

Work Session: Prior to today's board meeting , the directors participated in a work session to discuss the proposed 2026 budget.

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

October 14, 2025

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Allen Coyne	Gene Manuello
Ken Fritzler	Jack McClary
Bruce Gerk	Joe Patterson
Brian Kembel Zoom	Kent Pflager
Dan Kendrick Zoom	Brad Stromberger

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Bob Mari
Cody Poitz
Bryan Ruf
Carson Smart

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT:

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

VISITORS PRESENT:

None

The meeting was called to order by President Fritzler.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 9TH BOARD MINUTES AND THE SEPTEMBER 29TH SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES.

- Approval of the September 9, 2025 Minutes –
Director Coyne made the motion to approve the September 9, 2025 Board Minutes as submitted. Director McClary seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Approval of the September 29, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes –
Director Coyne made the motion to approve the September 29, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Director Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT:

- Approval of the September, 2025 bills –
Treasurer Coyne presented the finance report for the month of September. Director Coyne then made the motion to approve payment of District checks 17676-17707. Director Pflager seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No Julesburg Recharge checks were issued in September.
- Presentation of the 2026 Proposed Budget –
Director Coyne made the motion to approve the 2026 proposed budget for publication and set the date for the public hearing to November 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Director Pflager seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Coyne made the motion to approve the 2026 health insurance at the proposed budgeted rate as well as the proposed 5% salary increase for the two full-time employees. Director Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

WATER RIGHTS MONITORING:

- Division I Water Court Resume’ –
No statements of opposition will be filed from the August, 2025 Water Court Resume’

WATER ACTIVITIES ENTERPRISE

- *Julesburg Recharge Project* – Charles Julius is the only remaining unpaid bill from the 2024 pumping season.

Manager Frank noted that the District did run the Beaver’s augmentation well for approximately seven days in September due to original supply shortage along with the need to keep the Beaver’s augmentation well operational since it had not run for augmentation purposes since 2007.

- *Heyborne Recharge Project* – Manager Frank updated the board on the proposed work at the Heyborne site.

LEGAL REPORT:

Manager Frank stated that the board will need to go into executive session to discuss the Platte Valley Water Partnership with legal counsel, in addition to ongoing legal advice.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- President Fritzler reminded the board that directors whose terms expire this year are:

Bruce Gerk
Bob Mari
Cody Poitz
Bryan Ruf
Brad Stromberger

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Included in Manager Frank’s report were the following:

- *South Platte Water Alliance* – Manager Frank updated the board on the current status of the Water Alliance and the South Platte Compact update.
- *WRASP/Colorado Water Congress* – Manager Frank reminded the board that the Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention will be held in Denver starting January 28, 2026.
- *South Platte Water Related Activities Program (SPWRAP)* – Manager Frank updated the board on the follow-up meeting members of the SPWRAP board had with the augmentation plan groups regarding recharge payments.

Tamarack recharge wells will be turned on the middle of November starting with the farthest outlying wells and then ultimately starting those wells closer to the river. The group is still working on an operations agreement.

- *South Platte Basin Round Table* –
The next meeting of the Round Table will be held later today.
- *Sterling Urban Renewal Authority* –
Manager Frank suggested and the board agreed to put the Sterling Urban Renewal Authority (SURA) Intergovernmental Agreement on hold.
- *Lower South Platte Children’s Water Festival* –
The 2025 Children’s Water Festival was held in Sterling on September 17th.
Approximately 550 fifth graders from area schools attended the event, which was well received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 11:58 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 Pflager seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Fritzler adjourned the executive session and reconvened the board meeting at approximately 1:28 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Director Coyne made the motion to adjourn. Director Pflager seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:29 p.m.

