

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting

March 27, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was called to order by President Scott King on Monday, March 27, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Directors present: Lewis "Beaver" Edmundson, Michael "Sandy" White, Scott King, Juan Vallejos.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; Attorney: Steve Monson; Engineer: John Faux

Guests: Gerald Cisneros, Rebecca and Phil Cummings, Gary Barber, Delmar Janovec, Lenna Rauber, Keli Kringel, Paul Branson, Jeremiah Perrino, John Sakun, Mayor Jim Eccher; Bill Knowles (press).

White moved, Vallejos seconded and board approved the agenda.

Minutes – White moved, Edmundson seconded and board approved the March 6, 2017 minutes.

Treasurer's Report – White moved, Edmundson seconded and board approved the treasurer's report.

Ranch house update – The new septic system has been installed. Total expenditures are \$8,986.13.

Water Commissioner Lenna Rauber reported that the calls on the lower Huerfano River are mostly shut off. The call is on #30. The Cucharas River is not showing any significant runoff yet.

The 2017 SWSP has been approved. A single-location surface diversion will be authorized on site 104, east of I-25.

Sheep Mountain Ranch – Faux reported he is working on the augmentation pond design and a gravel mining permit application to be filed before March 31, for which more surveying is required. A discharge permit will also be needed, and the 404 permit for the new location has been approved. The Intergovernmental Agreement with Huerfano County is pending, and is needed to get the mining permit. County Commissioner Cisneros said the BOCC is awaiting the concession of another acre-foot of fully consumable water for two summers for dust abatement on the gravel operation. White moved, Vallejos seconded and the board approved allowing the County the temporary lease of 2 acre-feet of water over 2 summers at no extra charge. Monson advised that the question in the Sheep Mountain lease agreement about using the Burns #2 ditch is not feasible, so he will notify the land manager and landowner. Pond construction will require 33,000yd³ to be set aside in the spoils area for use in lining the pond. King was authorized to attend the next BOCC meeting and determine an appropriate payment to the County for using its equipment to set that material aside. Monson was authorized to seek a waiver of another 1041 permit for construction of the Sheep Mountain pond.

BIP Coordinator report – Gary Barber explained the Arkansas Basin Roundtable (in its 12th year), the Colorado Water Plan, and his primary jobs of finding funding and convening and educating people about water. He also assists organizations with writing grant proposals for water projects.

Wildfire Mitigation Program – Paul Branson, Huerfano County Wildfire Mitigation program manager, gave an update on his program, with its main emphasis starting in the headwaters of the Cucharas River. The mission is to reduce damages from catastrophic wildfire, particularly in neighborhoods "in the woods." Because of stress to the forest by the 2002 drought, plus insect infestation, there is the potential for fuel loads for catastrophic wildfire. His office received a CPAW grant to bring in expert help and resources to prepare maps and do planning. Recommendations will be made to Huerfano County in December for community wildfire protection plans. Branson recognized the HCWCD watershed assessment as a good companion effort.

Infrastructure Improvements grant project – More changes were needed on the HRS Water Consultants contract regarding the proprietary work product and state-required language. White moved, Edmundson seconded and board approved executing the HRS contract with the changes.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable – King reported on grants available through DOLA, EPA (forgiveable) and other funding avenues for water projects. There is a funding bill moving through the State legislature for \$10 million to refresh the water supply reserve account, replacing the severance tax money. There will also be \$5 million for watershed health. Funding will go through the Roundtable.

Keli Kringel asked the board if any applications for large quantities of water had been made recently. White explained the process HCWCD uses for augmentation water applications.

King called a recess at 7:08 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 7:23 pm.

Bills: White moved, Edmundson seconded and board approved transferring \$9,000 to ColoTrust and paying the following bills, which total \$50,084.55:

Mountain States Financial group, bookkeeping and prep of 1099 forms – \$191.23

Dunn Write, contract, mileage & supplies – \$1,643.04

Dunn Write, Phreatophyte control grant admin – \$247.50

Michael White, replacement for check #2040 (December) – \$2,121.52

ParsonsWater Consulting, Cucharas Storage Collaborative project – \$20,824.50

Dunn Write, Cucharas Storage Collaborative grant admin – \$420.00

Dunn Write, BIP Coordinator grant admin March – \$270.00

La Veta Carpentry, water analyst – \$200.00

Garald Barber, BIP Coordinator – \$7,004.28

TZA Water Engineers, Permit work, SWSP for new participants – \$3,828.50 & SMR pond – \$6,413.00

Century Link, March phone bill – \$54.38

Butte Valley Construction, new sewer system at Ranch house – \$6,300.00

R. Martin Builders, Ranch house bathroom repairs – \$501.60

Spanish Peaks Library, March rent – \$65.00

Executive Session: At 7:25 pm there was a motion by White, seconded by Vallejos, and approved by the board to go 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 9:24 pm, White moved, Edmundson seconded and board approved closing the executive session and returning to open session. The meeting was called back to open session at 9:24 pm.

There was a motion by White, seconded by Edmundson, and approved by the board to forward all applications for inclusion in the regional augmentation plan to John Faux and Steve Monson to determine the completeness of the applications, and having determined such completeness, publish where required under the court decree.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.

Scott King
President

Carol Dunn
Secretary