

**PANOCHÉ DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 12, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 9:00 am. Those present at the meeting were:

- Directors: Aaron Barcellos, President  
Steve Fausone, Secretary  
Beau Correia, Director
- Staff: Patrick McGowan, General Manager  
Marlene Brazil, Accounting Supervisor  
Juan Cadena, Water Resources Manager  
Chris Carlucci, Operations & Maintenance Manager  
Josh Marquez, Contracts Administrator  
Sandra Reyes, Water Master
- Others: Jeff Bryant, Firebaugh Canal Water District  
Chase Hurley, Water and Land Solutions  
Palmer McCoy, Grassland Basin Authority  
Phil Williams, Legal Counselor

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Barcellos called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Barcellos led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum of the Board of Directors was present.

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**PROPOSED 2026/2027 – 2030/2031 DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT FEES PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to Proposition 218, President Barcellos opened the public hearing at 9:08 am to receive testimony regarding the proposed drainage assessment fee rates. Receiving no testimony, President Barcellos closed the public hearing at 9:09 am.

General Manager Patrick McGowan reported to the board that the District received one protest letter, totaling 19.5 acres.

**BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVING RESOLUTION # 847-26 FORMALIZING AND ADOPTING THE DISTRICT'S 2026/2027 – 2030/2031 DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT FEES**

After discussion by the Board and upon a motion by Secretary Fausone and seconded by Director Correia, the Board approved Resolution # 847-26 formalizing and adopting the District's drainage assessment fees for 2026/2027 – 2030/2031, while acknowledging the one protest letter received.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes: Barcellos, Fausone, Correia  
Nays: None  
Absent: Callis, Western  
Abstain: None

**BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION # 848-26 ADOPTING DRAINAGE SERVICE FEES FOR WATER YEAR 2026-2027**

After discussion by the board and upon a motion by Director Correia and seconded by Secretary Fausone, the Board approved Resolution # 848-26 setting the Drainage Service Fees for WY2026-27 at \$39.49/AC for regular and \$ 8.71/AC for landlocked.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes: Barcellos, Fausone, Correia  
Nays: None  
Absent: Callis, Western  
Abstain: None

**BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVING APRIL 14, 2026, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Secretary Fausone and seconded by Director Correia, the Board approved the April 14, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes: Barcellos, Fausone, Correia  
Nays: None  
Absent: Callis, Western  
Abstain: None

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A. Accounts Payable**
- B. Monthly Financials**
- C. FYE 2025 Budget to Actual**
- D. Other financial matters**

Upon a motion by Secretary Fausone and seconded by Director Correia, the board approved the financial reports as presented by Accounting Supervisor Mrs. Brazil.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes: Barcellos, Fausone, Correia  
Nays: None  
Absent: Callis, Western  
Abstain: None

**REPORT ITEMS**

**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE**

Operations and Maintenance Manager Mr. Chris Carlucci reported on the following operations and maintenance activities for the month of April:

- General Maintenance.
- Staff sprayed Hicks and Courtney drains.
- Staff replaced road crossing on the Buick Drain.
- Charleston Drainage District – Checking oilers on CH-2 pumps.

## **DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT**

Water Resources Manager Juan Cadena reported on the following drainage management activities for the month of April:

- There has been no activity at Mud Slough, so Site D has continued to remain below the target.

## **GRASSLAND BASIN AUTHORITY**

The General Manager of the Grassland Basin Authority (GBA) Mr. Palmer McCoy presented the Board with a report on the following activities:

### I). Administrative:

- Insurance Claim – A tractor fire occurred on April 20, 2026, resulting in a loss of the tractor. Staff are currently working with the insurance adjuster to complete the final assessment of the attached disc.
- Water Board Tour – On May 6, 2026, Staff helped the GBA (David Cory and Chris Linneman) host a tour for 7 participants of the staff of the State Regional Water Board.

### II). Operations and Maintenance:

- New Storage Basins – Storm events in late December 2025 saturated the soil profile, resulting in significant runoff and widespread field ponding across the GBA service area. Diversions from the regional drainage system into the short-term storage basins occurred from December 26, 2025, through January 13, 2026. All four basins are now operational and are being used to mitigate flooding and support project operations. With minimal additional rainfall forecasted, stored water is currently being released for irrigation use.
- San Luis Drain – GBA staff continue to perform weekly inspections, debris removal, and maintenance to fencing, gates, and signage. Staff are coordination with Chris Linneman (Summers Engineering) to evaluate best practices for liner repairs and are currently exploring the use of Concrete Canvas. With the addition of a maintenance/spray technician, weed control efforts are expected to increase moving forward.
- DMC Tile Sumps/Pumps – On March 25, 2026, a representative from Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD) reported that Tile Sump/Pump F/G was offline and could not be restarted. Staff authorized Water Rec to complete the necessary repairs, with an estimated completion date of May 10, 2026.

