



August 31, 2020  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
C/O Ben Wade  
1313 Sherman St. Suite 718  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: POGG1 PDAA 2019-2538**

Dear Ben,

This letter serves as final report for the CWCB Colorado Water Plan Engagement and Innovation grant in the amount of \$39,300 that the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF) received on December 19, 2018. The ARBWF is the fiscal agent for the Arkansas Basin Roundtable (ABRT), Public Education, Participation and Outreach (PEPO) grant.

The grant scope addressed the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan (ArkBIP) identified concerns, provides education, and promote action through multiple outreach mechanisms. The projects/programs included:

**TASK 1: Education Events**

- A. Development and Implementation Community or Children's Water Festivals
- B. Creek Week Implementation on the Arkansas River
- C. Development of Educational Webisodes
- D. Support Arkansas River Basin Water Forum Education & Outreach Programs
- E. Support the Ark Basin Implementation and Education to Action Plan
- F. Support the PEPO Coordinator Position

The ARBWF has requested a reimbursement for all associated funds and has met the match requirement of \$39,350 for such through partnership with a variety of entities and providing work through the PEPO Coordinator(s) and the Arkansas Basin Roundtable members.

**Task 1.A- Water Festivals**

This year has been a strange and challenging year for education, so PEPO's original goal to do in-person instruction and outreach simply is not feasible or safe. With these concerns, it is increasingly important to not only educate constituents in the Arkansas Basin, but to support local businesses and non-profit organizations through these challenges. Support was given to RiverScience and Fountain Creek Watershed District to educate safely in their respective programs. RiverScience has an established and ongoing program working with school-aged children to learn about the students' watershed, perform science-based activities, etc. With this work, RiverScience asked that the funds go to the conversion of their in-person curriculum to online curriculum or to improve their delivery of such with the adaptation of education state-wide due to COVID-19 and the Executive Orders. The Fountain Creek Watershed District typically hosts a Creek Week cleanup, however due to the same constraints noted above, this Creek Week moved the event to a household/family unit scale. This



included phones/tablet applications to track information and to perform a cleanup with supplies provided by the Fountain Creek Watershed District, etc. This year provided the opportunity to focus on qualitative data rather than the quantitative aspect as in the past.

Match was met with all in-kind cash and support for the water festival prior to COVID-19. Jessica Mills of the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, in partnership with Amber Weber, planned a community water festival for Crowley and Otero counties that would involve schools, water professionals, vendors, etc. to resemble a fall festival with a water theme at every booth. This effort would have tied the communities together for an important goal of water education and outreach. This effort totaled \$3,000 of match. The deliverables, despite the change in scope, remained the same. The goal to engage and educate the citizens in the Arkansas basin about water issues and projects and the implementation of such was completed through this task. Children and the communities at large are involved in both of the programs through RiverScience and Fountain Creek Watershed District and allowed PEPO to connect with 100-250 individuals and numerous elementary students via these programs.

#### **Task 1.B- Creek Week**

This task originally had \$2,000, which due to a lack of interest and engagement, was moved to task 1.D to fund the annual Arkansas River Basin Water Forum. With a discussion between the two PEPO Coordinators, Jean Van Pelt and Amber Weber, Lamar was chosen as an ideal location due to a creek that runs through town that feeds into the mainstem of the river. The creeks, streams, and the mainstem of the Arkansas River downstream of Pueblo are overtaken by invasive species and general plant overgrowth, which makes access and cleanup unsafe for a volunteer crew. The identified creek is located behind a local community college and provided an opportunity for college and community engagement. The college originally agreed, but as planning progressed, PEPO's plans to engage the community and do a wide-scale clean up did not match the budget or goals of the college, so Creek Week was paused. Upon further discussion, the Coordinators felt the money would serve the basin's constituents better if it was given to the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum and a formal request was submitted to CWCBC and the money was transferred to the subtask of 1.D.

Match was provided by the work that Jean and Amber put into planning and coordinating with Lamar Community College and other partners including Allison Schuch to implement a Creek Week below Pueblo on the Arkansas River. When the PEPO Coordinators chose to change the scope of this task as well, the Coordinators felt that the match and deliverables would be met, even exceeded, by moving these funds. The match for this, prior to moving funds totaled up to be \$2,000.

#### **Task 1.C- Webisodes**

Through the process of taking the documentary, [The Arkansas River: From Leadville to Lamar](#), "on the road" throughout the basin, many stakeholders and audience members felt that the documentary could have gone deeper into several topics or regions. PEPO Coordinator, Jean Van Pelt, decided to do a set of webisodes to supplement the larger documentary and these webisodes would be based on tributaries and large topics such as Purgatoire, Huerfano, Agriculture in the lower basin, Fire and Flood, etc. These webisodes took about a year and a half to plan, curate, and publish. There was an in-depth stakeholder process for each webisode including participants from each tributary or topic. Several meetings for each webisode was held, and interviewees were nominated. Through the process, Jean and Amber managed these webisodes, constituents, and the goals of each. Sam Ebersole was contracted to perform this work



and was involved from the very beginning to ensure that the goals and concepts were held, and that Sam's creative process was initiated from the start. Sam filmed, edited, and published six videos. Each webisode received comments and feedback from the stakeholder team and was signed off by Amber Weber. The finished version of these webisodes can be found on <https://www.arkansasbasin.com/education-and-outreach.html> and were also utilized in each of the respective regions for broad education and outreach.

The six webisodes were delivered to each region and the basin as a whole and can be found at the above link. These webisodes featured projects to educate stakeholders and interested parties in such. The match for this came primarily from Sam Ebersole, our media director, however match was also contributed through a variety of partners including the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, Huerfano Water Conservancy District, Purgatoire Water Partnership, and more. Each volunteer put in at least ten hours to meet, create goals, be interviewed, and review content. This match is calculated to be \$25,000.

#### **Task 1.D- Annual Arkansas River Basin Water Forum**

While the annual Arkansas River Basin Water Forum was cancelled this year due to COVID-19 concerns and mandates, the ARBWF continues on with educational efforts. The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum will utilize support of the funds as follows:

Support for these outstanding and important events in the amount of \$1000 was earmarked for general funding to support the overarching educational goals of the Forum. Financial support for the Forum provides a platform to increase the greater water knowledge that in turn contributes toward water management decisions that serve the common good for all who call the Arkansas River Basin their home.

Financial support of \$2000 went toward the educational Infographic produced in conjunction with the Ark Basin Roundtable's non-profit organization, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative. The Infographic is an educational booklet focuses on policy issues and projects related to watershed and forest health, as it pertains to water resources.

PEPO supports the ARBWF in their efforts and will carry through in support of the Forum's educational activities despite the pandemic.

The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum works tirelessly to put on a great event each year with the help of a planning committee and many volunteers. The deliverable was met of at least 300 attendees absorbing information on local, regional, and state-wide water issues through the VIP dinner and associated educational programming. In addition to delivering on the outcomes set forth in the scope of work, the match for this totals to be \$3,000.

#### **Task 1.E- BIP/EAP Program Support**

This task originally contained \$4,000 and as the programs and projects progressed, the PEPO Coordinators wanted to supplement the money that was transferred from 1.B to 1.D to support the ARBWF. This left PEPO with enough money to support the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District's Water Day (\$500); The Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance (\$200) for the Colorado Funding Guide; and for Amber Weber's time to support WECO for the Lower Arkansas Basin tour, the Amity Mutual Ditch Company in their project and funding options, and for the BIP update basin-wide.



The project deliverables, to bring together key community and government stakeholders to support ArkBIP identified projects; assist projects with gaining exposure and support to move forward; and assisting with education and outreach efforts for up to six projects was completed through this task. The first piece of the deliverable was met with all of the BIP update actions Amber assisted with and the second piece was met through the Amity project while the third piece was met with assisting DARCA, HCWCD's Water Day, and WECO. The match for this totaled to be \$5,000.

