

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting
April 25, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District Board of Directors was called to order by President Sandy White on Monday, April 25, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Directors present: Lewis "Beaver" Edmundson, Michael "Sandy" White, Scott King, Juan "Johnny" Vallejos, Kent Mace.

Secretary: Carol Dunn; Attorney: Steve Monson.

Guests: Lenna Rauber, Doug Brgoch, Gerald Cisneros, Jim Berg, Gerald Van Nort, Bruce and Joan Cantrell, Phil and Rebecca Cummings, Keith Bouchard, Max Vezzani, Ray Garcia, Rick Parsons; David Rinehart and Bill Knowles, Press.

The agenda was approved.

MINUTES – Edmundson moved, Mace seconded to approve the March 28, 2016 minutes as presented. Board approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – King moved, Mace seconded to accept the Treasurer's reports. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Edmundson reported the augmentation station is running as of April 10. The lessee, Corsair, hasn't called for water yet on the Wm. Craig ditch. Neighbor Stephen Wardell has taken some water. Edmundson is trying to get estimates on the plumbing repairs at the Ranch house. Mace spoke with Grady Grissom to coordinate test pits at the possible additional reservoir site on Sheep Mountain Ranch and recommended hiring Amos Mace at \$25/hour to take over this coordination until the test pits are done. Board agreed.

Cucharas Storage Collaborative project report – Rick Parsons gave an update on the research of best locations for storage that will benefit multiple parties. The Parsons Water team is studying reports, demands, current and anticipated supplies for the future. Parsons issued a draft report, seeking comments from the interested organizations and individuals, and will discuss it further at the next CSC meeting, April 29.

Brad Piehl reported by email he is still trying to get permission from a couple property owners to study potential sediment basin sites. He's close to finishing up the Watershed Assessment Phase 2 (sediment structures) report.

NEW BUSINESS – Brgoch reported that the Cucharas River benefitted greatly from the April 17 snowstorm. A material amount of water will get to the Arkansas River to satisfy the Welton call and more beyond. Rauber reported that the Huerfano River call is at the 35. Quite a few new headgates have been installed under her watch. Attendance was 40 at a water meeting she sponsored on April 22 at Wolf Springs to educate water users.

Regarding water cases 2016CW4 and 2016CW3015, there was no interest by the board in opposing either case.

King moved and Mace seconded to sign contract extensions to June 2019 for the CWCB loan and grant for the Red Wing Augmentation Facility construction. Board approved. White signed the required documents.

DIRECTOR COMMITTEE REPORTS – White reported that Steve Witte gave a “State of the River” report at the Arkansas Basin Roundtable meeting. There is a new Water Dashboard Internet site that will accept data from mutual ditch companies and other water users. A new Arkansas Watershed Collaborative coordinator has been hired: Candace Walker.

DIRECTOR AND GUEST COMMENTS – Phil Cummings (Pop’s Farm) asked if he can pull water directly from the Huerfano River since they still have not gotten approval on their commercial well. His grow facilities are finished, and he is ready to start operation but needs water. Brgoch said that there are river locations to do that identified in the regional augmentation plan application, and the Ranch is an additional site in the existing SWSP. Water can be pumped out, as long as the river is flowing 25 cfs at the Badito bridge. The advice to Cummings was to coordinate withdrawals from the river with Rauber and Edmundson.

White called a recess at 7:45 pm. Meeting reconvened at 8:01 pm.

BILLS – There was a motion by Mace moved, Edmundson, seconded, to pay the following bills, total \$66,164.35 and transfer \$21,500.00 from the ColoTrust account to checking. Board approved.

Mountain States Financial Group – April bookkeeping \$120.00

Dunn Write – Contract, mileage, postage, recording fees, supplies \$1,923.44

Dunn Write – Cucharas Storage Collaborative admin work/grant match \$168.75

Monson, Cummins & Shohet – New aug applicants, Aug plan, mtgs with Board and State Engineer’s office \$2,706.55

La Veta Carpentry – Read wells and report to Faux, April \$200.00

Walsenburg Insurance – Bond for Kent Mace \$100.00

TZA Water Engineers – 2 invoices: Aug plan, 2016 SWSP, new aug applicants \$11,915.88

Parsons Water – 2 invoices: collaborative storage needs assessment, demand analysis, infrastructure assessment, storage study, water allocation modeling \$32,298.70

Century Link – April phone bill \$67.78

Career Building Academy – Rent for April \$65.00

Butte Valley Construction – Load of rock for work on augmentation station \$200.00

At 8:03 pm King moved, Vallejos seconded and Board approved going 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 9:14 pm, King moved and Mace seconded closing the executive session and returning to regular session. Board approved. The meeting was called back to regular session at 9:14 pm. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Sandy White, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary