

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting February 22, 2021

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 online with Zoom on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:03 pm.

Directors participating: Lewis “Beaver” Edmundson, Michael “Sandy” White, Scott King, Kent Mace, Lonnie Brown.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney:** Steve Monson; **Engineer:** Justin Korkus

Guests identified: Sam Perry, Rachel Pittinger, Jim Alt, Doug Brgoch, Carl Young, David Steffan, Doug Winter, Brian Lalander, Steve Smith, Monty Morgan, Josh Oden, Bill Tyner, Carrie Adair, Shannon Shrout. There were five unidentified callers, four who joined by phone and one by iPad.

The meeting **agenda** was approved.

MINUTES – The minutes for the January 25, 2021 board meeting were approved unanimously as presented on a White/Brown **motion**.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – There was a White/Edmundson **motion** to accept the financial reports; board unanimously approved. Dunn summarized the cash flow and the loan and grant information reports.

OLD BUSINESS – The HCWCD Annual Report to the Court will be finalized at the March meeting.

Monson summarized the attorney’s work vetting a new water resources engineering firm for the district. Steve Smith and Jared Dains at Applegate Group were interviewed to determine strengths for water accounting and litigation support. Monson reported that the previous water engineer, John Faux, will make sure the new augmentation water year reporting and projections will be taken care of at Division of Water Resources.

NEW BUSINESS –

There were no new water cases.

Water Commissioner Doug Brgoch reported on the flows in the Huerfano and Cucharas Rivers. The Cucharas is flowing about 4 cfs; the Huerfano is flowing about 6-7 cfs. Ice is still an issue.

The Water Infrastructure Improvements project grant deadline was extended to July 31, 2022.

Bill Tyner and Doug Brgoch reported on the pending pond enforcement action in Huerfano County. The ponds are being identified, then the mapping will prepare inspection sheets to be used by the Water Commissioners. Division 2 may begin issuing enforcement orders on April 1.

Fire Remediation grant projects: On behalf of ARWC, Dave Steffan gave an update on the 2020 project progress. ARWC held the first core team meeting with Steffan, Carrie Adair, Theresa Springer, Paul Branson, Lonnie Brown, and Mark Brunner to set priorities of potential projects. The next meeting will be March 16 and additional stakeholders will be invited into the core group. Cost estimates, mapping and project summaries will be developed.

Collaborative Storage Phase 5: Regarding planned dredging of Maria Lakes, Steve Smith mentioned potential embankment seepage. R&R Engineering is reportedly going to do a bathymetric study/survey. Further discussion is planned for the March meeting.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility Phase 4 – Korkus reported the final walkthrough of the project was conducted on February 10; Kent Mace and Rick Dunn participated. Change order 4 in

the amount of \$23,750 was presented to the board for additional rock, riprap, concrete, and gravel needed mainly because of mud onsite. The public legal notice about final payment was published February 18 and again on February 25. Final payment can be made on or after April 25. Lamp Rynearson will issue a letter of completion when it's time to release the retainage on the job to Frontier Environmental.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility Phase 5 – Mace reported on activity so far: San Isabel Electric service contract, Hydrologik (Bruce Bacon) for telemetry, Colorado Water Well (Tom Dea) for pump station, Rauber Construction for pumphouse. Mace will coordinate with Joe Talbott at DWR on the gage monitoring and telemetry. Estimated cost for phase 5 is \$210,000.

King called a break at 7:31; meeting resumed at 7:45.

BILLS – White **moved**, Brown seconded, and board approved unanimously making a \$40,000 transfer from ColoTrust and paying the following bills, which total \$80,129.39:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping –	\$120.00
Monson, Cummins & Shohet – legal	\$4,699.40
Dunn Write: contract, office supplies, mileage –	\$1,808.80
Dunn Write: Admin SCF flood mitigation grant 2020, Oct-Feb –	\$634.25
Dunn Write: Admin Collab Storage Ph5, MSRE, Oct-Feb –	\$838.50
Dunn Write: Admin Collab Storage Ph5, BCR, Oct-Feb –	\$970.19
La Veta Carpentry: water analyst, Ranch –	\$200.00
La Veta Carpentry: water analyst, SMAF –	\$300.00
La Veta Carpentry: website maintenance & new computer setup –	\$250.00
San Isabel Electric: service application fee, SMAF Ph5 –	\$220.00
San Isabel Electric: electric service contract & work order, SMAF Ph5 –	\$15,961.00
Applegate Group: Collab Storage Ph5, MSRE –	\$13,326.25
OTT/Hydromet: emerg. warn'g gages data, Iridium modem svc, cloud fee 3 yrs –	\$17,325.00
Frontier Environmental: progress on SMAF Phase 4 –	\$23,220.00
Spanish Peaks Library: February rent –	\$65.00
<u>Pinnacol Assurance: workers comp insurance premium –</u>	<u>\$191.00</u>

At 7:48 there was a **motion** by Edmundson, seconded by Mace and approved unanimously by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving litigation support by a new district water resources engineer; Cucharas basin exchange case; contracting on SMAF Phase 5: 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 9:08 pm, White **moved**, Brown seconded and board approved unanimously closing executive session and returning to open session. The meeting was called back to regular session at 9:08 pm.

White **moved**, Edmundson seconded and board unanimously approved instructing Monson to develop the terms and conditions for hiring Applegate Group to serve as the HCWCD water resources engineering consulting firm.

White **moved**, Brown seconded and board unanimously approved Change Order 4 on the SMAF Phase 4 project.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.