

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting May 26, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District Board of Directors was called to order by President Sandy White on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 7:10 pm.

Directors present: Lewis "Beaver" Edmundson, Michael "Sandy" White, Scott King, Al Garcia, Kent Mace.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; Attorney: Steve Monson.

Guests: Gail Terry; Lenna Rauber; Jim Berg, Kent Hay, Steve Werner, Gerald Cisneros, Keith Bouchard, Stephen Wardell, Ray Garcia; David Rinehart, Press.

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

MINUTES – Edmundson moved and King seconded to approve the April 27, 2015 minutes as presented. Board approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – King moved and Edmundson seconded to accept the May Treasurer's reports. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Garcia reported that the Red Wing Augmentation Facility project is still on hold. HCWCD is trying to set up a supplemental reservoir site on Sheep Mountain Ranch. Ray Garcia reported that Lucy Hibberd said she will not allow water to go through her ditch to fill the reservoir. On water case #94CW003, Leo Payne previously got an alternate point of diversion from the river. Since it was not installed, HCWCD could install a pump at that alternate point to fill the reservoir. There is another possible diversion alternative using Meadow Ditch, which is partly owned by Orlando Martinez. Mace moved, Edmundson seconded, and board approved allowing Ray and Al Garcia to negotiate this situation with the manager and/or owner of Sheep Mountain Ranch. Signature of the lease agreement was postponed.

Edmundson reported that there is plenty of water at the Ranch. The V-notch replacement and augmentation pond are in use. The sand gate was slightly undercut and may need to be reinforced with concrete. Weeds are being mowed and sprayed. Al Garcia is treating a field that is planned to be planted to alfalfa.

NEW BUSINESS – Lenna Rauber reported the call on the Huerfano is # 97. Regarding water case 2015CW3013: Rauber reported Johnson wants to put in two reservoirs on Mays Ditch, up to 500 acre-feet.

Cucharas River Storage Collaborative – White showed a powerpoint presentation which will accompany the Collaborative grant application to the Arkansas Basin Roundtable and Colorado Water Conservation Board. The application will seek a \$220,000 grant with \$30,000 local match. There was a motion by Edmundson, seconded by King to include \$10,000 in the 2016 HCWCD budget as part of the local match toward the Cucharas River Storage Study. Board approved. There was a motion by King, seconded by Edmundson, to authorize spending up to \$3,000 for Balanced Management Services Co. for professional grant writing services this year on grant applications. Board approved. If the grant is approved, notice to proceed should be around December 1, 2015.

Dunn recommended that HCWCD establish an office, rather than continue to operate out of her home. There was a motion by Mace, seconded by Edmundson to rent office space at the Career Building Academy, 23512 US Hwy 160, just west of Walsenburg, for \$65/mo. Board approved. King suggested we get a written lease. There was a motion by King, seconded by Edmundson, to authorize spending up to \$1006.00 on equipment and furnishings to outfit the office. Board approved.

DIRECTOR AND GUEST COMMENTS – King reported that the Arkansas Basin Roundtable meeting was cancelled.

Al Garcia commended Stephen Wardell for keeping an eye on the augmentation station at the Ranch for the District; he checks the station every day.

Wardell will get together with Al Garcia and Edmundson to come up with suggestions for handling the main diversion.

Keith Bouchard, Acme Growers, spoke to the board. Acme Growers missed being included in the 2015 SWSP, but he told the board if there's any alternate way to get in line, his company is interested. He also spoke about recent legislation on the use of gray water, which will be administered by the Division Engineer.

On behalf of Cucharas Sanitation & Water District, Jim Berg thanked HCWCD for taking the lead on the Cucharas storage issue and also the pre-fire watershed assessment.

The meeting was recessed at 8:07 pm and reconvened at 8:17 pm.

BILLS – There was a motion by Edmundson, seconded by King, to pay the following bills, total \$17,040.29 plus a \$109,000 transfer to the ColoTrust account. Board approved.

Corsair Cattle – Partial refund of lease payment \$700.00

Dunn Write – Contract, mileage, meeting expense \$1,636.58

Felt, Monson & Culichia – Legal \$5,113.31

TZA Water Engineers – Engineering \$9,140.40

La Veta Carpentry (Rick Dunn) – Water analyst contract \$200.00

Mountain States Financial Group – Bookkeeping, first month \$120.00

Walsenburg Insurance Center – Bond for Mace \$100.00

Desiree Rosenberg – Library meeting room \$30.00

At 8:19 pm Mace moved, Garcia seconded and Board approved going into executive session to discuss matters involving the regional augmentation plan, ongoing litigation, SWSP and including the purchase, acquisition or lease 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 as in 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 9:36 pm, King moved and Garcia seconded closing the executive session and returning to regular session. Board approved. The meeting was called back to regular session at 9:36 pm.

There being no further business, Edmundson moved and King seconded to adjourn. Board approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Sandy White, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary