

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Work Session February 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

A special work session of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was called to order by Vice-president Dawson Jordan on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 5:45 pm at City Hall, Walsenburg.

ROLL CALL

Directors present:
Dawson Jordan
Ray Ryan
Erin Jerant
John Vucetich

Secretary:
Carol Dunn
Consultant:
Ted M. Zorich, Jr.

Guests:

John Galusha, Roger Cain, Kent Mace, Jim Culichia, Jim Felt.

Jim Felt restated the immediate need for a water augmentation plan for the Gardner Water and Sanitation District and others as follows:

1. Huerfano County Road & Bridge (1 acre foot)
2. Gardner Water & Sanitation District – 56 homes (3 acre feet)
3. Kent Mace – Redwing/Malachite Spring – estimated to serve about 200 individuals (1 ac ft)
4. Paradise Acres subdivision residents, domestic use for 34 properties (2 ac ft)

Felt suggested that a new need has evolved since HCWCD was established in 1970, and that need is to help with water augmentation. Under a blanket augmentation plan, the District would need to set up an Enterprise to purchase and hold water rights. Felt estimated that water purchases will cost HCWCD about \$4,000 to \$4,500 per acre foot. The cost would then be marked up and sold to landowners in the form of permanent augmentation certificates. To help with administrative costs, HCWCD could charge a “water availability” fee on the certificates, similar to annual dues.

New augmentation water has to be put into the river near or above the depletion – this has been an unenforced policy, but will now be enforced by the State. There would also need to be storage for the water, most likely in lined ponds. There may be up to five usable wells in the Gardner area.

John Galusha and Roger Cain suggested Huerfano County could offer a no-interest loan of about \$20,000 to HCWCD to start the process. Felt also suggested seller-financed water purchases. Cain told the Board that the County would require an augmentation plan on building sites requiring one before approving a building permit for the site.

Felt informed the Board that the Colorado Water Conservation Board intends to legally appropriate in-stream flows on the upper portion of the Huerfano River, for

environmental reasons. HCWCD should file for party status in the case and may want to negotiate with CWCB so the in-stream flows are filed in 2010 after the Huerfano River blanket augmentation plan is filed. CWCB is also a source of low interest loan money

OTHER

Next meeting: February 4, 2009 at 6:00 pm, Special Meeting, Commissioners Board room, County Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vucetich moved and Jerant seconded to adjourn. Board approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Dawson Jordan, Vice-president

Carol Dunn, Secretary