

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**

May 19, 2026

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Kent Pflager – 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.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 14, 2026 BOARD MINUTES:

Director Coyne made the motion to approve the April 14, 2026 Board Minutes as submitted. Director Mari seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT:

Treasurer Coyne presented the finance report for the month of April. Director Coyne then made the motion to approve payment of District checks 17876-17908 as well as Julesburg Recharge checks #1296 - 1298. Director Kembel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

WATER RIGHTS MONITORING:

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

WATER ACTIVITIES ENTERPRISE:

- *Julesburg Recharge Project:*
Manager Frank stated that all but two of the bills sent out have been paid from the 2025 annual billing. Charles Julius and the Revere School District have yet to pay.

A letter has been mailed to Ted Watchorn explaining the prepayment costs that are needed to be paid upfront to add Johnson Lake evaporative depletions into the District's augmentation plan. Once the agreement has been signed and returned with payment Counsel Donovan will be able to get the filing to the Court.

Manager Frank also discussed conversations he and Craig Brownell have had with Rich Belt, Dale Parker, Brad Stromberger, and Counsel Donovan regarding net Tamarack State Wildlife Area recharge accretions that are available for lease by augmentation plans downstream of the Harmony Ditch. Work on agreements, augmentation plan accounting and proper notices are continuing and are being coordinated with SPWRAP, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the local augmentation plans interested in leasing recharge accretions from Tamarack this year.

- *Heyborne Recharge Project:*
Manager Frank also noted that the Heyborne Project is currently being used to retime excess augmentation water under the Julesburg Recharge Project and will cease operations the end of May.

LEGAL REPORT:

The board will need to go into executive session later in the meeting to review items regarding stipulations with the City of Sterling, Colorado Parks & Wildlife and BennT in case 19CW3253.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Included in the Manager's report were the following:

Legislative Matters:

- WRASP/Colorado Water Congress –
 - Since the legislative session is ending, the final meeting of WRASP for this year will be held on Friday, May 22, 2026 at 3:00 at the District office and Zoom.
 - Manager Frank attended the CWC Board Retreat on May 11th - 13th in Palisade/Grand Junction and gave a report of the various water tours he attended while on the retreat.

General Matters:

- South Platte Water Alliance: –
 - Manager Frank said that members of SPWA have been discussing the potential need for public outreach in order to post factual information to the public.
- South Platte Water Related Activities Program –
 - Manager Frank updated the board regarding the Carlson Recharge Project. He noted that SPWRAP has yet to determine if recharge wells are feasible.
- NE Colorado Water Cooperative:
 - The Water Cooperative will hold its Annual Membership meeting on Thursday, May 28th at 2:00 p.m. at LSPWCD.
- Platte Valley Water Partnership (PVWP) –
 - Ron Redd, General Manager of Parker Water and Sanitation District and Mark Marlowe, Director of Castle Rock Water attended the board meeting to advance discussions about current proceedings, economic affordability and next steps related to PVWP.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 1:30 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 Gerk seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Fritzler adjourned the executive session and reconvened the board meeting at approximately 2:55 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Stipulations and Cooperative Agreement -
 - Director Poitz made the motion to ratify the stipulation with the City of Sterling. Director Kendrick seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - Director Coyne made the motion to ratify the stipulation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Director Poitz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Director Coyne made the motion to approve the stipulation and cooperative agreement with BennT. Director Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - Director Coyne made the motion to authorize Manager Joe Frank to approve stipulations with objectors that are substantively the same as the current decree. Director Mari seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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 3:00 p.m.

Deanna Eskew, District Secretary

