

**PANOCHÉ DRAINAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on September 8th, 2026, at 9:00 am. Those present at the meeting were:

Directors: Aaron Barcellos, President
Neill Callis, Vice-President
Steve Fausone, Secretary
Beau Correia, Director (Arrived 9:13 am)
Wayne Western, 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: Ajay Chopra, USC Farms, LLC
Palmer McCoy, Grassland Basin Authority
Darryl Smith, Bryant L. Jolley, CPA
Phil Williams, Legal Counselor

CALL TO ORDER

President Barcellos called the meeting to order at 9:02 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

BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVING AUGUST 11, 2026, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Upon a motion by Secretary Fausone and seconded by Vice-President Callis, the Board approved the August 11, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION # 850-26 CERTIFYING A NO-CONTEST IN THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION AND REQUESTING THE FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO APPOINT THOSE CANDIDATES WHO FILED DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY

General Manager Patrick McGowan reported that there were two positions on the Board of Directors set to expire in 2026 and the only two candidates to file declarations of candidacy were incumbent members of the Board of Directors. GM McGowan noted that Panoche Drainage District is requesting that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors appoint those two candidates who had filed their declaration of candidacy forms – Mr. Neill Callis and Mr. Wayne Western.

After discussion by the Board and upon a motion by Secretary Fausone and seconded by President Barcellos, the Board adopted Resolution # 850-26 certifying a no-contest election and appointing the two candidates who filed their forms as presented.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes: Barcellos, Callis, Fausone, Western
Nays: None
Absent: Correia
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 Vice-President Callis, the board approved the financial reports as presented by Accounting Supervisor Mrs. Brazil.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

- General Maintenance.
- Staff sprayed Hammond, Davidson, T-Canal drains.
- Staff cleaned out A&H drain. (Camp 13 to Hampshire Rd)
- Staff mowed 1144 and Davidson 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 August:

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

GRASSLAND BASIN AUTHORITY (GBA)

The General Manager of the Grassland Basin Authority, Mr. Palmer McCoy, reported on the following activities for August:

I). Administrative:

- Merging Grassland Basin Drainers with GBA: At its July 17th meeting, the GBD Steering Committee approved a recommendation to the SLDMWA Board to transfer all responsibilities and obligations under Orders R5-2019-0077 and R5-2015-0095-07, along with the San Luis Drain Use Agreement, to the GBA. The SLDMWA Board approved this recommendation at its August 6th meeting, and the GBA Board approved it at its August 17th meeting. Staff is working with Engineer Chris Linneman and legal counsel on next steps.

II). Insurance Claim:

- A tractor fire on April 20, 2026, resulted in a total loss. The Board approved applying the insurance claim payment toward purchase of a replacement tractor. Staff searched auctions and surrounding areas and, working with Director Western, identified a replacement; delivery is expected by September 10th.

III). Operations and Maintenance:

- Regulating Basins – All basins have been emptied; we used the water in the basins to irrigate directly into the fields, and we are assessing how the operation worked with Chris L to determine what changes are needed for the next time we need to use them.
- San Luis Drain – Several locks have been cut from gates over the past few weeks. GBA staff continue weekly inspections and maintenance of fencing, gates, signage, and debris removal. We are also evaluating installation of gates on the section between Henry Miller Road and Highway 165.
- DMC Tile Sumps/Pumps – Repairs to all six tile systems are complete. SLDMWA has been notified and is working to transition ongoing O&M responsibilities into their next fiscal year budget.
- JTWG – Irrigation scheduling continues based on field availability. We finished the first cutting. Market prices have increased to \$ 95 – 105 a ton.
- Well Pumping Program – Staff continues to work with PWD staff and deliver water as requested.

IV). Prop 84: Working with Contractors on work schedules to ensure we meet the completion date December, 2027.

- Funding – We received notice on July 27th to resume the project and have since met with contractors to confirm schedules will allow completion within the permitted timeframe. We are working with Mr. Linneman to reconcile remaining funds against outstanding project scope. Based on current estimates, funds may be insufficient to complete planting across the full area. Pending a full budget assessment, staff – in coordination with Mr. Linneman and President Cory has directed the contractor to pause work on the west side and concentrate efforts on the east side.
- O'Banion Area – We received notice to resume the project on July 27th and have had meetings with contractors to go over schedules to make sure we can still get everything done in the time permitted.
- Westside Conveyance & Pumps – We received notice to resume the project on July 27th and

have had meetings with contractors to go over schedules to make sure we can still get everything done in the time permitted.

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

GM McGowan reported on various items that had been completed, or were ongoing, on the Action Items List presented – dated August 11th, 2026, and answered any questions that the Board had. GM McGowan also highlighted the work that had been done by Accounting Supervisor Mrs. Brazil on reconciling the annexation expense and revenues.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Mr. McGowan reported on the following:

A. Prop 84

GM McGowan noted that Prop 84 had already been covered earlier in the meeting. GM McGowan also noted that Contracts Administrator Josh Marquez has been working with Engineer Chris Linneman on auditing the grant financials.

B. GBD Steering Committee

GM McGowan noted that the GBD Steering Committee meeting had been pushed.

C. San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority (SJVDA)

GM McGowan reported that most of the conversation at the SJVDA meeting centered on Nitrogen management.

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

There were no other items.

PANOCHE DRAINAGE DISTRICT CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Legal Counsel

At 12:02 pm, the Board met in Closed Session to discuss with legal counsel on related anticipated litigation.

At 12:05 pm, Mr. Williams stated that no reportable actions were taken in Closed session.

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

At 11:59 am, the Boards met in Closed Session to discuss with legal counsel on related anticipated litigation.

At 12:01 pm Mr. Williams stated that no reportable actions were taken in Closed Session.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

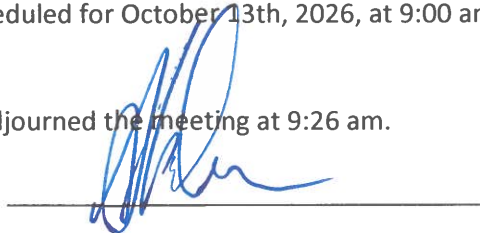
The next Regular meeting of the Board was scheduled for October 13th, 2026, at 9:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, President Barcellos adjourned the meeting at 9:26 am.



Aaron Barcellos, President



Steve Fausone, Secretary