Work Session: Prior to today's board meeting , the directors participated in a work session to discuss the 2027 budget. Upon adjournment of the board meeting, the directors participated in a work session to discuss future plans of the Platte Valley Water Partnership.

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

October 6, 2026

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Carson Smart – Excused
Brad Stromberger – 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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PUBLIC HEARING ON THE INCLUSION OF LANDS INTO THE DISTRICT:

President Fritzler recessed the Board meeting at approximately 9:42 a.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the Petition for Inclusion into the District for Mason Chamberlain in Sedgwick County. The hearing was held as stated in the legal notice submitted to the Julesburg Advocate.

President Fritzler asked if there were any persons present who wished to speak on the Petition. No comments were offered. The hearing was adjourned and the regular Board meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:44 a.m.

MOTION FOR INCLUSION OF LANDS INTO THE DISTRICT:

Manager Frank read the Petition for Inclusion of Land into the District from Mason Chamberlain in Sedgwick County. Director Coyne made the motion to grant the petition. Director Gerk seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 BOARD MINUTES:

Director Coyne made the motion to approve the September 8, 2026 Board Minutes as submitted. Director Poitz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT:

Approval of the September 2026 bills –
Treasurer Coyne presented the finance report for the month of September. Director Coyne then made the motion to approve payment of District checks 18020-118051. No checks were issued in September for the Julesburg Recharge Project. Director Pflager seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of the 2025 Audit –
David Kauffman from Liittjohann, Kauffman & Pederson CPA presented the 2025 audit to the board for their review. Director Coyne made the motion to approve the audit. Director Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Presentation of the 2027 Proposed Budget –
Director Coyne made the motion to approve the 2027 proposed budget for publication and set the date for the public hearing to November 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Director Pflager seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Director Pflager made the motion to go to EPO4 for medical insurance and add line item 404.10 to show a one-time hospital co-pay reimbursement of $500.00 for full-time employees for budget year 2027. Director Coyne seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT;

None

WATER RIGHTS MONITORING:

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

WATER ACTIVITIES ENTERPRISE:

Julesburg Recharge Project:
Manager Frank stated that the amended additions to the augmentation plan will be submitted the end of October to include the Watchorn-Johnson Lake and the Chamberlin well. At that time, a substitute supply plan will also be submitted.

Manager Frank noted that the District will be leasing Tamarack credits this year instead of aug well pumping. Approximately 70 a.f. was leased in September, forgoing the need for any aug well pumping. Manager Frank noted that leasing Tamarack credits should be added as a permanent source added to the District's augmentation decree.

Manager Frank discussed a letter he had received from Jim Kontny regarding the agreement between Mr. Kontny and the District. Mr. Kontny would like the District to submit a proposed agreement to transfer ownership. Discussion will need to be made between the District, Counsel Donovan, and the Sedgwick County Well Users as to the best way to proceed.

LEGAL REPORT:

Manager Frank stated that the two applicants who have submitted letters of interest for the one opening to the board from Logan County will be forwarded to Counsel Ryan who will file a motion with the Court requesting the Court fill the Logan County seat.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Included in the Manager's report were the following:

Legislative Matters:
WRASP/Colorado Water Congress –
Manager Frank reviewed a draft bill for 2027 that would amend the interruptible water supply agreement (IWSA) statute to allow thirty percent of irrigated lands under an individual farm or under a ditch system to be leased each year for ten years under the current State approved administrative process for ISA's
Manager Frank noted that there will be a WRASP meeting this Friday, October 9th at 3:00 p.m. at the District office. The meeting will also be available on Zoom.

General Matters:

South Platte Compact – South Platte Water Alliance
Manager Frank reviewed Colorado's response to the Nebraska lawsuit. Manager Frank noted

that Colorado has asked the Supreme Court to dismiss Article 8 of the lawsuit and has also filed a counterclaim against Nebraska's unmitigated injury to the compact from irrigation wells in Nebraska on the Lodgepole Creek and irrigation wells north of Julesburg in Nebraska.

South Platte Water Related Activities Program –
Manager Frank will be talking to Rich Belt, Ryan VanPelt, and Levi Kokes on Thursday, October 8th to discuss future SPWRAP operations. Tamarack well pumping and operations for the upcoming recharge season will be discussed.
SPWRAP will be including in their upcoming 2027 budget upgrades at Heyborne to address some of the icing and operations issues at the project.

South Platte Basin Roundtable –
The next meeting of the SPBRT will be held on October 13th at the Visitor Center at the North Sterling State Park. The meeting will include tours of the Sterling No 1 Diversion, North Sterling system, and the Balancing Rock overlook at the North Sterling Reservoir.

Platte Valley Water Partnership –
The Platte Valley Water Partnership has received a signed Decree for case #19CW3253. District staff and board will be discussing the next steps for the project during a work session after today's board meeting.

Meetings –
The South Platte Wetlands Focus Area Committee will be holding a meeting at the District office on October 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: None
NEW BUSINESS: None
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Director Poitz made the motion to adjourn. Director Gerk seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:03 p.m.

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Deanna Eskew, District Secretary