

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

November 12, 2024

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

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 OCTOBER 8, 2024 BOARD MINUTES:

Director Coyne made the motion to approve the October 8, 2024 Board Minutes as submitted. Director Kembel seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT:

Treasurer Coyne presented the finance report for the month of October. Director Coyne then made the motion to approve payment of District checks 17339-17366 as well as Julesburg Recharge check #1255. Director Poitz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2025 BUDGET:

President Fritzler recessed the board meeting at approximately 9:10 a.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the Proposed 2025 Budget. The legal notices were published in area newspapers of general circulation according to budget law. A copy of the budget was available at the District office. President Fritzler asked if there were any persons who had wished to speak concerning the budget either in person or by mail. No comments were offered. The hearing was adjourned, and the regular board meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 9:12 a.m. Director Coyne made the motion to adjourn into executive session for the following:

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),

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 Poitz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Fritzler adjourned the executive session and reconvened the board meeting at approximately 11:45 a.m.

CONSIDERATION & RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2025 BUDGET:

Director Coyne made the motion to pass the resolution to Adopt the 2025 Budget as presented. Director Manuello seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Coyne also made the motion to increase service fees by 25% for the year 2025 with a proposed 2% increase every year after 2025. Director Stromberger seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RIVER MONITORING:

Division I Water Court Resume':

No statements of opposition will be filed from the September Water Court Resume.'

Julesburg Recharge Project:

Manager Frank noted that even though three of the short-term Tamarack wells were turned on November 4th in order to better understand the interactions between Tamarack well pumping

and Peterson Ditch flows during drier conditions. To date, the flows at the Peterson Ditch have dropped some but not significantly.

Heyborne Recharge Project:

The site has been cleaned and is currently running at approximately 1,000 gpm.

Carlson Ditch:

Manager Frank updated the directors on the Lassiter (Carlson Ditch) Project in Sedgwick County.

LEGAL REPORT:

All expert reports were filed by November 4, 2024 which consisted of approximately 3,000 pages of material on the Platte Valley Water Partnership case.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Fritzler thanked the directors whose terms expire on December 31, 2024 for submitting their letters/resumes for re-appointment by the court.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Included in the Manager's report were the following:

Legislative Matters:

WRASP/Colorado Water Congress –

Colorado Dredge and Fill Program through the Colorado Department of Health & Environment (CDPHE) is still heavily involved in the Rule Making Workshops.

The 2025 CWC Board Retreat will be held in Sterling on June 19th – 21st of 2025.

General Matters:

Perkins Canal –

Manager Frank noted that the Perkins Canal workgroup has combined with the NE Colorado Water Cooperative meetings. The group has discussed how to bring Northern into the economic analysis discussion.

South Platte Water Related Activities Program –

The Platte River Recovery Program Governance Committee will be meeting in Sterling on the afternoon of December 10th and the morning of the 11th at Sky Ranch. The SPWRAP Annual Meeting will then be held the next day, December 11th at 2:00 p.m. at Lower's office.

South Platte Basin Roundtable –

The next meeting of the SPBRT will be held later today with a focus on two water supply reserve fund (WSRF) applications. Two local entities (Sedgwick County Well Users and the Sterling No. 1 Ditch Company) have applied for this round of WSRF grant funding.

Platte Valley Water Partnership –

Manager Frank reviewed the press release regarding Castle Rock joining the Partnership.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Director Coyne made the motion to adjourn. Director Kendrick seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:35 p.m.

Deanna Eskew, District Secretary