

# HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting January 27, 2025

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 St, Walsenburg on January 27, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

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

**Secretary:** Carol Dunn; **Attorney:** Ryan Farr; **Engineer:** Steve Smith by Zoom.

**Guests:** Amos Mace, Pauline Adams, Doug Brgoch, Ed Diemer, Kristan Lowe.

**Agenda:** Agenda was approved on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the December 9, 2024 meeting were approved on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

**Financial Reports:** Grant & loan information and the list of December checks were accepted as presented on a Mace/Brown **motion**. The bookkeeping service did not make the auditor's adjustments for 12/31/2023, so the balance sheet and profit and loss statements were incomplete and were not approved.

The 2025 Board meeting schedule was approved on a Mace/Sikes **motion**.

Old Business: There was no update on the Thorne Ranch.

New Business: There were no new water cases.

**DWR River Reports:** Ed Diemer reported: **Huerfano** and **Cucharas** river flows are minimal because of ice. The call on the Huerfano is Orlando Reservoir. The call on the Cucharas is Holita Reservoir.

### HUERFANO REGIONAL AUGMENTATION PLAN

**Augmentation Water Application** – Flying Rockin' R is installing the low level outlets that DWR recommended. Bathymetric surveys will be conducted on the ponds to determine the amount of Tier 2 aug water needed for the initial fill.

**SMAF** – For the ballast repair project, Smith discussed using angular riprap that interlocks. It would be expensive to import. Since the strongest winds are from the west, the eastern banks are the most vulnerable. He suggested importing angular riprap only for the eastern slopes and using the rounded locally sourced rock for the other slopes. This could save possibly half of the original budget. The Maces are still looking for the right size local rock. Dunn advised HCWCD will need to file the application with Rural Development before April 9.

Recharge pond – Mace reported the infiltration system needs to be cleaned of mud/muck. Cattle trampling the ditch keeps the fine particulates stirred up and moving into the recharge the pond. Options are to clean out the sediment or pipe the water through the trampled section of ditch.

Revegetation – Brgoch reported on prices for the Wm Craig Ranch (WCR) revegetation. The estimate was \$13K for seed recommended by NRCS; Arkansas Valley Seed dryland mix would save about \$3K. Most of the expense is labor and mobilization to get equipment to the sites (WCR and SMAF). The total is 100 acres (92 at Ranch and 8 at SMAF site). Brgoch will keep looking for other quotes and possibilities.

**STORAGE – PL-566 Project:** King and Mace will be meeting with Jones & DeMille Engineering (JDE) reps during the Colorado Water Congress convention at the end of this week. JDE is looking for other sources of funding for our project.

## REPORTS

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable:** King reported ABRT met January 8. Discussion included the Ag Stewardship tax credit passed in 2024 that takes effect 1/1/2026. The due dates for the next rounds of Water Supply Reserve Fund grants are February 1 and April 1. Water Plan Grant applications will be due July 1. The State is trying to cut \$900M to balance its budget and may reduce grant funding.

**Public comments:** Amos Mace reported that Mary White is being appointed to replace Sandy White on Huerfano County Planning & Zoning Commission.

**Break** – King called a break at 7:01; meeting reconvened at 7:12 pm.

**Bills:** On a Brown/Sikes **motion**, the board authorized the transfer of up to \$24,600 from ColoTrust savings and approved paying the following bills, which total \$151,143.93:

Monson,Cummins,Shohet&Farr: legal aug plan, participnts, Pryor Dch, Thorne Rch	\$5,685.75
Dunn Write: contract, mileage, internet, phone, office, mtg expenses	\$2,419.80
La Veta Carpentry: monthly website admin	\$250.00
monthly water analyst contract	\$250.00
Doug Brgoch: monthly water consultant contract	\$500.00
World Journal: legal ads for notice of inclusion & intent to file RurDev application	\$77.88
Glatfelter Insurance Group: business & liability insurance	\$3,144.00
Mace Water & Land: Operations of SMAF December 2024	\$1,082.00
American Express: Water Forum sponsorship, register, hotel, tix Mace, King	\$969.98
Alpine Electric Inc: SMAF grounding rods, CAD welds & labor	\$2,985.00
Applegate Group: Aug plan acctg, Twin Lakes water, Thorne, aug plan participants	\$9,871.25
US Postal Service: PO Box renewal	\$84.00
Colorado Water Conservation Board: Annual loan pmt	\$123,185.93
San Isabel Electric: monthly usage at SMAF (EFT)	\$363.50
Spanish Peaks Library: monthly rent	\$65.00

At 7:14, there was a Mace/Sikes **motion**, approved by the board, to go into executive session, joined by HCWCD engineer Smith, attorney Farr and consultant Brgoch to discuss the potential purchase of real property interest and Water Case 23CW3051. Discussion in the executive session included purchase, acquisition, lease or sale of real, personal or other property interest as in CRS 24-6-402(4)(a), and conference with attorney representing the District for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions as in CRS 24-6-402(4)(b).

On a Mace/Sikes **motion**, approved by the board, the executive session was closed at 8:25 pm, and the regular session was reconvened.

The attorney was instructed to provide comments on Water Case 23CW3051 (Welton Land & Water Company) about irrigation water rights based on historical information on irrigated acreage discussed during the executive session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

---

Scott King, President

---

Carol Dunn, Secretary