

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting June 22, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District Board of Directors was called to order by President Sandy White on Monday, June 22, 2015 at 6:10 pm.

Directors present: Lewis "Beaver" Edmundson, Michael "Sandy" White, Scott King, Al Garcia, Kent Mace.

Secretary/Administrator Carol Dunn; Admin. Asst. Caitlin Dunn; Attorney Steve Monson. Guests: Therese Martini, Denise Culver, Keith Bouchard, Doug Brgoch, James Eccher; David Rinehart, Press.

Edmundson moved and King seconded to approve the agenda. Board approved.

MINUTES – King moved and Garcia seconded to approve the May 26, 2015 minutes as presented. Board approved.

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

OLD BUSINESS – Garcia reported that the Red Wing Augmentation Facility project remains on hold. Negotiations are completed with Sheep Mountain Ranch regarding a supplemental reservoir site. Edmundson reported that the lessee began cutting hay on the Ranch, and he believes they will get a good crop.

Office setup: Dunn reported that furniture and equipment for the new office at the Career Building Academy have been moved in and assembled. The office has been cleaned and is semi-functional, though a phone line needs to be installed.

NEW BUSINESS – Doug Brgoch reported that the Cucharas River is running double its normal flow. At present, the call is at 1949, and anyone senior to that date can divert water. About 4,000 acre feet of water is being stored in John Martin Reservoir.

Colorado Natural Heritage Program: Denise Culver reported that she is working in Huerfano County surveying wetlands and riparian areas and wishes to be transparent in her intentions. She plans to focus on private lands, during which the landowner will have control of the data at all times. According to Culver, all data goes into a database for plants, invertebrates, amphibians and unique habitats. She will be in the area this summer and next summer, and the surveys are completely voluntary on the part of landowners, with no legal ramifications. Her contact number is 970-576-2914.

Keith Bouchard of Acme Growers asked to be included in the district's Substitute Water Supply Plan. White explained that the State is running so far behind with reviewing the already-amended 2015 SWSP, that it would not be possible or wise to change the plan again to include Acme. Bouchard told the board he will request an extension on his conditional use permit from the County Commissioners.

Water cases on underground water rights for exempt wells: 2015CW6 (Martini), 2015CW7 (Thayer), 2015CW8 (Castle Ranch). Board agreed to not oppose these.

Case 2015CW3013 – Brgoch reported the owner is only able to store 100 acre-feet of water for a 2015 call. The board agreed to not oppose this case.

The Cucharas River Watershed Collaborative grant application was approved in the amount of \$245,000. Lower Ark Valley WCD will be the fiscal agent. The grant includes \$90K for the preliminary engineering design of sediment basins on the upper Cucharas. HCWCD will need to contribute matching funds in the amount of \$6,000 and the Board of County Commissioners \$4,000. King moved and Mace seconded to execute the JW Associates contract to move forward on that project. Board approved. White explained the details of the grant application being developed for Huerfano-Cucharas river gages, monitoring wells, and development of a futile call model. There is also an opportunity to apply for 2016 funding in cooperation with Natural Resources Conservation Service and Upper Huerfano Conservation District (possibly others) for phreatophyte eradication.

DIRECTOR AND GUEST COMMENTS – King handed out copies of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. The Roundtable is planning to hire a coordinator to get the projects listed in the BIP funded. Mace commented on how impressive it is to see Huerfano County featured so prominently in the list of BIP projects.

The meeting was recessed at 7:08 pm and reconvened at 7:15 pm. King moved and Edmundson seconded to accept the office lease with Career Building Academy. Board approved.

BILLS – Edmundson moved, King seconded and board approved paying the following bills, total \$20,150.95 plus a \$6,000 transfer from the ColoTrust account.

Dunn Write – Contract, mileage, meeting expense \$2,662.83
Felt, Monson & Culichia – Legal \$9,490.17
TZA Water Engineers – Engineering \$5,654.00
La Veta Carpentry (Rick Dunn) – Water analyst contract \$200.00
Walsenburg Lumber– Concrete for Ranch \$76.20
Desiree Rosenberg – Library meeting room \$30.00
Huerfano Weed Control – Spraying weeds on Ranch \$1,972.75
Career Building Academy – Rent for June \$65.00

At 7:19 pm Edmundson moved, Mace 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 8:15 pm, Mace moved and Edmundson seconded closing the executive session and returning to regular session. Board approved. The meeting was called back to regular session at 8:15 pm. There being no further business, Edmundson moved and Mace seconded to adjourn. Board approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Sandy White, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary