

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting November 26, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was convened at the Walsenburg Housing Authority, 220 Russell Ave, Walsenburg, CO by President Scott King on Monday, November 26, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

Directors present: Michael "Sandy" White, Scott King, Kent Mace, Beaver Edmundson.
Secretary: Carol Dunn; Attorney: Ryan Farr; Engineer: John Faux.
Guests: Gail Terry, Keith Bouchard, Larry Waide, Pat Waide, John Stroh II, Doug Brgoch, Lenna Rauber, Gary Barber, Steve Werner, Joel Norton, Phil Cummings, Rebecca Cummings, Shella Snider, Jim Berg.

The agenda was approved on a White/Edmundson motion.

MINUTES – White moved and Mace seconded to approve the October 22, 2018 and October 25, 2018 minutes. Edmundson abstained on the October 22 minutes. Board approved.

TREASURER REPORT – White moved and Mace seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS –

The CWCB performance extension agreement for the Regional Augmentation loan was signed on a White/Mace motion.

Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility Phase 2 – Paul Morgan Construction emailed a scan of the performance bond and will bring the signed original to the pre-construction conference TZA is sponsoring on November 28 at the construction site on Sheep Mountain Ranch.

NEW BUSINESS – Water Commissioner Rauber reported the call is #25 on the Huerfano River. Water is going through the District's augmentation station. Doug Brgoch reported there's not much water in the Cucharas. Gages are iced in and shuttered for the winter, and the call is #3. Brgoch reminded the Marijuana Related Businesses (MRBs) with non-exempt wells that they need to report their water use to the Groundwater Desk at Division of Water Resources in addition to John Faux at TZA.

Garald Barber, Basin Implementation Plan Coordinator, gave a final report on his project and thanked HCWCD for being the fiscal agent for the past two years of the three-year CWCB grant. The grant is not being renewed for funding of a fourth year. Board approved final payment of \$11,640.17 to Barber on a White/Edmundson motion.

The next Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative meeting is Thursday, November 29, 6 pm. A report on the in-stream flow water rights filing for Baker and Bonnett Creeks will be presented by CWCB and Colorado Parks and Wildlife at the Collaborative meeting. White reported a federal infrastructure bill is working its way thru Congress. Al Tucker is studying it to see if we can get funding for reservoir(s) identified in the Collaborative Geotechnical study. Similar funding is coming through CWCB, but it will be influenced by Western slope organizations and environmentalists. There may also be applicable ballot measures in 2019.

A grant application for flood mitigation on the Spring Creek fire burn scar was submitted to CWCB on November 2. The ask was \$500K from CWCB, with a \$500K match from Huerfano County through the NRCS Emergency Watershed Program. Brgoch reported \$14-million in EWP funding is allocated – \$7M to Huerfano County, \$5M to La Veta and \$2M to Walsenburg. A 25% local match with substantial in-kind is needed.

Brgoch reported the first project of the new Watershed Protection Oversight Collaborative will be work on the river channel through La Veta. A grant application was submitted to CWCB on November 1, with HCWCD as the fiscal agent. The ask is \$98K, with \$49K in local match. After the channel work is finished in La Veta, work will proceed upstream to Middle Creek. Under EWP, projects need to stay within areas of municipal responsibility. The Recovery Manager will keep track of where each project starts and stops. White met with the Army Corps of Engineers H&H Team, which assured him that the Corps has emergency powers, and 404 permits will not be a problem. The La Veta channel restoration is #1 priority in this area. Floods in Walsenburg are not predicted to be as severe as in La Veta. Although delayed, the City of Walsenburg is coming in as a sponsoring agency.

Board approved having Dunn send a letter to Ernie Hart terminating the Wm Craig Ranch lease on an Edmundson/White motion.

Mace will be responsible for a public information/educational seminar about the Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan and water rights sometime in spring or summer of 2019.

On behalf of Paradise Acres Homeowner Association, Werner and Norton reported their subdivision's well has been reclassified as private, not a public water supplier, because the population has been reduced so much after the fire. There are only four full-time resident homes and very low water usage. PAHA reserved ½ acre-foot of augmentation water for purchase. The unclaimed augmentation water for Marijuana Related Business is two acre-feet. Pop's Farm/Cummings has paid in advance for 1 af, and ACME/Bouchard was at the meeting to request 1 af. These amounts were approved by the board on a White/Mace motion.

King reported on the Ark Basin Roundtable – A CoCo (Coalitions & Collaboratives) presentation will be held about post-fire conditions – the first one in the western US.

GUEST COMMENTS: Bouchard complimented the board on the work it does and was favorable about the water information seminar planned.

King called for a break at 7:29 pm and the meeting reconvened at 7:42 pm.

BILLS: White moved, Edmundson seconded and board approved paying the following bills, which total \$45,465.82 and transfer \$8,000 from ColoTrust. Including the Barber check, the total of checks written will be \$57,105.99. Board approved.

Payable to	Amount	For
Mountain States Financial Grp	120.00	Bookkeeping, November
Monson, Cummins & Shohet	16,908.08	Bd mtg, Sheep Mtn, Ranch, aug plan, exchg storage, Perrino case
Balanced Management Svcs	937.50	BIP Coordinator grant project, ABRT secretary – final
Dunn Write	1,880.04	Contract, mileage, ink, paper, file folders, meeting snacks
Dunn Write	838.70	Collab Geotech Investigation grant admin, 10/22/18 – 11/26/18
Division of Water Resources	1,500.00	PRWCD Ditch Telemetry grant project – final expense
Butte Valley Construction	1,050.00	Berm around dryup area at Ranch – PAID 10/29/18
IOA/Walsenburg Insurance	425.00	Bonds: Edmundson, King, Tucker, Dunn
La Veta Carpentry	200.00	Water analyst contract, November
La Veta Carpentry	150.00	HCWCD Web site maintenance, November
TZA Water Engineers	2,901.50	Water acctg; Perrino case; straightline diagram of ditch priorities
total \$13,073.71	10,172.21	SMAF phase 2 – Pass Creek flooding eval/visit & prep for Morgan
CenturyLink	55.00	Phone service, November
HRS Water Consultants	3,788.50	Infrastructure improvements grant project, October 2018
Applegate Group	4,315.89	Collab Storage Geotechnical Investigation grant project
Garald Barber	11,640.17	BIP Coordinator invoice for October & November 2018
World Journal Newspaper	158.40	Legal notices: budget, budget message (less credit on account)
Spanish Peaks Library	65.00	Rent, November
Total	\$57,105.99	
Available in checkbook	49,385.23	
diff.	-7,720.76	
Suggest transfer frm ColoTrust	8,000.00	
Leaves a checkbook balance	279.24	

At 7:46 pm, there was a motion by White, seconded by Mace, to go into executive session to discuss matters involving Regional Plan for Augmentation case 13CW3062, Walsenburg Exchange case 17CW3060, and Collaborative Cucharas River 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 9:52 pm, White moved, Mace seconded and board approved closing the executive session and returning to open session. The meeting returned to regular session at 9:52 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm.

Scott King, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary