

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting

January 25, 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, January 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

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

Secretary: Carol Dunn; **Attorney:** Steve Monson; **Engineer:** Justin Korkus, Jared Walter.

Guests identified: Don Sieke, Rachel Pittinger, Jim Berg, Dustin Stambaugh, Doug Brgoch, Carl Young, David Steffan, Doug Winter, Gaye Davis, Dave Bower, Brian Lalander, Steve Smith. There were two unidentified callers who joined by phone.

The meeting **agenda** was approved.

MINUTES – The minutes for the December 11, 2020 board meeting were approved as presented on a Mace/Brown **motion**.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – There was an Edmundson/Brown **motion** to accept the financial reports. 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 February meeting because of pending legal review.

The schedule for 2021 board meetings was accepted on a Brown/White motion.

NEW BUSINESS –

The board agreed to take no action on water cases **a)** 2020CW3077: Snowy Range Reservoir Co (Bruce Cantrell), Cucharas basin: 3 ponds, app for finding of reasonable diligence; cumulative storage 29 af/yr. **b)** 2020CW3080: Raymond Whitmire, Huerfano basin: 3 ponds & 3 wells; app for finding of reasonable diligence on 1 pond & 1 well, and to make absolute on 2 ponds and 2 wells.

Water Commissioner Doug Brgoch reported on the flows in the Huerfano and Cucharas Rivers. Winter stream gage readings fluctuate wildly because of ice. Water is currently going to Maria Lakes. The Pueblo Board of Waterworks announced there will be no water to lease in 2021.

The La Veta Schools SWSP was briefly discussed. Apparently a future water case will be filed. Monson advised to take no action on the SWSP at this time and wait for the court case filing.

Collaborative Storage Phase 5: There has been discussion about possibly dredging Maria Lakes to increase storage. There are potential cost savings, and permitting might be manageable, but Steve Smith noted that there are deferred maintenance issues that have to be addressed. Maria Lake Grazing Association will conduct further research, and there will be an update on this at the February meeting. The grant for 50% engineering of increasing the dam height will expire June 30, 2022.

Fire Remediation grant projects: On behalf of ARWC, Dave Steffan reported on the 2020 project progress. ARWC will meet January 27 to examine the viability of potential projects. Lonnie Brown will be included on the core team meeting in mid-February to help prioritize projects. Then cost estimates, mapping and project summaries will be developed, in that order.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility Phase 4 – Korkus and Walter reported the final work is being completed on this phase. The engineers will conduct a walkthrough before final payment is approved. A public legal notice needs to precede the final payment by 30 days. Since the engineering has already been done for SMAF Phase 5, and estimates were received in 2020, the board decided to move into phase 5 immediately and try to take advantage of spring flows to begin filling the reservoir. Korkus said the Lamp Rynearson Ft. Collins office could manage the engineering on phase 5.

The board suggested to Walsenburg Mayor Brian Lalander that Lonnie Brown might be considered as a potential member on the Urban Renewal District. Lalander introduced Dustin Stambaugh as the City’s new administrator.

King called a break at 8:28; meeting resumed at 8:38.

BILLS – White **moved**, Mace seconded, and board approved making a \$40,000 transfer from ColoTrust and paying the following bills, which total \$78,740.90:

Mountain States Financial group: bookkeeping –	\$120.00
Monson, Cummins & Shoheit – legal	\$3,778.75
Dunn Write: contract, office supplies, mileage –	\$1,803.13
Dunn Write: CDPHE nonpoint source grant admin Dec. –	\$2,388.92
Lamp Rynearson: augmentation accounting, meeting –	\$2,280.00
La Veta Carpentry: water analyst, Ranch –	\$200.00
La Veta Carpentry: website maintenance –	\$150.00
Postmaster: PO Box annual rental –	\$64.00
GPP/Glatfelter Insurance: business property & liability insurance –	\$2,026.00
American Express: computer equipment and software subscriptions –	\$1,026.01
Watch Technologies: 2 nd pmt on custom slide gates for SMAF Phase 4 –	\$12,555.59
Frontier Environmental: progress on SMAF Phase 4 –	\$49,972.50
Spanish Peaks Library: January rent –	\$65.00
Colo Div Water Resources: satellite monitoring, Badito & Harrison Bridge gages –	\$2,311.00

Payable when grant funds are received: ARWC (CDPHE project) \$155,833.75;

Applegate Group (Collab. Storage Ph5) \$5,265.25

At 8:40 there was a **motion** by White, seconded by Mace and approved by the board, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving replacement of the district’s water engineer; water rights acquisition for pond enforcement augmentation; Southway augmentation water application; and annual report pleadings: 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).

Edmundson left the meeting at 9:17 before the board discussed the Southway application.

At 9:36 pm, White **moved**, Mace seconded and board approved closing the executive session and returning to open session. The meeting was called back to regular session at 9:36 pm.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.