

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting January 26, 2026

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District, which had been properly noticed and was available for public participation, was convened in person: Walsenburg Housing Authority, 220 Russell St, Walsenburg on January 26, 2026, 6:01 pm.

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

Secretary: Carol Dunn; Attorney, Ryan Farr.

By online Teams meeting: **Engineer**, Steve Smith.

Guests: Ed Diemer, Doug Brgoch. By Teams meeting: Dale Lyons; Doug Winter (dropped early for technical issues).

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

Minutes: Minutes of the December 8, 2025 meeting were approved on a Mace/Sikes **motion**.

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

OLD BUSINESS: Thorne Ranch purchase discussed in executive session.

NEW BUSINESS: **No new water court cases.**

DWR River Reports: Ed Diemer reported on both rivers. Huerfano River flows: 12.4 cfs at Manzanares, 48 cfs at Badito (doubtful because of ice), and 21.6 cfs at I-25 (also doubtful because of ice); the call is Read #21. Cucharas River flows: Boyd Ranch has ice, 6.08 cfs at Harrison Bridge, and 0 cfs at Hwy 10.

Steve Smith gave his preliminary thoughts about Thorne Ranch exchange capacity to the Cucharas River. The bulk of Thorne HCU credits will come in summer when there's no exchange potential. There are 60 af that can be used, but they might be lost because of lack of storage, with only 10 af available at Thorne. The dilemma is where to "file away" 50 af on the river. Smith offered to meet with Farr to discuss storage possibilities in the vicinity of Thorne Ranch. In lieu of building storage pond(s) on Thorne, could HCWCD use existing gravel pits along the river for storage? Smith located five different gravel pits, some active and some terminated and plans to research reclamation plans to see if any are already developed for storage. The board authorized Smith and Farr to bring storage ideas to an upcoming meeting for consideration.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN

Augmentation Participant updates – Flying Rockin' R (Christy Wycoff) now has the wire instructions for payment of 7 af of Tier 1 water. The annual administration fee was prorated, and payment is imminent. No progress has been made on a contract for Tier 2 (fill) water.

SMAF – HCWCD was notified that all requirements have been met, and the mining permit for SMAF was released as of January 5, 2026.

Dryup Seeding, Wm Craig Ranch – Seeding is completed, including harrowing and fertilizer. Kent Mace reported it snowed right afterward. Farr was authorized to send a letter to notify Jasper Kenney that the seeding is finished and all cows need to be kept off the seeded acreage.

SMAF ballast project: HCWCD will be able to use augmentation certificates included in the Thorne Ranch purchase as local match for the water infrastructure improvements project. Smith is working on a set of bid documents to use as soon as the project funding is green-lighted.

2026 calendar of meeting dates was approved on a Mace/Sikes **motion**.

REPORTS – Ark Basin Roundtable: Brgoch and King reported. A new Colorado Water Plan is being written. Terry Scanga is retiring from the Roundtable, and Greg Felt will take over his position. Bill Tyner’s presentation on John Martin Reservoir showed up to 7,000 af of “empty space,” which could be used for alternative water storage. The Ark Basin Water Forum will be held in April in Salida.

King called a break at 7:10 pm; meeting reconvened at 7:22 pm.

BILLS: On a Mace/Steffan **motion**, the board authorized payment of the following bills, which total \$67,644.39, and transfer of \$8,500.00 to ColoTrust:

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| Mountain States Financial: monthly bookkeeping | \$275.00 |
| Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: mtg, aug plan, Thorne Ranch, Walsenburg SO | \$4,148.50 |
| Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone | \$2,887.60 |
| La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin | \$250.00 |
| monthly water analyst contract | \$250.00 |
| Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract | \$500.00 |
| Applegate Group: aug plan acctg/projection/admin, bd mtg, Thorne Ranch, ballast repair | \$4,590.00 |
| US Postal Service: PO Box annual rental | \$88.00 |
| Glatfelter Insurance: 2026 property & liability insurance | \$3,194.00 |
| Mace Water & Land: SMAF operations November-December 2025 | \$2,549.22 |
| Horizon Environmental: Wm Craig Ranch dryup acreage seeding, harrow, fertilize | \$48,461.00 |
| Pinnacol Assurance: Workers Comp | \$196.00 |
| San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT) | \$190.07 |
| Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent | \$65.00 |

At 7:24, there was a Mace/Sikes **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by attorney Farr, consultant Brgoch and engineer Smith, to discuss revegetation and potential irrigation of Wm Craig Ranch, plus a “verified confession of judgement” regarding purchase of Thorne Ranch, both pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b).

On a Mace/Sikes **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 7:44 pm, and the regular session reconvened.

There was a Mace/Sikes **motion** to enter into a verified confession of judgment for the Thorne Ranch purchase. Board approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary