

Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District

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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 June 9, 2026

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

Brian Kembel – Excused

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT:

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

VISITORS PRESENT:

- Bruce Phillips, District 64 Water Commissioner
- Audrey Engelhardt, District 64 Deputy Water Commissioner

The meeting was called to order by President Fritzler.

Approval of the May 12, 2026 board minutes

Director Coyne made the motion to approve the May 12, 2026 Board Minutes as submitted. Director Manuello seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Finance report

Treasurer Coyne presented the finance report for the month of May. Director Coyne then made the motion to approve payment of District checks 17909-17934 as well as Julesburg Recharge checks #1300-1301. Director Mari seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public comment

Bruce Phillips, Water Commissioner for District 64, introduced Audrey Englehardt to the board. Ms. Englehardt currently serves as the District 64 Deputy Water Commissioner.

Water rights monitoring

- Division I Water Court Resume’: No statements of opposition will be filed from the April 2026 Water Court Resume.’

Water activities enterprise

- Julesburg Recharge Project: Revere School District and Charles Julius have yet to pay their billing from the 2025 pumping season.
- Heyborne Recharge Project: Manager Frank noted that the project had been used to re-time excess augmentation water under the Julesburg Recharge Project but was shut down in May.

Legal report

Counsel Donovan has been working with Manager Frank, Rich Belt, Dale Parker, and Brad Stromberger regarding agreements between local augmentation plans interested in leasing recharge accretions downstream of the Harmony Ditch from Tamarack.

Manager Frank stated that the board will need to go into executive session later in the meeting to

Additional content from previous item: discuss the Platte Valley Water Partnership case 19CW3253 with the District’s attorney.

President's report

None

Manager's report

Included in the Manager’s report were the following:

Legislative matters

- WRASP/Colorado Water Congress –
 - This month’s Director packets also include legislative wrap ups from Colorado Water Congress and WRASP.
 - The 2026 CWC Summer Convention will be held in Steamboat Springs on August 18th – 20th.

General matters

- Perkins Canal –
 - Included in the director packets is the U.S. Solicitor General Brief for the United States as Amicus Curiae regarding the South Platte River Compact. The brief states in part that the “motion for leave to file a bill of complaint should be granted, limited to Nebraska’s claim that Colorado has violated Article IV of the South Platte River Compact ch. 46, 44 Stat. 195 (Compact). The motion should be denied in all other respects). The Brief also recommends a Special Master be brought into the case.
- South Platte Water Related Activities Program –
 - The 3rd quarter SPWRAP board meeting will be held on July 16th at Parker Water.
- South Platte Basin Roundtable –
 - The next meeting of the SPBRT will be held later today with a focus on No and Low Regrets.
- Platte Valley Water Partnership –
 - The board will need to go into executive session later today to discuss the Platte Valley Water Partnership case with the District’s attorney.
- Lost Creek Recharge Project –
 - Manager Frank reviewed the letter of support for Morgan County Quality Water District’s Grant Application to the Colorado Water Conservation Board to fully fund their grant request for the Lost Creek Recharge Project.
- South Platte Water Alliance –

Additional content from previous item:

- Manager Frank reiterated the potential need to provide factual information to the general public regarding the South Platte River Compact.
- Director Stromberger who also serves as President of the South Platte Water Alliance, also pointed out the need for an economic study.

NE Colorado Water Cooperative –

- The Annual Membership meeting of the Cooperative was held on Thursday May 28th at Lower's office. The Cooperative was provided updates on the Platte Valley Water Partnership, Perkins Canal, and the South Platte Water Alliance.
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Executive session

At approximately 11:41 a.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 Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Fritzler adjourned the executive session and reconvened the board meeting at approximately 1:18 p.m.

Old business

None

New business

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, Director Poitz made the motion to adjourn. Director Mari seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:19 p.m.