**Task 1.F – Support of the PEPO Coordinator(s)**

The PEPO Coordinator(s) provided leadership in water education and has promoted and supported ArkBIP identified education to action projects/programs throughout the basin. The PEPO Coordinator(s) communicated and worked with all partners who are responsible for providing in-kind support and for the implementation of ArkBIP identified programs.

Van Pelt and Weber performed the organization, coordination, task management, and reporting on all proposed educational ArkBIP projects. Weber has also monitored and reported on all of PEPO activities to CWCB and the Executive Committee of the ABRT. These were the project deliverables and these tasks were performed throughout the project. Match was provided by in-kind time of \$2,000.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. Thank you for your time, effort, and most of all for the support you have provided these important projects and programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Hamel".

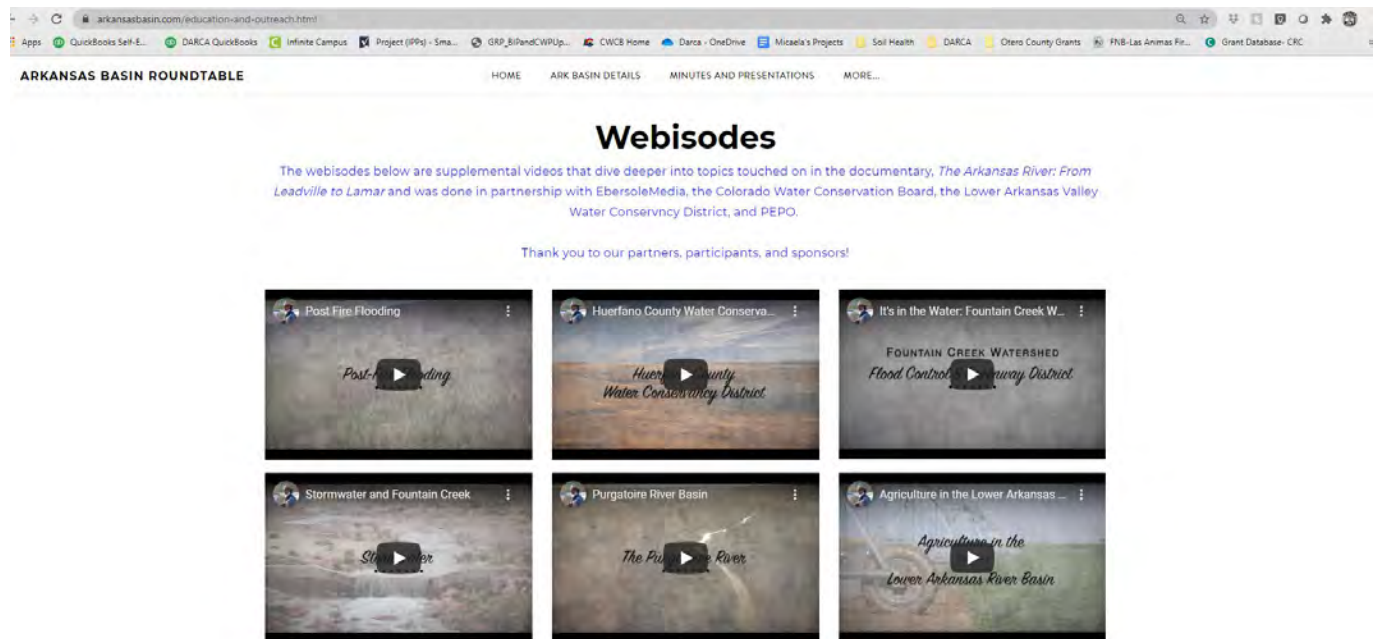
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber Weber".

