

**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**

**January 13, 2026**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Allen Coyne	Joe Patterson
Ken Fritzler	Cody Poitz
Bruce Gerk	Kent Pflager
Brian Kembel Zoom	Carson Smart
Gene Manuello	Brad Stromberger
Jack McClary	

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Dan Kendrick - Excused  
Bob Mari - Excused

**DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT:**

Joe Frank, General Manager  
Rick Fleharty, Technician  
Craig Brownell, Technician  
Deanna Eskew, Secretary

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

None

The meeting was called to order by President Fritzler.

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## **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2025 BOARD MINUTES:**

Director Coyne made the motion to approve the December 10, 2025 Board Minutes as amended. Director Manuello seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **FINANCE REPORT:**

Treasurer Coyne presented the finance report for the month of December. Director Coyne then made the motion to approve payment of District checks 17759-17791 as well as Julesburg Recharge checks #1281 - 1283. Director Pflager seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

- Director Pflager made the motion that the current slate of officers and board secretary be retained for the year 2026. Director Stromberger seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ken Fritzler, President  
Gene Manuello, Vice President  
Allen Coyne, Treasurer

Joe Frank, Board Secretary

- President Fritzler then appointed directors Brian Kembel and Joe Patterson to serve with the board officers on the executive committee for the year 2026.

Ken Fritzler, President  
Gene Manuello, Vice President  
Allen Coyne, Treasurer  
Brian Kembel, Executive Committee Director  
Joe Patterson, Executive Committee Director

## **WATER RIGHTS MONITORING:**

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

## **WATER ACTIVITIES ENTERPRISE:**

- *Julesburg Recharge Project:*
  - ✓ Manager Frank will finish the 2025 annual billing to the well owners after the South Platte Water Related Activities Program (SPWRAP) accretion credit payments are finalized.

- *Heyborne Recharge Project:*
  - ✓ Manager Frank noted that due to seepage issues it might be best to turn Heyborne off in February and then turn it back on in March. District staff will discuss that option with Kent Heyborne. Manager Frank also noted that over the last two months the amount of project water diverted was more than double the amount of water diverted in the last two years during those two months.
- *Watchorn Project:*
  - ✓ Manager Frank will discuss the possibility of adding the Watchorn -Johnson Lake Project to the District's augmentation plan in order to cover their out-of-priority depletions following next week's SPWRAP meeting.

## **LEGAL REPORT:**

- The District and Parker Water are continuing to schedule meetings with objectors in the 19CW3253 water rights case.
- The annual Notice of TABOR Refund report has been posted on the District's website and will also be submitted to the District Court.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

None

## **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Included in Manager Frank's report were the following:

### *Legislative Matters:*

- WRASP/Colorado Water Congress –
  - ✓ The 2026 Annual Water Congress Convention will be held January 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. The 2026 Theme will be: Water Storage. Manager Frank will be moderating a conveyance panel on January 29<sup>th</sup>, and Director Manuello will be participating in a panel about farmers being true stewards of the land.
  - ✓ Manager Frank reminded the directors that the legislature is again in session. WRASP meetings will be held at the District office each Friday at 3:00 p.m. in person or on Zoom. The Colorado Water Congress State Affairs meetings will also be held each Monday at 8:00 a.m. on Zoom.

### *General Matters:*

- 2026 Rate Schedule –
  - ✓ Director Coyne made the motion to approve a 2% increase in the District's rate schedule for 2026. Director Poitz seconded the motion which passed unanimously

- South Platte Water Alliance –
  - ✓ Manager Frank and board members discussed options for billing a portion of District services to the South Platte Water Alliance starting in 2026. Manager Frank will discuss options with the Water Alliance board.
  
- South Platte Water Related Activities Program/PRRIP –
  - ✓ The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter SPWRAP board meeting will be held on January 22, 2026 at LSPWCD.
  - ✓ There will be a follow-up meeting regarding recharge credit payments following the January SPWRAP meeting.
  
- Meetings –
  - ✓ The Four States Irrigation Council will be meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Northglenn.
  - ✓ Morgan County Conservation District held a Buy and Dry Seminar on December 17, 2025 in Fort Morgan. Director Gerke asked that the District send a Thank You note to MCCD for sponsoring the seminar.
  - ✓ The first annual Water Day at the Capital sponsored by Colorado Water Congress will be held on March 11, 2026.
  - ✓ Colorado Agriculture Water Alliance Irrigation Scheduling meeting will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> in Julesburg.
  - ✓ South Platte Basin Round Table will be meeting later today focusing on Low and No Regrets for storage.
  
- Platte Valley Water Partnership –
  - ✓ Manager Frank noted that expert reports were filed on January 5, 2026.
  - ✓ Manager Frank also stated that he has been working with Stantec on the economics and affordability aspects of the project.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At approximately 12:30 p.m. Director Coyne made the motion to adjourn into executive session for the following:

1. Conference with the District’s attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b).
2. 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 McClary seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Fritzler adjourned the executive session and reconvened the board meeting at approximately 1:48 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Manager Frank noted that there are two board vacancies. One each in Morgan and Logan counties.

Bids on the old District vehicles close on February 2, 2026

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Director Poitz made the motion to adjourn. Director Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:49 p.m.

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Deanna Eskew, District Secretary