

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting February 22, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was called to order at 23512 US Hwy 160, Walsenburg by President Sandy White on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Directors present: Lewis “Beaver” Edmundson, Michael “Sandy” White, Scott King, Kent Mace, Juan Vallejos.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; Attorney: Steve Monson

Guests: Doug Brgoch, Dennis Hoyt, Gerald Cisneros, Rebecca and Phil Cummings; Bill Knowles (press).

King moved and Mace seconded to approve the agenda. Board approved.

MINUTES – Mace moved and Vallejos seconded to approve the January 25, 2016 minutes as presented. Board approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mace moved and King seconded to approve the February treasurer report. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Edmundson reported that the Parshall flume at the Ranch has been leveled. The tenant, Corsair, wants to use the Jose Maria ditch to irrigate. Paul Neldner is going to look at the plumbing problem at the Ranch house with Edmundson and Vallejos. Corsair has paid the 2016 Ranch lease plus the fee for grazing the calves.

The Cucharas Storage Collaborative meeting will be held with the consulting team on February 23 at the Walsenburg ambulance building.

NEW BUSINESS – Water Commissioner Doug Brgoch reported that the Cucharas River has normal flows for this time of year. City of Walsenburg and Maria Lake are taking the water. The Welton call is still being honored on the Huerfano River. It’s been warm, but not up high in the watersheds. Next week the water monitoring radar equipment will be reinstalled on the Badito bridge and two other sites for more efficient water administration. WC Lenna Rauber, who is part-time, is about out of hours for the month. Brgoch also commented on an Atlantic Monthly article on the economics of dealing with the drought in the West.

Sheep Mountain Ranch agreement – Monson has revised the agreement to reflect the actual owner, Rialm LLC. Mace moved and Edmundson seconded to have White sign the revised Grant of Easements for Reservoir and Water Transmission Pipelines with Rialm LLC when it is ready. Board approved.

DIRECTOR COMMITTEE REPORTS – King reported that Fountain Creek Watershed Study Committee was added as a member on the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. Al Tucker revised the ABRT bylaws, and that changed document was accepted. Scanga Engineers made a presentation about an engineering tool to simplify lease-following projects.

DIRECTOR & GUEST COMMENTS – Phil Cummings asked if the 2016 SWSP has been approved, but HCWCD has not heard about this from the State reviewers yet. Comments have just been received from the State on the regional augmentation plan, water court Case #13CW3062. The timing of depletions from the marijuana producer wells is an issue that is probably holding up the SWSPs as well.

White called for a short break at 6:46 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 6:57 pm.

BILLS – King moved, Edmundson seconded, and board approved transferring \$17,000 to ColoTrust and paying the following bills, which total \$7,683.45:

Mountain States Financial group, accounting – \$120.00

Dunn Write, contract and mileage – \$1,620.71

Monson, Cummins & Shoheit – \$3,002.20

La Veta Carpentry, water analyst – \$200.00

Ark River Basin Water Forum, sponsorship – \$200.00

Pinnacol Insurance, Workers Comp – \$236.00

Special District Association – \$643.96

TZA Water Engineers, Aug plan, New aug plan applicants – \$1,524.00

Century Link, February phone bill – \$71.58

Career Building Academy, February rent – \$65.00

At 7:01 pm there was a motion by Edmundson, seconded by King, 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 8:03 pm, Edmundson moved, Vallejos seconded and board approved closing the executive session and returning to open session. The meeting was called back to regular session at 8:03 pm.

The board agreed to set a special meeting for March 3 at 6:00 pm at this location for the purpose of meeting with the attorney and developing a strategy for negotiations during the upcoming meeting with the State of Colorado about the Regional Augmentation Plan (Case #13CW3062).

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Sandy White, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary