

# HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting

June 23, 2025

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 23, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

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

**Secretary:** Carol Dunn; **Attorney,** Ryan Farr; **Engineer,** Steve Smith by zoom.

**Guests:** Doug Brgoch, Ed Diemer, Kristan Lowe; by Zoom, Dale Lyons.

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

**Minutes:** Minutes of the May 19, 2025 meeting were approved on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

**Financial Reports:** Financial reports for May 2025 were accepted as presented on a Mace/Sikes **motion**.

The **audit** by Ronny Farmer will be conducted on July 2 at La Veta Town Hall.

Old Business: Thorne Ranch discussion was delayed until executive session.

New Business: There were no new water cases.

**DWR River Reports:** Ed Diemer reported on river flows. On the Huerfano: 31 cfs at Manzanares, 10.1 cfs at Badito, and 0.5 cfs at I-25; the call is # 26. On the Cucharas: 30 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 8 cfs at Harrison Bridge, 0 cfs at I-25; the call is #14. Levels of both rivers are dropping fast.

HCWCD received copies of two fire suppression pond applications. Diemer felt the Bear Bottom pond would likely not be approved because it has an augmentation plan. It could impact water availability to HCWCD, and it doesn't appear to have approval from Huerfano County Commissioners. Brown checked with Carl Young, and the County did not approve the applications; they are signed by Brittney Ciarlo, contractor. The other applicant is Yellow Pine Ranch in Cuchara. Ultimately, the County would need to maintain any of the fire suppression ponds approved by the State. There was a **motion** by Mace/Brown to authorize Ryan Farr to send a letter to DWR that the application appears to not meet the criteria, as they are lacking County approval. Approved.

## HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN

**Augmentation Water Plan updates** – Steve Smith reported Flying Rockin' R will be submitting an application for Tier 2 water for the initial fill of the augmented pond.

Dredging Feasibility Project – The Maria-Stevens hydrology report and analysis by Applegate Group are completed. Some updates were needed based on old rules, in cooperation with Dam Inspector Mark Perry. This will allow hindsight for the next level of engineering that needs to be done. Smith reported the project will be finished by mid-August; the grant expires in September.

**Congressionally Directed Spending** – The USDA Rural Development (RD) grant will require 25% local match. Jennifer Garcia at RD is awaiting notification from HCWCD that the board will obligate the matching funds from the savings/reserve account. According to the PER, the project will cost \$763,831, with approximate match of 191,000. Dunn will submit an application to Ark Basin Roundtable in August for \$100,000 funding to assist with the match. If approved, that money will likely come after Jan 1, 2026. There was a Sikes/Mace **motion** to approve resolution 25-06-1 to obligate \$200,000 for the local match for the RD grant. Approved.

**Community Project Funding** – The application submitted to Congressman Hurd's office for development of augmentation water in the Cucharas watershed was not approved. We were encouraged to resubmit next year.

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable Report:** Brown and King reported on the most recent meeting.

**Break** – King called a break at 7:13 pm; meeting reconvened at 7:27 pm.

**Bills:** On a Brown/Mace **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to \$4,000.00 to ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total \$13,458.34:

Mountain States Financial: Bookkeeping, June	\$250.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: mtg, aug plan, Thorne, exchg storage, Pryor Ditch	\$2,245.05
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, internet	\$2,448.04
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin	\$250.00
monthly water analyst contract	\$250.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract	\$500.00
Mace Water & Land: Operations of SMAF May 2025	\$1,875.00
Applegate Group: Aug plan acctg/projections/admin, SMAF liner repair	\$4,516.25
Sadie Wardell: Wm Craig water operations and (3) 12V batteries	\$733.17
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$325.83
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

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At 7:32, there was a Mace/Brown **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by attorney Farr and consultant Brgoch to discuss: attorney advice regarding terms and conditions for purchase of land and water rights in the Huerfano River basin; discuss the Welton Land & Water Company's Pryor Ditch change case. Discussion in the executive session included purchase, acquisition, lease or sale of real, personal or other property interest as in CRS 24-6-402(4)(a); 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); and 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).

On a Brown/Mace **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 8:11 pm and the regular session reconvened. There was a **motion** by Brown/Sikes that Farr should proceed with a response to Huerfano County as discussed in executive session. Approved.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

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Scott King, President

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Carol Dunn, Secretary