

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**

March 10, 2026

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT:

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

VISITORS PRESENT:

Bruce Phillips District 64 Water Commissioner

The meeting was called to order by President Fritzler.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 13, 2026 BOARD MINUTES:

Director Mari made the motion to approve the January 13, 2026 Board Minutes as submitted. Director Coyne seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT:

Treasurer Coyne presented the finance report for the month of January. Director Coyne then made the motion to approve payment of District checks 17822-17850. The motion also included Julesburg Recharge, which had no checks. Director Patterson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Water Commissioner Phillips commented that he is seeing early demand for irrigation.

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 to the well owners is ready to mail now. An additional \$100/well assessment is being collected for SPWA assessments, that could be called later in the year. SPWRAP recharge payments will be about 50% of last years due to the smaller amount of recharge and more days of call.
- *Heyborne Recharge Project*:
 - Manager Frank noted that the groundwater levels have gone down and the pump is back on. Will monitor the groundwater levels and adjust the operations as needed.
- *Watchorn Project*:
 - The District will add the Watchorn-Johnson Lake Project to the District's augmentation plan in order to cover any out-of-priority depletions. A letter will be sent to Watchorn's, and an agreement will need to be signed.

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.

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.
 - Many Bills in the legislature are expected to have trouble getting out of the finance committee if they carry a fiscal note.
 - March 11th is Water Day at the Capital. Manager Frank will attend with Water Congress.

General Matters:

- LSPWCD -- Comments for the Perkins 404 permit *NWO-2023-00518* are due on April 6th. At the direction of the board, Manager Frank will work on comments to be submitted by LSPWCD and the board will review via email before submittal. Director suggestions for topics and areas to comment on will be submitted to Manager Frank.
- South Platte Water Alliance -
 - SPWA is working on comments to submit.
 - SPWA will host a community outreach and update meeting for the business community in April, on the status of the Perkins permitting and the lawsuit filed by Nebraska against Colorado in the US Supreme Court.
- South Platte Water Related Activities Program –
 - Manager Frank noted that the recharge credit payments to the augmentation plans for 2025 will be smaller than in previous years due to dry hydrology.
- South Platte Basin Roundtable –
 - There is a South Platte Basin Roundtable meeting later today, Manager Frank will not be attending because of the USACE 404 public meeting this evening in Julesburg.
- PVWP –
 - PVWP filed a revised decree along with supplemental reports on March 9th.
 - Meeting 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.
- Personnel Policy – Changes to the Personnel Policy consisting of revisions to base the work week and accrued time on a 40 hour work week. Timesheet and billing adjustments have been proposed to accommodate this. Comp time accrual will be based on a 40 hour work week as well.

- Director Coyne made a motion to approve the changes in the personnel policy and Director Pflager seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Hydrologic Conditions
 - Manager Frank reported that conditions are dry. Snowpack is currently at 63% and reservoirs are full or near full.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 11:51 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 Kendrick seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Fritzler adjourned the executive session and reconvened the board meeting at approximately 1:16 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Director Poitz made the motion to adjourn. Director McClary seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:18 p.m.

Deanna Eskew, District Secretary