Amber Weber,  
ABRT PEPO Coordinator

Robert Hamel  
ARBWF Board President



Attachment 3: Webisodes in their finished form on the RT website, sub-task 1C





# ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

## Attachment 3: ARBWF's infographic, sub-task 1D



## 15 YEARS OF WILDFIRE IN THE ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN



## THE TRUE COST OF WILDFIRE



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# *Colorado* WATER FUNDING GUIDE

*Produced and Sponsored by:*

THE DITCH AND RESERVOIR COMPANY ALLIANCE,  
THE COLORADO AG WATER ALLIANCE, AND  
MICAELA FENTON



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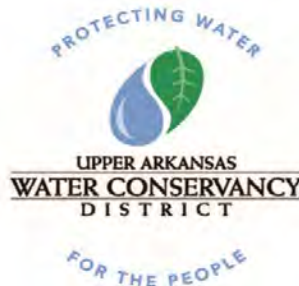


# Sponsors

## COLORADO WATER FUNDING

We want to highlight our sponsors, who truly helped make this guide a reality. The organizations listed below are instrumental partners in the water world and have graciously supported our efforts.

*Thank you!*



EbersoleMEDIA







# ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

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## HUERFANO WATER DAY

September 14, 2019

### Sign-in

Name	Organization	Tele #	Email address
Tom Doerk	La Veta	3776	tomdoerk@juno.com
Robin Richa	La Veta	3398	
Bar Kowalik	CNC LAVETA	5445	baklaveta@chtmich.com
JACAR JARDIS	COTW/SPBA	970-376-3434	sacajardis@gmail.com
Keith Bouchard	ACME	319-2263	Keith@ACMEgrowers.com
David Moore	La Veta	742-6053	
BOB MARTIN	H.P. FIRE DEPT	890-0028	Rmartin4423@aol.com
Kathy Edmunds	Walsenburg	859-0068	BeaverandKathy@g.com
BERNIE FAY	LAVETA	719-988-3061	bernie_fay@icloud.com
John C Davis	J.D. Partners Ranch	719-859-0123	cardoc@fnbtrinidad.com
Brittney Clario	HC Recovery	719-989-8977	bclario@huerfano.us
Cathy Garcia	US Senator Cory Gardner	719-543-1224	cathy-garcia@gardner.senate.gov
Miss Liz Zade	BSC	581-1976	
Brad Pichl	JW Associates	970-406-0085	bpichl@jw-associates.com
Jeanne Hoyt	Walsenburg	719-890-8750	jhoyst97060@yahoo.com
Dennis Hoyt	Walsenburg	719-890-0525	dennis.hoyt@gmail.com
Stan Kamm	--	303-848-5447	



## ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

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### HUERFANO WATER DAY

September 14, 2019

#### Sign-in

Name	Organization	Tele #	Email address
J. DANIELSON	DANIELSON + ASSOC.	719-500-0075	janis_danielson@hotmail.com
Matt Hardesty	CO DWR	719-588-2329	
Keli Kringel	La Veta Citizen	719-989-7182	KKringel@gmail.com
Rob Falk	La Veta	719-989-8586	
NORBERTO VALDEZ	LA VETA	970/218-3368	
JOHN GALUSHA	HUERFANO COUNTY	719-738-3070	JOHN@HUEFANO.US
LARRY CROWDER	SENATE	719-850-2459	2012 Larry Crowder@gmail.com
Cheri Crowder		719-850-1807	
Scott D'Esposito	Resident, La Veta	347-968-8404	scottdesposito@yahoo.com
Carol Dunn	HWCID		



# ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

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## HUERFANO WATER DAY September 14, 2019

### Sign-in

Name	Organization	Tele #	Email address
Dorothy Prailay	—	738-2476	—
John Frederick			
Clay McKisson	Judge, District Court		
Ray Garcia	Huerfano County		
MARK BRUNNER	UPON THE ROCK	742-6777	UponTheRockCamp@gmail.com
Dave Steffan	ARWC	720-296894	
Barb Steffan	Middle Creek	742-5315	
Susan Simons		989-8361	
Bill TYNER	CO DIV WATER RES	542-3368	
Will K. Jones	Spanish Penk Property	405-250 1641	
Rick Dunn	Hewco Owner. Assoc.		
Myrna Falk	Lakota Rancher	719-742-3254	FFALK@century21.net
Janice KOK	LaVeta UMC	719-742-3241	
James Barclay	BY		J6444@bt-internet.com
Jim BERG	CSWD	742-3108	
Marshall Moore	CSWD	742-3261	
Karen Clouse		695-2791	NA





# ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

(2)

HUERFANO WATER DAY  
September 14, 2019

## Sign-in

Name	Organization	Tele #	Email address
Judy Barlow	Huerfano Valley Estates	742-6014	judy.simsbarlow@gmail.com
Will Barlow	" " "	" "	" "
ROU JAMESON	Chaparral Coast	742-3222	rjameson@Centurylink.net
John Mayfield	New Water Line Home	602 663 1871	phoenixrescue17@yahoo.com
ROBERT HOFFMAN	La Veta	719-251-5674	srhoffman1421@gmail.com
JIM RAMSEY	SPAUP	530-227-2903	jramsey2008@att.net
Bill Strawn		469-309-2815	butler.strawn@gmail.com
HUGH SMITH	TRES VALLES	817-366-4802	maria4618@icloud.com
MARIA SMITH	TRES VALLES	817-366-4802	" "
SARA JEFFERSON	AQWB	719-541-0188	S "
SAMUEL EBERSOLE	AQWB	719-541-0188	sebersule@gmail.com
KEERT HAY	PARADISE ACRES	719-746-0141	HAYOFTNEGO@YANCOO.COM
Mary Backed	La Veta	3926	marybacked@gmail.com
Dorothy Caddell	La Veta	9898346	Dorothy.Caddell@gmail.com
Marta Moore	La Veta	719-742-6053	iwinds@hotmail.com
Bernard Small	Cuehara Event Center	303 829 7755	sbsm11@aol.com
Kelly VINCAN	School (REF)	742-3852	issuewall@yahoo.com



# ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

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## HUERFANO WATER DAY

September 14, 2019

### Sign-in

Name	Organization	Tele #	Email address
John Hudson		719-742-5766	john.jones@gmail.com
Bob Coe	Coe Middle Creek Ranch	719-248-4078	bob.coe@comcast.net
David Roesch	Chair P+2 Walsenburg	719-989-8884	dinoesch@flash.net
Michele Martin	Walsenburg P+2	865-390-9249	jemichelle@gmail.com
BRIAN LALANDER	WALSENBURG TREASURER	719-252-5957	blalander@gmail.com
DAVE STANZ	CITY OF WALSLENBURG	"	dstanz@CITYOFWALSLENBURG
Kathy Brown	La Veta	719-250-6038	Kathy.boc@centurytel.net
Lonnie Brown	La Veta	719-989-0654	lonnie.039@centurytel.net
Sandy White	"	719-742-6164	sandyw@white-jankowski.com
SCOTT KING	LA VETA	719-742-3124	SLKING@PWNKLINK.NET
Beaver Edmundson	Hewed	719-858-0669	BeaverandKathy@a.com
Bob Kennemer	La Veta	719-248-4543	bob.kennemer@gmail.com
Peg + Jim Littlefield		742-3735	Peggylittlefield@AMTIL.COM
Sue + Jim ALT		303-912-1881	sma1t58@gmail.com
Jim Alt		303-912-1881	" "
Jim Littlefield		742-3735	Jim.littlefield@USCG.COM
Richard Goodwin		850-0314	VANDRGOODWIN@GMAIL.COM



## ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

### Speakers

Brgoch, Doug	Mayor, La Veta, CO; Commissioner Water District 16; South Regional Team Leader, Water Districts 16, 18, 19 & 79.
Brown, Lonnie	Board Member, Huerfano County Water Conservancy District; retired District Wildlife Manager, CO Division of Parks and Wildlife.
Crowder, Larry	Colorado State Senator, District 35; San Luis Valley rancher.
Danielson, Jeris	Arkansas Basin Roundtable representative to Colorado Interbasin Compact Committee; former Colorado State Engineer.
Dunn, Carol	Administrator, Huerfano County Water Conservancy District.
Edmundson, Beaver	Board Member, Huerfano County Water Conservancy District; Huerfano Co. rancher.
Galusha, John	Administrator, Huerfano County.
Hardesty, Matt	Chief of Hydrographic Services, Div of Water Resources, CO Dept of Natural Resources.
Hoyt, Dennis	Mayor, City of Walsenburg.
King, Scott	President, Huerfano County Water Conservancy District; former term-limited Huerfano County Commissioner.
McKisson, Clay	Judge, Huerfano County District Court.
Piehl, Brad	Watershed Planner, JW Associates, Inc.
Steffan, Dave	Project Manager, Spring Creek Fire mitigation project, with Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative.
Tyner, Bill	Division Engineer, Div 2, Division of Water Resources, CO Dept of Natural Resources.
Vezzani, Max	Huerfano County Commissioner; retired Assistant Director, CO Parks and Wildlife; Huerfano Co. rancher.
White, Sandy	Board Member, Huerfano County Water Conservancy District; retired water lawyer.