At the April Board meeting, the Board authorized staff to proceed with repairs to the remaining tile systems as needed and to continue coordination with SLDMWA staff. This approach intended to achieve two primary objectives: (1) address and alleviate impacts to FCWD landowners, and (2) support the long-term transition of the tile sump/pump system back to SLDMWA.

- JTWG - We continue to manage irrigation scheduling based on available fields. First round of cutting started 5/6/26, market price still seems low but there is potential for an uptick based on water year.
- Old Ponds – At the April Board meeting, staff was authorized to utilize up to \$ 100,000 from reserve funds to complete the project. Staff is currently coordinating with contractors to determine the most effective path forward and will keep managers informed of progress.
- Well Pumping Program – Anderson Pump removed Well 8 and conducted a camera inspection. Upon receipt of the inspection report and cost estimate, staff will coordinate with management to determine next steps.

Wells 12, 13, and 15 have been operated and sampled. Staff are currently awaiting input from PWD regarding water delivery requests for the current year.

III). Prop 84:

- Awaiting DWR funding updates for the project, expected in late June, or July.
- OD Pump Station – Coordination continues with Garney Construction. Summers Engineering is assisting with the project punch list.
- O’Banion Area – Work has been halted due to funding issues. There is concern that the ripped acres may dry out and harden, potentially hindering future planting efforts. After discussions with local farmer Miguel Cory and Vice-President Western, both agreed this is a legitimate issue and recommended discing the areas. Bids have been received for discing approximately 600 acres, with the lowest bids totaling about \$15,000 per pass. Based on input staff estimates at least two passes will be needed for beneficial results and some areas possibly three times. This would bring the total to approximately \$45K.
- Westside Conveyance & Pumps – Work has been halted due to funding issues. Will be discussed at next GBA Board Meeting.
- Basin Project Phase 2 – This phase includes the middle siphon. License agreements with CCID were approved at the October GBA Board Meeting. McElvaney Construction has completed siphon installation through the Outside Canal and is currently installing control gates. They are working to complete the pipeline from the siphon to the control box for the new basins prior to the funding stop date.

**THE BOARD TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM STAFF ON VARIOUS MATTERS AFFECTING THE DISTRICT**

GM Mc Gowan reported on various items that had been completed, or were ongoing, on the Action Items List presented – dated April 14th, 2026.

**GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT**

General Manager Mr. McGowan reported on the following:

**A. Prop 84 Grant Program Fund Expiration**

GM McGowan noted that Prop 84 Grant Funding will likely be reinstated in July.

**B. GBD Steering Committee**

GM McGowan noted that Grassland Basin Drainers held a meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> and discussed AB2447 Water: Nitrogen Pollution Reduction Act written by Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. The bill would require the regional boards to adopt revised orders with waste discharge requirements on or before January 1, 2028, that are sufficient to meet certain reductions in nitrogen waste discharges.

**C. San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority (SJVDA)**

GM McGowan reported that the SJVDA meeting was deferred.

**D. Annexation**

GM McGowan reported that Water Resources Manager Juan Cadena will be attending the Fresno LAFCO meeting and action will be taken on this item.

**REPORTS ON OTHER ITEMS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2 (a)(3)**

There were no other items.

*At this time, the Board moved to re-open Agenda Item 3 – Resolution # 848-26 and include additional language from legal counsel suggested by the Board.*

*After discussion by the Board and upon a motion by Director Correia and seconded by Secretary Fausone the Board approved the additional language being added to Resolution # 848-26.*

*The vote on the matter was as follows:*

*Ayes: Barcellos, Fausone, Correia*

*Nays: None*

*Absent: Callis, Western*

*Abstain: None*

**PANOCHÉ DRAINAGE DISTRICT CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Legal Counsel**

At 11:37 am, the Board met in Closed Session to discuss with legal counsel on related anticipated litigation.

At 11:44 am, Mr. Williams stated that no reportable actions were taken in Closed session.

**PANOCHÉ WATER AND DRAINAGE DISTRICTS JOINT CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Legal Counsel**

At 11:35 am, the Boards met in Closed Session to discuss with legal counsel on related anticipated litigation.

At 11:36 am Mr. Williams stated that no reportable actions were taken in Closed Session.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES**

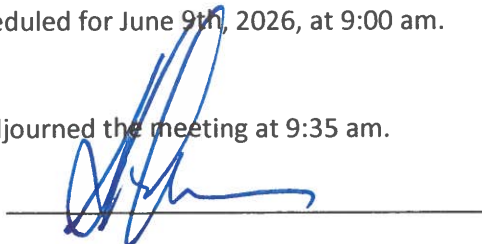
The next Regular meeting of the Board was scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 9:00 am.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, President Barcellos adjourned the meeting at 9:35 am.



Aaron Barcellos, President



Steve Fausone, Secretary