

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting January 23, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was called to order by President Raymond Harriman on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 6:04 pm at Walsenburg City Hall, Walsenburg, CO.

ROLL CALL

Directors present: Raymond Harriman, Erin Jerant, Dawson Jordan, Ray Ryan, and Kent Mace.

Secretary: Carol Dunn

Consultant: Ted M. Zorich, Jr.

Guests: Bill Knowles (Press), Gail Terry, Rick Loeffler, Ted Franciscotti, Joe Vucetich, John Vucetich, Jim Hribar, John Vallejos, Bill Ugolini, JB Vallejos, Beaver and Kathy Edmundson, John and Janet Fink, Bud Adams, Matt and Becky Maune, Jeff Briggs, Billy Pacheco, Eric Sporleder.

MINUTES

There was a motion by Jordan, seconded by Ryan, to approve the November 28, 2011 Minutes as presented. Board approved. There was a Jordan motion, seconded by Mace, to approve the December 13, 2011 minutes as presented. Board approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The total of all three CDs is \$64,560.60; total in the First National Bank in Trinidad/Walsenburg checking account is \$2,186.74; for a grand total of \$66,747.34 in all accounts. Jordan moved and Mace seconded to accept the January Treasurer's Report. Board approved. Jerant moved, Jordan seconded, to have Ortiz Tax Service do the Exemption for Audit. Board approved.

CONSULTANT REPORT

Zorich commented on the Two Rivers Water Company Substitute Water Supply Plan and water cases.

OLD BUSINESS

Harriman reported that the Cornelius case is going to trial in March or April.

Debra Blouin case 11CW45: Blouin has hired a water engineer to investigate possible augmentation water. Harriman reported that he will participate in a conference call with Blouin and Tim Beaton on 2/12/12.

Mace reported that Shell Oil Company is in the process of due diligence on the Lucking Trust water rights it purchased.

NEW BUSINESS

Board discussed Two Rivers Water Co. (TRWC) cases 11CW83, 11CW94 and 11CW96. Regarding the State's list of abandoned water rights, the Bradford Reservoir is on the list but TRWC is trying to have it removed. Rancher Beaver Edmundson told the Board that

the Bradford is a natural depression that could cover 1,000 acres of rangeland if it is ever filled.

Rancher John Vucetich told the Board that the #1 and #9 water have never been separated from the land. The water was purchased separately from the land, thus there is no crop history for it and no consumptive use. He also noted that the plan comingles various water rights, including the Robert Rice Ditch, Butte Valley Ditch, Bradford Reservoir, Orlando Reservoir expanded, the Reed Decree, the Killion Decree, Huerfano Valley Ditch and the Cucharas Reservoir.

Zorich advised that, on a big water plan such as this, the applicant will ask for much more than they will eventually settle with.

The Board queried whether other landowners and water rights owners in the Huerfano basin want to be involved with the District in the opposition of the case.

It is possible for ditch owners and water right owners to gather additional funding for HCWCD if needed. Each interested party will need to file a protest on these water cases and then can join with the District if the cases go to court.

ATTORNEY REPORT (by letter)

The attorney advised that the District has until the end of February to file opposition to the TRWC water cases. Further engineering and legal services will be needed.

There was a Jordan motion, seconded by Jerant, to file opposition to cases 11CW94 and 11CW96 and file comments on the SWSP. Board approved.

DIRECTOR AND GUEST COMMENTS

Junior water rights, #20 and up, have the highest potential of being injured by the TRWC change of water rights. Mr. Edmundson suggested filing in support of abandonment of the Bradford Reservoir.

BILLS TO PAY

Jerant moved, Jordan seconded, and Board approved payment of the following bills, total \$408.99:

Ted M Zorich, Jr – \$91.50

Carol Dunn, clerical, mileage & stamps – \$317.49

OTHER

There was a Jerant motion, seconded by Jordan, to approve the 2012 Board meeting schedule. The schedule will be posted at public places in La Veta, Walsenburg and Gardner.

Next meeting will be February 20, 2012 at 6:00 pm at Walsenburg City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Jordan moved and Jerant seconded to adjourn. Board approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Raymond Harriman, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary