

Work Session: Prior to today's board meeting , the directors participated in a work session to discuss and receive updates on the Platte Valley Water Partnership

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
LOWER SOUTH PLATTE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

April 14, 2026

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Allen Coyne	Gene Manuello	Brad Stromberger
Bob Mari	Carson Smart	
Bruce Gerk	Joe Patterson	
Brian Kembel Zoom	Kent Pflager	
Dan Kendrick	Cody Poitz	

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Ken Fritzler	Jack McClary
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DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT:

Joe Frank, General Manager
Rick Fleharty, Technician
Craig Brownell, Technician

VISITORS PRESENT:

Greg Peterson via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Manuello.

APPROVAL OF THE March 10, 2026 BOARD MINUTES:

Director Kendrick made the motion to approve the March 10, 2026 Board Minutes as submitted. Director Poitz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT:

Treasurer Coyne presented the finance report for the month of March. Director Coyne then made the motion to approve payment of District checks 17851-17875. The motion also included Julesburg Recharge, checks 1285-1294. Director Patterson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Greg Peterson with Colorado Ag Water Alliance presented an irrigation scheduling cost share program and is looking for producers to participate in a five-year pilot program. The participants will pay \$200/field and will use Arable's monitoring system installed on their pivot to send data aimed at reducing groundwater pumping, pumping costs and power costs. The program will run 2027-2031.

WATER RIGHTS MONITORING:

- *Division I Water Court Resume*:
No statements of opposition will be filed from the January 2026 Water Court Resume.'

WATER ACTIVITIES ENTERPRISE:

- *Julesburg Recharge Project*:
 - Manager Frank stated that the 2025 annual billing has been sent out and payments are being received and recharge payments have been sent out as well.
- *Heyborne Recharge Project*:
 - Manager Frank noted that the groundwater levels are continuing to be monitored, and we are currently retiming about 4 cfs of retime water.
- *Watchorn Project*:
 - Currently the project is delayed to discuss the possibility of adding recharge at the site as well.

LEGAL REPORT:

Manager Frank stated that the board would need to adjourn into executive session later in the meeting to review items regarding stipulations and economics of the Platte Valley Water Partnership case #19CW3253. Expert reports are Due May 5th. A work session with the District

board of directors is also being set up with the Lower Logan group.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Included in the Manager's report were the following:

Legislative Matters:

- WRASP/Colorado Water Congress –
 - WRASP is meeting on Fridays during the legislative session. Session is coming to a close in May.
 - The Legislature is still working on the budget and many bills are held up in appropriations.
 - The revegetation bill (HB 26-1340) from the Lower Arkansas has been amended and is continuing through the legislative process.
 - Director Kembel made a motion to support HB26-1340. Director Mari seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - An Environmental Right Constitutional Amendment for Ballot Draft titled “Right to a Healthy Environment” was discussed.
 - Director Mari made the motion to oppose. The motion was seconded by Director Kembel. Motion passed unanimously.
 - The Colorado Water Congress Board retreat will be in the Palisade/Grand Junction area May 11th-13th. Manager Joe Frank will be attending.
 - Due to the CWC Board Retreat, the May LSPWCD Board meeting will be moved to May 19th. Work session at 8am, meeting will start at 9am.

General Matters:

- Perkins Canal – Manager Joe Frank submitted comments to the USACE on April 6th regarding their EIS scope of work for the Perkins Canal Project (NWO-2023-00518).
- South Platte Water Alliance -
 - SPWA also submitted comments to the USACE for the Perkins Canal Project.
 - SPWA hosted a community outreach meeting on April 7th at the Mitchek building at the Logan County Fairgrounds.
- South Platte Water Related Activities Program –
 - The 2nd Quarter SPWRAP Board meeting will take place on 4/16/2026 at Denver Water. The meeting will be available via Zoom as well.
- South Platte Basin Roundtable –
 - There is a South Platte Basin Roundtable meeting later today, Manager Frank will attend.

- Platte Valley Water Partnership –
 - Meetings with objectors for the purpose of settlement have been and will continue to take place.
 - Work is continuing on economics and affordability for the PVWP.
 - A change order to make the final report Draft on the Economic Study being performed by Stantec was presented to the board by Manager Frank. The Change would add \$6,000 to the total cost of the study.
 - Director Pflager made a motion to approve and it was seconded by director Gerk. Motion passed unanimously.

- Hydrologic Conditions
 - Manager Frank reported that conditions remain extremely dry while reservoirs started the year full or near full.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 11:47 p.m. Director Coyne made the motion to adjourn into executive session for the following:

1. For the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiation, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e).

Director Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Director Manuello is the Presiding Officer.

Vice President Manuello adjourned the executive session and reconvened the board meeting at approximately 1:40 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Director Poitz made the motion to adjourn. Director Coyne seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:47 p.m.