PANOCHE DRAINAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on October 13th, 2026, at 9:00 am. Those present at the meeting were:

Directors:	Aaron Barcellos, President	
	Neill Callis, Vice-President	(Arrived 9:13 am)
	Steve Fausone, Secretary	
	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	
	Jeff Bryant, Firebaugh Canal Water District	
	Chris Linneman, Summers Engineering	
	Palmer McCoy, Grassland Basin Authority	
	Michelle Paul, California Farm Water Coalition	
	Phil Williams, Legal Counselor	

CALL TO ORDER
President Barcellos called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Upon a motion by Director Western and seconded by Secretary Fausone, the Board approved the September 8, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSED BOARD GOVERNANCE EXPECTATIONS

General Manager Patrick McGowan presented the Board with a draft of Panoche Drainage District's (PDD) Governance Expectations and Standards. GM McGowan explained that the document is meant to establish a clear and consistent understanding of the expectations associated with service on the PDD Board of Directors.

After discussion by the Board, it was decided that the Governance Expectations and Standards would be brought before the Board at November's meeting for consideration.

BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EASEMENT REQUEST FROM FIREBAUGH CANAL WATER DISTRICT

General Manager Patrick McGowan and FCWD General Manager Jeff Bryant reported that Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD) has requested that PDD grant PG&E an easement needed to provide additional electrical service for FCWD's solar project. The proposed easement would grant PG&E the right to construct, install, operate, maintain, inspect, replace, and access electric facilities within the designated easement area. GM McGowan further explained that based on the proposed location and purpose of the easement, staff does not anticipate a detriment to PDD or an adverse impact to the District's ability to operate and maintain its drainage facilities.

After discussion by the board an upon a motion by Vice-President Callis and seconded by Director Western, the board approved the easement request from Firebaugh Canal Water District.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

- General Maintenance.
- Staff sprayed Russell and Courtney drains.
- Staff disked A&H drain. (Camp 13 to Hampshire Rd)
- Staff disked 1144 drain.
- Staff mowed Buick and Davidson drains.
- 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 September:

- There has been no activity at Mud Slough, so Site D has continued to remain below the target. Rain expected in the next couple of weeks.

GRASSLAND BASIN AUTHORITY (GBA)

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

I). Administrative:

- Merging Grassland Basin Drainers with GBA: We continue to work with SLDMWA staff 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.

II). Operations and Maintenance:

- Gate locks continue to be cut, and we are evaluating the cost of modifying the existing lock protection to improve security. GBA staff continue to conduct weekly inspections, maintain fencing, gates, and signage, and remove debris. We are also evaluating the installation of additional gates along the section between Henry Miller Road and Highway 165.
- JTWG – We have completed the first cutting, but prospects for a second cutting are not favorable. Market prices have increased to $95 - $105 per ton.
- Well Pumping Program – Staff continues to work with PWD staff and deliver water as requested.

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

- O'Banion Area Fields – We continue to coordinate with the contractor to ensure all earthwork is completed in time for planting before anticipated rainfall.
- Westside Conveyance & Pumps – The pipelines and alfalfa valves have been installed. We continue to coordinate with the contractor on the electrical work schedule to ensure all remaining work is completed within the allotted timeframe.

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 September 8th, 2026, and answered any questions that the Board had.

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.

B. GBD Steering Committee

GM McGowan noted that the GBD Steering Committee meeting had already been covered earlier in the meeting, as well.

C. **San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority (SJVDA)**
Engineer Chris Linneman reported that most of the conversation at the SJVDA meeting centered on CV Salts and 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 11:45 am, the Board met in Closed Session to discuss with legal counsel on related anticipated litigation.
At 11:50 am, 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 11:37 am, the Boards 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.

FUTURE MEETING DATES
The next Regular meeting of the Board was scheduled for November 10th, 2026, at 9:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT
With no further business, President Barcellos adjourned the meeting at 9:40 am.

Aaron Barcellos, President

Steve Fausone, Secretary