## HUERFANO WATER DAY

**September 14, 2019**

**La Veta Community Center**



**HUERFANO COUNTY WATER  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

[www.hcwcd.net](http://www.hcwcd.net)





# ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

## Program

9:00 am	WELCOME	Comm. Max Vezzani Hon. Clay McKisson Scott King
9:15	Huerfano County water history and developments; Cucharas #5 decommissioning	Doug Brgoch
9:45	Introduction to HCWCD programs	Scott King
10:00	Huerfano Basin Regional Augmentation Program	Sandy White and Beaver Edmundson
10:30	BREAK	
10:45	Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative: South Baker, Bruce Canyon, and Maria Lake reservoirs	Sandy White and Lonnie Brown
11:15	Water administration; trends affecting Huerfano County; Infrastructure project	Bill Tyner
11:45	Interbasin Compact Committee & Ark Basin Roundtable <i>Arkansas River: From Leadville to Lamar</i> Box lunch (funded by ABRT-PEPO grant)	Jeris Danielson
1:15	Watershed Assessment project - Upper Cucharas	Brad Piehl
1:35	Stream clearing and burn scar mitigation	Dave Steffan
2:00	Flood warning gages	Matt Hardesty
2:20	BREAK	
2:35	Headgate restoration; La Veta update SIEA post-fire La Veta video	Doug Brgoch
3:00	Walsenburg update	Dennis Hoyt
3:10	Huerfano County and Gardner update	John Galusha
3:25	Emerging water issues	Hon. Larry Crowder
3:45	Strategic Plan questionnaire—earn a book	Carol Dunn
3:50	Questions	
4:00	Closing remarks	Scott King

## HCWCD-sponsored projects: tax dollars at work

Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan – 2008→ongoing  
Purchase of William Craig Ranch and water rights – 2014  
Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility (reservoir, pipeline, diversion structure) – 2016-2020  
Upper Cucharas Pre-fire Watershed Assessment – 2013  
Upper Cucharas Post-fire Sediment Basins Study – 2015  
Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage Study (phase 1) – 2016  
Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage, Geotechnical Investigation (phase 2) – 2017  
Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage, Addl Geotechnical (phase 3) – 2018  
Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage, 30% Designs (phase 4) – 2019  
Water Infrastructure Improvements Project – 2015-2019  
Cucharas River Satellite Gage Repairs (with DWR) – 2017  
Spring Creek Fire Headgates Restoration Study—2019  
Spring Creek Fire Flood Warning Gages—2019  
Spring Creek Fire Flood Mitigation Project—2019  
Good Neighbor Projects—(grant administration and fiscal agent):  
Arkansas Basin BIP Coordinator, years 2 & 3 – 2016-2017  
Upper Huerfano Conservation District Invasive Phreatophyte Control Project – 2016-2018  
Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District Ditch Improvements Project – 2017-2018  
Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District Telemetry Equipment Upgrade – 2018

### Board of Directors

Scott King, President, La Veta    Kent Mace, Vice-president, Gardner  
Lonnie Brown, La Veta    Beaver Edmundson, Walsenburg    Sandy White, La Veta

### Huerfano County Water Conservancy District

PO Box 442 La Veta, CO 81055    719-742-5581  
email: hcwcdistrict@gmail.com

For all things HCWCD, visit the website: [www.hcwcd.net](http://www.hcwcd.net)