

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting

May 18, 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 May 18, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

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

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney:** Ryan Farr. **Engineer:** Steve Smith by online Teams meeting.

Guests: Lenna Rauber, Doug Brgoch, Pauline Adams, Amos Mace. By online Teams meeting: Dale Lyons, Doug Winter.

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

Minutes: Minutes of the April 27, 2026 meeting were approved on a Sikes/Brown **motion**.

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

OLD BUSINESS: Water Court case 25CW3052 – Walsenburg proposed decree and engineering (discussed in executive session).

NEW BUSINESS:

DWR River Reports: Lenna Rauber reported Cucharas flows: 4.9 cfs at Boyd Ranch, 0.47 cfs at Harrison Bridge, and 0 cfs at Hwy 10, with #6 in priority. Huerfano flows: 18 cfs at Manzanares, 12 cfs at Badito, and 1.2 cfs at I-25, with #17 in priority. The transmountain flow started May 15.

HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN:

SMAF – Mace reported the wind and waves this spring continue to degrade the reservoir.

TKJ Investments – TKJ Investments has defaulted on the amount they owe HCWCD; the participating diversion will be removed from the HCWCD augmentation plan. Smith determined how to show lagged depletions replacement, and the information on the removal from the aug plan will be published to the parties involved.

THORNE RANCH DILIGENCE:

Survey: BH2 Land Surveying notified HCWCD the ALTA survey should be finished May 22.

Needs analysis: Applegate Group provided a memo on the needs analysis. Smith used the 2013-2024 growth rate from DOLA – about 1%. He is looking for an estimate of growth in the Gardner area from the County. Pond augmentation is also a need. He will update the memo with this information. Brgoch suggested also mentioning the need in the Cucharas basin, which would be achieved by exchanging from the Huerfano basin to the Cucharas. Applegate is also updating HCU analysis using historical farm practices. Smith will talk with Brown and Brgoch to determine historical irrigation of Thorne.

Environmental Assessment by ERO Resources is underway.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDING UPDATES –

- **Community Project Funding 2024** (Cong. Boebert) – The funding through USDA Rural Development has been obligated, and we are waiting for permission to stockpile materials.

- **Congressionally Directed Spending** (Sen. Bennet & Hickenlooper) – Both Senators submitted our request to the Senate Appropriations Committee for funding (Thorne Ranch water infrastructure).

Applegate Group will work on bid paperwork for: a) crushed materials, b) hauling crushed, c) SMAF work onsite, d) riprap materials, e) hauling riprap. Materials estimates were based on “locally sourced.” The quote will need to be “per loaded mile.”

REPORTS:

Ark Basin Roundtable: Brgoch, King and Brown reported on the most recent meeting, including a presentation on dredge and fill. Greg Peterson gave a presentation on how to manage ditch companies. Drought reports indicate 17% of typical snowpack statewide. The new chair of the Roundtable is Dave Allgood.

The Colorado Water Congress summer conference will be in Steamboat Springs August 18-20.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

BILLS: On a Brown/Mace **motion**, the board authorized transfer of \$129,750.00 to ColoTrust and payment of the following bills, which total \$17,674.12:

Mountain States Financial: monthly bookkeeping	\$275.00
Monson, Cummins, Shohet & Farr: mtg, Walsenburg SO; Thorne Ranch; aug plan	\$5,293.50
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, supplies	\$2,757.93
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin	\$250.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract	\$500.00
Applegate Group: aug plan acctg/projection/admin, bd mtg, Bear Bottom, Thorne, ballast	\$5,171.25
Mace Water & Land: SMAF operations April 2026 + Ditch recharge report	\$1,980.81
Sadie Wardell: Wm Craig water operations, maintenance, sanding, water reset 4/25-5/16	\$390.00
American Express: Colo Water Congress convention, Scott King registration	\$575.00
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$415.63
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

At 7:13, there was a Brown/Mace **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by attorney Farr, consultant Brgoch and engineer Smith, to discuss a response to water case 25CW3052, including 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/Steffan **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 7:57 pm, and the regular session reconvened.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary