

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting
August 22, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District Board of Directors was called to order by President Sandy White on Monday, August 22, 2016 at 6:05 pm at the Spanish Peaks Library, 415 Walsen Ave, Walsenburg.

Directors present: Lewis “Beaver” Edmundson, Michael “Sandy” White, John Vallejos, Kent Mace. Scott King had an excused absence.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; Attorney: Steve Monson

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Steve Kastner, Keith Bouchard, Gerald Cisneros, Tom Verquer, Gail Terry, John Schwartz; Bill Knowles and David Rinehart, Press.

The agenda was approved.

MINUTES – Mace moved and Vallejos seconded to approve the July 18, 2016 minutes. Board approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mace moved and Edmundson seconded to accept the financial reports. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS – White reported on the July 26 County Commissioners’ meeting where board members represented the report “Upper Cucharas River Watershed Identification and Analysis of Post-Wildfire Sediment Basins.” The Commissioners promised to have the Office of Emergency Management implement the basins when appropriate, to the best of their ability. After discussion about undersized culverts under Highway 12, White suggested HCWCD help obtain a Watershed Restoration Grant for design of better culverts. He suggested drafting a grant application for \$100K to reform the culverts and develop a larger stream management plan. The Board agreed that HCWCD should not spend any money on the project.

The new office space on the third floor of the library is being set up and organized.

Test pits at Sheep Mountain Ranch have been read by the water analyst and are dry. They will be read monthly.

BIP Coordinator fiscal agent – HCWCD is taking over in the middle of this year’s grant, so we are awaiting YTD information from Lower Ark Valley Water Conservancy District.

Storage Collaborative – Rick Parsons, Parsons Water Consultants, has moved to Oregon and will be returning to the area once a month to continue work on the project.

Infrastructure Improvements grant – DWR personnel have already spent time choosing locations for measurement devices, which will be a newer style, including a self-cleaning weir at Badito gage. On the Cucharas River, there will be a reinstallation of the gaging instrumentation. Hydrographers will prepare a written report for each measurement station. Brgoch has identified five possible locations for observation wells on the Huerfano River. The grant runs through June 2018.

NEW BUSINESS – Brgoch reported the river flows are becoming modest on the Huerfano. The call is on #20, dropping to #16 in a day or so. The Cucharas is at #8 dropping to #5 in a day. He reported that the recent spotty rains don’t change the rivers levels much.

Fiscal agent for Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District grant – The \$175,000 project includes headgates and erosion protection for diversions: \$32K ditch companies, \$82K PRWCD, \$90K State grant. \$3K in contingency funds will be allocated for Dunn to coordinate.

PRWCD has TABOR issues and opted not to hold a de-Bruce election, so Verquer and Kastner requested that HCWCD serve as fiscal agent. On a winter construction schedule to finish by spring of 2017, ditch companies will contract the work, get invoices from contractors, approve, partially pay, and HCWCD would bill the state for the balance. Monson advised that fiscal coordination would not be a liability to HCWCD. An indemnification letter will be required from PRWCD, which Monson will draft and send to PRWCD (Steve Kastner). There was a motion by Edmundson, seconded by Mace for HCWCD to assume the fiscal agent role in the project as long as the indemnification letter is received. Board approved.

Lease for supplemental water – Scott Hunt’s Parshall flume is in, the pond is excavated, and he hopes to take the water in a few days, up to 6 ac-ft, depending on intervening call.

DIRECTOR COMMITTEE REPORTS— Ark Basin Roundtable report – White reported that HCWCD was fortunate to receive the grant funding when it did.

DIRECTOR AND GUEST COMMENTS – Edmundson reported that the Ranch lessee, David Corsair, passed away. His brothers are continuing the operations at the HCWCD Ranch. Brgoch commented that the recharge pond is empty.

White called a recess at 7:25 pm. Meeting reconvened at 7:39 pm. HCWCD was notified that Fortuna Oil & Gas company plans to drill a 12,000 foot well southwest of Walsenburg, tributary to Santa Clara Creek. Edmundson moved and Vallejos seconded to not comment on the project at this time. Board approved.

BILLS – There was a motion by Edmundson, seconded by Vallejos, to pay the following bills, total \$73,439.20 and transfer \$44,000 to checking from the ColoTrust account. Board approved.

Mountain States Financial Group – August bookkeeping \$120.00
Dunn Write – Contract, mileage, meeting, recording fees \$1,812.04
Dunn Write – Cucharas Storage Collaborative admin work/grant match \$621.06
Parsons Water Consulting – Collaborative Storage project \$31,366.52
Parsons Water Consulting – Collaborative Storage project \$18,901.53
Monson, Cummins & Shoheit – SWSP, board mtg, Aug plan, new applicants \$4,424.05
La Veta Carpentry – Read wells and report to Faux, August \$500.00
TZA Water Engineers – Aug plan, Sheep Mtn. reservoir site, SWSP \$3,990.50
TZA Water Engineers – Same for August, plus new participants \$9,913.50
Walsenburg Insurance – Bond renewals for Dunn, Edmundson, King, Vallejos \$425.00
Spanish Peaks Library – Rent \$65.00
Huerfano Weed Control – Spraying knapweed on Ranch \$1,300.00

At 7:46 pm Edmundson moved, Mace seconded and Board approved going into executive session to discuss matters involving the regional augmentation plan, ongoing litigation and SWSP, including the 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 8:48 pm, King moved and Mace seconded closing the executive session and returning to regular session. Board approved. The meeting was called back to regular session at 8:48 pm. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Sandy White, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary