

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting February 25, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was called to order by President Scott King on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm, Walsenburg Housing Authority.

Directors present: Lewis "Beaver" Edmundson, Michael "Sandy" White, Scott King, Kent Mace by MVoice phone conference connection.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; Attorney: Ryan Farr; Engineer: John Faux

Guests: Rick Dunn, Doug Brgoch, Phil Crum, Gail Terry, Jim Berg, Marshall Moore.

The agenda was approved.

MINUTES – White moved and Edmundson seconded to approve the January 28, 2018 minutes as presented. Board approved.

TREASURER REPORT – White moved and Edmundson seconded to approve the Treasurer's reports. Board approved.

NEW BUSINESS –

Water cases – The board decided to take no action on these cases:

2019CW1 – David & Susan Coleman application to make absolute, Maley Spring; used for 8 houses on 8 lots, S Colorado Livestock subdivision, 0.04 cfs.

2019CW3002 – Maria Lake Grazing Assn application for reasonable diligence and confirm absolute; Maria Lake Well #2, 15 gpm tributary to Cucharas River.

2019CW3003 – Richard & Martha Caschette application for reasonable diligence, Caschette pipeline & Rainbow Pond; 0.016 cfs, tributary to Middle Creek + 3.58 af pond.

Faux explained the schedule and scope of work for SMAF Phase 3. White moved, Edmundson seconded, and board approved accepting the schedule and scope of work and going to bid on SMAF Phase 3.

Water Commissioner Brgoch reported on the Huerfano River flows (6-8 feet daily, call #30) and Cucharas River flows (8 feet, with Walsenburg taking about 5). Welton made its call on February 18 and is sweeping the river at the bottom end.

White reported on the February 11 workshop for ditch owners. Headgates will continue to be endangered by burn scar induced flooding for up to five years. It's been suggested that a sheet of instructions/flyer for self-help be developed with options for how users can continue taking their take water without spending thousands to completely replace diversion structures and headgates that might be washed out again by a subsequent flood. The Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to consider this type of work "maintenance." Distribution could be during the June HCWCD Water Day. CWCB has come up with about \$80,000, which could be used for hydraulic modeling and the flyer.

Ark Basin Roundtable PEPO is planning two webisodes about the Cucharas/Huerfano area.

White explained the early flood warning gages project. DWR has committed five years of maintenance on the gages as an in-kind contribution. We may be able to stock two sets of spare equipment in case of damages from flooding. The budget front loads expenses for annual fees, and the plan is for April 15 installation. HCWCD allocated \$30,000 match so the total would be low enough for DHSEM staff approval (under \$150K) and to keep a short turnaround.

Ark River Watershed Collaborative is developing a contract to provide flood and fire recovery services in the forested areas of the burn scar that need remediation under our CWCB \$500K grant. There was a White/Edmundson motion to authorize King to execute a contract with ARWC during negotiations on February 28. Board approved.

The recharge pond on the Wm Craig Ranch is recharging less than it was last year, and Faux believes it may be clogged from ash sediment after the fire runoff. Brgoch said there may be a couple inches of hydrophobic soil with ash and recommended ripping the bottom of the pond to see if it drains. Rick Dunn was enlisted to punch holes with a post hole digger, take photos of what's there and send to Faux. Faux will contact Stephen Wardell about running water into the recharge pond after March 15.

Regarding the South Baker Creek potential reservoir site, it was recommended that the Cucharas Sanitation & Water District attorney contact HCWCD attorney about putting together a permanent easement or transfer of ownership from Marshall Moore to CSWD and La Veta.

Bills: Edmundson moved, White seconded and board approved transferring \$29,000 to ColoTrust and paying the following bills, which total \$36,899.65:

Mountain States Financial group, bookkeeping –	\$120.00
Monson, Cummins & Shohet: board mtg, Perrino & Wbg cases, Ranch, exchg storage	\$14,686.66
Dunn Write, contract, mileage & ink –	\$1,695.93
Dunn Write, Early Warning Gages grant admin thru 2/24/19 –	\$1,340.00
Dunn Write, Flood mitigation grant admin thru 2/25/19	\$980.00
La Veta Carpentry: water analyst –	\$200.00
La Veta Carpentry: website maintenance	\$150.00
TZA Water Engineers: water acctg, exchange case negotiation; Wbg case consulting –	\$3,205.33
TZA Water Engineers: SMAF phases 2 & 3, CHPHE inspection –	\$12,429.50
HRS Water Consultants: Engineering on Infrastructure improvements grant project –	\$1,641.50
Huerfano World Journal: legal ad for board vacancy –	\$46.20
Pinnacol Assurance: Workers Comp insurance, due 2/14 pd online 2/20/19	\$232.00
Rocky Mtn LP Gas: propane tank rent at Ranch	\$55.62
Century Link, February phone bill –	\$51.91
Spanish Peaks Library, February rent –	\$65.00

At 8:28 King called for a break. At 8:35 the meeting was called back to order and there was a motion by White, seconded by Edmundson and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving Walsenburg Exchange case 17CW3060 and Cucharas Collaborative exchange case 17CW3075, 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 regarding the William Craig Ranch pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(e).

At 9:42 pm, White moved, Edmundson seconded and board approved closing the executive session and returning to open session. The meeting was called back to regular session at 9:42 pm.

There was a White/King motion to authorize Edmundson to investigate a lease of the Ranch on a month to month basis having disclosed his conflict to the board and recused himself from all votes on the lease. Board approved. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.