

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting March 28, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was called to order at 6:00 pm on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 23512 US Hwy 160, Walsenburg by President Sandy White.

Directors present: Lewis "Beaver" Edmundson, Michael "Sandy" White, Scott King, Kent Mace. Secretary: Carol Dunn; Attorney: Steve Monson; Engineer: John Faux
Guests: Doug Brgoch, Mayor Jim Eccher, John Sakun, Leslie Klusmire.

The agenda was approved.

MINUTES – King moved and Mace seconded to approve the February 22, 2016 and March 3, 2016 minutes as presented. Board approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – King moved and Edmundson seconded to approve the March treasurer's report. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Edmundson reported that the new sand gate has been installed in the William Craig irrigation ditch at the Ranch. There was some irrigation on about ten acres from the Jose Maria ditch. A plan is being formulated to address the plumbing problems in the Ranch house. The lessees have dragged the meadow.

The next meeting of the Cucharas Storage Collaborative will be April 29. Rick Parsons will be at the April HCWCD board meeting to report on the consulting team's progress.

White gave an update on the river infrastructure grant, which was recently approved by CWCB. HCWCD (Dunn) will be doing the administrative work on the grant in cooperation with Bill Tyner, Div. of Water Resources. This will be a separate billing account in addition to Dunn's regular contract.

The phreatophyte control grant in cooperation with Upper Huerfano Conservation District will address 120 acres, and the grant is \$145,000. UHCD is seeking to add 70 more acres and \$103,000 in matching funds from US Fish & Wildlife Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service. It is estimated that the project will be started this fall. Dunn will provide administrative services on the project in the amount of \$5,000. This will also be a separate billing account in addition to Dunn's regular contract.

NEW BUSINESS – Water Commissioner Doug Brgoch reported that the snow caused higher levels temporarily, but the Cucharas River is below normal flows for this time of year. The calling right is the Reed, and the water is being sent to storage. Maria Lake has filled its two most senior rights. The Huerfano River is about half of normal flow, with the Welton call still on. Brgoch said more mediation hearings are being held this week on the Welton lawsuit.

King moved and Edmundson seconded to enter into a new augmentation water agreement with SCG Services for one acre-foot of replacement water. Board approved.

Edmundson moved and Mace seconded to send a letter to the Upper Huerfano Conservation District in support of its grant application for making improvements to the Garcia Ditch. Board approved.

Board members discussed a procedure to determine how much augmentation water will ultimately be available. The Board asked water engineer John Faux, who has done some preliminary research on the issue, to resume work on this project. Since the process would involve negotiation, further discussion was held in Executive Session.

DIRECTOR COMMITTEE REPORTS – King reported that Basin Coordinator Deb Phenicie has departed the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. The Roundtable will be interviewing for a replacement.

White reported that \$11-million of the CWCB Water Supply Reserve Account has been allocated to the Arkansas Basin.

DIRECTOR & GUEST COMMENTS – Walsenburg Mayor Eccher introduced Leslie Klusmire, the new City Administrator.

White called for a short break at 6:39 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 6:45 pm.

BILLS – King moved, Edmundson seconded, and board approved transferring \$45,000 to ColoTrust and paying the following bills, which total \$9,018.68:

Mountain States Financial group, accounting – \$120.00

Dunn Write, contract, mileage, postage, supplies, deadbolt – \$1,715.81

Dunn Write, administrative on Cucharas Storage Collaborative – \$581.25

Monson, Cummins & Shoheit, water legal – \$5,642.44

La Veta Carpentry, water analyst – \$200.00

Stephen S. Wardell, sand gate for irrigation ditch at Ranch – \$490.92

Main Street Office Supply, ink cartridges, file folders, pens – \$131.44

Century Link, March phone bill – \$71.82

Career Building Academy, March rent – \$65.00

At 6:47 pm there was a motion by Mace, 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 8:20 pm, Mace moved, Edmundson seconded and board approved closing the executive session and returning to open session. The meeting was called back to regular session at 8:20 pm.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Sandy White, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary