas #5 Reservoir has been referred to the State Attorney General's office for comment.

Spring Creek Fire Strategic Assessment: Carrie Adair of ARWC explained progress on mapping and monitoring of the SCF burn scar in the area of Middle Creek.

Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan

Administrative fee: Farr and Dunn will work on updating the admin fee aug plan participants are required to pay. There will be a new admin fee as of November 1 for the 2023 water year.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility: Mace reported a recent flood on the Huerfano went around the pump facility; the rip-rap protected the facility. There was a problem with the pump resulting from an Alpine Electric installation issue (it was under a one year warranty). Royal Electric has recommended the controllers be upgraded and heavier wire used.

Water has been added to the pond, and it has 49 acre-feet in it; top level is 51 af. Steve Smith and Kent met at the pond to discuss preserving the geotextile liner from wave action. A wave runup study would determine where to place rip-rap or Shockcrete fiber mesh reinforcement. Applegate will obtain estimates for the options.

As recommended by Brian Sutton, Division 2 Augmentation Coordinator, the recharge pond needs to be scraped and vegetation removed. It will be scheduled for the winter months.

Mace Tier 2 application: The Mace augmentation application needs to be amended.

PL-566 Potential Project: On a White/Mace **motion** the board agreed to send a letter to NRCS requesting a combined PL-566 project to construct Bruce Canyon Reservoir and enlarge Maria-Stevens Reservoir.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable report: There are contentious issues around the flow of Colorado River, with Colorado taking a hard stance against additional cuts in usage in the upper basin based on the extremely heavy use by the lower basin.

Break – King called a break at 8:15; meeting reconvened at 8:28.

BILLS – On a Mace/Edmundson **motion**, board authorized the transfer of \$47,000 to ColoTrust savings and approved paying the July bills, which total \$83,246.66:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping	\$170.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: bd mtg, aug plan, GPIC, aug applicant, BCR	\$7,543.75
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet service	\$1,836.40
Admin MSR Dredging Feasibility grant	\$451.50
Admin SCF Flood Mitigation grant	\$795.50
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin + monthly water analyst duties	\$350.00
Engenuity: SCF Strategic Analysis & treatment alternatives	\$59,570.00
ARWC: SCF 2020 project, photo mapping and monitoring	\$5,107.29
CDPHE Water Quality Control Div, water quality permit fee	\$350.00
Applegate Group: MSR Dredging feasibility, water right eng'g, aug plan applicant	\$5,601.25
CS Woods: replacement sign for SMAF site	\$757.27
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage + access fee at SMAF	\$223.70
IOA/Walsenburg Insurance: Bonds for Edmundson, Brown, King, Dunn	\$425.00
Spanish Peaks Library: August rent	\$65.00

At 8:29, there was a **motion** by Mace, seconded by Edmundson and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving water court cases and whether to file statements of opposition and updating aug certificate language. 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 an Edmundson/White **motion**, the executive session was closed at 9:06 pm, and the regular session was reconvened.

On a White/Mace **motion**, board approved to, in consultation with counsel, decide whether to file a statement of opposition in 2022CW19, the abandonment case of Robert Rice ditch.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary