

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting June 14, 2021

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 Ave, on June 14, 2021 at 6:03 pm. A Zoom meeting was also set up and used for remote participation.

Directors: Lewis “Beaver” Edmundson, Scott King, Kent Mace, Lonnie Brown, and Michael “Sandy” White.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney:** Steve Monson.

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Mayor Brian Lalander, County Commissioner John Galusha, Sam Perry, Don Sieke, Theresa Springer, Rick Dunn. **By Zoom:** Rachel Zancanella, Doug Winter, Zach Schmidt, Shannon Shroud, Rachel Pittinger, Jim Alt, April Hendricks, Jeanne X, (303)840-7263, and (970)824-2480.

The meeting **agenda** was approved on a White/Edmundson **motion**.

MINUTES – The minutes for the May 24, 2021 board meeting were approved as presented on a Mace/White **motion**. Board approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – There was a White/Edmundson **motion**, to accept the financial reports. Board approved. Dunn summarized the cash flow report. The loan information report did not change from last month’s meeting.

OLD BUSINESS –The board decided to take no action on case **2021CW8**, Gardner Public Improvement District well application. White reported the case doesn’t impact HCWCD, although it does affect other water users. The application is to increase underground water rights up to 25 gpm each – Gardner wells A (now 12 gpm) & 3 (now 11.9 gpm), for municipal water and bulk fill station.

NEW BUSINESS –

River reports: Brgoch reported that Lenna Rauber was rehired as Water Commissioner on the Huerfano River. Peak flow on the Huerfano happened on June 8. Cucharas River peak flow was on May 31, and it’s now satisfying the Welton call. Division of Water Resources has delayed action on the wildcat pond enforcement for now because of bringing on a new water commissioner on the Huerfano.

Fire Remediation grant project: Theresa Springer reported the following activities. On Indian Creek, Sulfur Springs swimming pool, which has served as a sediment sink, was cleaned out Wednesday. Stan Winnery was hired to fix the road area. Gabion baskets will be used against the pool wall. The County Commissioner tour that was scheduled last month had to be cancelled due to a flood threat that day. NCCC has been working on the area. Indian Creek has been cleaned out and the debris burned. UMCOR also helped cut up debris. ARWC is also working with San Isabel because of endangered utility lines. Further work has been stalled until ARWC has an agreement with the County about responsibility for portions of work. On Middle Creek, some of the EWP projects need some repair work, as requested by Enginuity. The road association is planning to hire Chad Lessar to work on some of the potential projects. Springer said there may be funding from

the Power Authority for doing work on the diversion structures which have been damaged/destroyed (about 20) on Middle Creek. She will put the request in as an “unmet need” and see if they are interested in having us submit an application, which would require a quick turnaround. The State of Colorado is also looking for projects.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility Phase 5 – Mace reported the pumphouse door has been fixed so it now locks. HCWCD has 2 keys; Kent has a key, and Amos Mace has a key. Dunn needs to follow up with the insurance company to get coverage into place. Internet service has been installed, and Kent clarified with them that any repair work needs to take top priority. Electrical work is scheduled to be finished July 7. The pump company has upgraded some of the specs. He will order a crusher screen (~\$500) to put in front of the headgates to screen out sticks. He has also built thermostatic and humidity fan controls, which need to be reimbursed (~\$500). The pumphouse database will report high and low temperatures. Two shrouds will be needed on the outside to keep out weather (~\$500). Kent has measured how much fence we need – 5-wire, tall, strong stock fence. There was a White/Edmundson **motion** to authorize Kent Mace to spend/be reimbursed up to \$2,000. Board approved.

Collaborative Storage Phase 5: Steve Smith, Applegate Group, submitted a written report. The dredging study grant application has been developed and is ready to submit to ABRT. Maria Lakes Grazing Association (MLGA) has already contributed \$2,466 as half of the local match required.

Don Sieke and Sam Perry of MLGA investigated dredging and have purchased a dredge to begin work on removing silt from Maria Stevens Reservoir (MSR). They have been holding discussions with some other parties to participate in the project to increase storage in MSR. There was a **motion** by White/Mace to have Sieke and Perry continue to look for funding to shorten the timeline for moving the project forward. They will coordinate with Scott King. We are aiming for a shovel-ready project.

Phase 6 – There is potential funding through the State from Covid stimulus funds. 90% design is our target for applying for federal funding for construction. Applications will be due December 1 on Bruce Canyon and MSR.

Augmentation Plan: Kent & Amos Mace/Malachite application update – Monson reported we’re within the 2-week period where DWR can review/comment on the application. Then it proceeds to a 60-day legal notice.

Regarding Tier 2 water, the application form is ready, and agreements have been developed for purchase, lease-purchase and lease. Steve Smith will give input on a case-by-case basis about whether an annual limit version is needed or monthly limits.

Lease of Water – Twin Lakes and Corley Company leases have been developed and are ready to go. The water involved is 11.15 shares, which translates to about 10.5 consumable acre-feet, depending on when the water can be used. There was a White/Brown **motion** to authorize King to execute the water leases with Corley Company and Twin Lakes. Board approved.

Water Field Day – September 25 is our first choice of date. Target location for the meeting will be the Community Center in Gardner (contact is Huerfano County). Mace suggested it be Gardner-oriented, including a tour of SMAF and presentations about water. Kent will check into local catering. There may be some ABRT-PEPO funding available to fund this.

BILLS – White **moved**, Brown seconded, and board approved paying the following bills, which total \$47,582.02:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping –	\$120.00
Walsenburg Insurance: Lonnie Brown bond –	\$100.00
Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative: SCF Flood Mitigation project	\$25,901.75
Dunn Write: contract, supplies and mileage –	\$1,925.22
Admin SCF flood mitigation grant 2020, 5/23 – 6/13	\$311.75
Admin Collab Storage Ph5, MSRE, 5/24 – 6/11	\$462.25
La Veta Carpentry: water analyst, Ranch & SMAF + website maintenance –	\$650.00
Colorado Central Telecom: SMAF Phase 5 pumphouse internet service –	\$190.00
Hydrologik: Plug valve, SMAF Phase 5 pumphouse –	\$9,840.55
Applegate Group: Collab Storage Ph5, MSRE & water accounting/engineering –	\$7,378.00
Engineering for aug plan applicant (Mace/Malachite) –	\$637.50
<u>Spanish Peaks Library: June rent –</u>	<u>\$65.00</u>

There was a White/Brown motion to pre-approve payment to Stephen Wardell at about \$100 for batteries at the augmentation station and, pending a contract, the down payment to Hydrologik of up to \$16,000. Board approved.

Break at 8:43. Reconvened at 8:56.

At 8:57 there was a motion by White, seconded by Mace and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving water rights lease negotiations, water leases, use of that water and storage. 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). Doug Brgoch was invited to participate for part of the executive session.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary