

HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting May 21, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was called to order by President Raymond Harriman on Monday, May 21, 2012 at 6:06 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

Secretary: Carol Dunn

Consultant: Ted M. Zorich, Jr.

Guests: David Rinehart (press), Beaver Edmundson, Lonnie Brown.

MINUTES

There was a motion by Jerant, seconded by Ryan, to approve the April 23, 2012 Minutes as read. 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 \$6,340.73; for a grand total of \$70,901.33 in all accounts. Jerant moved and Jordan seconded to accept the May Treasurer's Report. Board approved.

CONSULTANT REPORT

Zorich asked if the Board might want to comment on the Shell SWSP or water court case. Jordan said a pond will be built, and the water will be put back on the land. Mace moved and Jordan seconded to submit no comments on the Shell plans. Board approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Case 11CW45 – Harriman reported that there will be another conference call on the Blouin case on June 27. Blouin does not have an engineer.

Case 11CW94 and 11CW96 – Jordan reported that both SWSPs have been approved. The judge commented that he couldn't hold up approval since they are legal and the applicant does own the property. Protestors have not proved harm, only the potential to cause harm. According to Jordan, there's nobody to harm downstream from the Orlando Reservoir. Additional investigation has been requested to prove the claims in the cases, for instance the historical use. Two Rivers owns the ditch rights on the changes.

Mill Levy - Harriman reported on the mill levy workshop. Mace volunteered to hold 3 public meetings on the mill levy increase. Jordan suggested presenting the mill levy increase as a way to preserve our way of life in this County and suggested that a question be posed at the same time to ask for permission to incur debt.

Mace anticipates grant money for the water studies and also a need to get a loan to buy water (CWCB rate is 2.1% now).

58% of ballots would go out in the mail. Estimates of election costs included: Attorney fees - \$5,000; mailing to out-of-town voters - \$4,000; County fees for getting the question on the ballot - \$5,000. 1 mill would raise \$100,000. Uses for the funding include existing water problems/needs, new development and commercial use.

Ryan moved and Jordan seconded that the District attempt a 2 mill increase in its taxation, which would bring in \$300,000 a year, for 15 years. A roll call vote was taken: Ryan yes, Jordan yes, Mace yes, Harriman yes, Jerant yes. Motion passed.

The Board will work on a short and understandable ballot question stating the full amount of the mill levy increase over the entire 15 years. Control Our Water Future – Keep Water in Huerfano County.

NEW BUSINESS

Water Court cases, applications for absolute underground water rights:

12CW33 – William & Janis Gollam, State Hwy 10, tributary to Cucharas River, 15 gpm.

12CW35 – Joseph & Theresa McCain, Gardner, tributary to Huerfano River, 15 gpm.

There was a motion by Jordan, seconded by Mace, to take no action on these cases.

Board approved.

DIRECTOR AND GUEST COMMENTS - None.

BILLS TO PAY

Jordan moved, Ryan seconded, and Board approved payment of the following bills, total \$2,111.14:

Carol Dunn, clerical, mileage, envelopes & stamps – \$331.06

Walsenburg Insurance Center, Mace bond – \$100.00

Felt, Monson & Culichia – \$1,680.08

OTHER

Next meeting will be June 25, 2012 at 6:00 pm at Walsenburg City Hall. A work session may be held before the next regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ryan moved and Jordan seconded to adjourn. Board approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Raymond Harriman, President

Carol Dunn, Secretary