

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF LITTLE THOMPSON WATER DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of Little Thompson Water District (LTWD) met in regular session on Thursday, March 19, 2026. Attendance was as follows:

Board of Directors:

Emily McMurtrey, President
Bill Szmyd, Vice-President
Larry Brandt, Treasurer
Ryan Heiland
Ed Martens
Garret Maurer
James J. Walker

Staff in Attendance:

Angela Diekhoff, Business Manager
Brad E. Eaton, District Engineer
Reese Saxton, Operations Manager
Kammy K. Tinney, Business Project Manager
Judy O'Malley, Recording Secretary

Other Attendees:

Beth Ann Parsons, Special Counsel; Carlson, Hammond & Paddock, L.L.C. (via telephone). There were no other attendees present.

CALL TO ORDER

The recitation of the *Pledge of Allegiance* occurred, followed by President Emily McMurtrey calling the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. President McMurtrey advised that Director Ryan Heiland was enroute. Mr. Heiland arrived at 5:15 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present with seven of seven members in attendance.

AGENDA REVIEW

Operations Manager Reese Saxton recommended an executive session per Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402 part 4 subpart e for determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators for item 6.3, Dry Creek Storage.

It was moved by Director Bill Szmyd and seconded by Director Garret Maurer to approve the agenda as presented, including discussion in Executive Session at the end of the Regular Meeting as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

President McMurtrey opened the Public Comments period at 5:06 p.m. There were no Public Comments on non-agenda items, and the Public Comments period was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Director Ed Martens and seconded by Director Szmyd to approve the Consent Agenda, including:

- **Minutes of the February 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting**
- **Tap List 722**
- **February 2026 Disbursements in the amount of \$3,904,673.47**

- ❖ **Operating Account: \$3,481,031.08**
 - **ACH Manual Check Numbers 7029 to 7103 - \$2,917,641.42**
 - **Manual Check Numbers 12796 to 12848- \$563,389.66**
 - ❖ **Payroll Account: \$423,642.39 (Two bi-weekly payroll periods paid in February)**
 - **Live Checks – 2265 to 2274 - \$1,200.09**
 - **ACH Transmittal Vouchers 2774 to 2790 - \$208,861.06**
 - **ACH Direct Deposit Numbers 15408 to 15489 - \$213,581.24**
 - **February 2026 Financial Report**
- The motion carried with six of seven board members present.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Hydrologic Conditions:

In the absence of Ms. Kauffman, Operations Manager Saxton reviewed the information pulled from a presentation by Northern Water Staff to the Northern Water Board on March 12, 2026. This information is used with LTWD's Water Shortage Contingency Plan to determine whether to move to a different action level from the current level of Green. If conditions arise that give LTWD concern for having adequate water supply to meet water demands, LTWD may move into action levels that incorporate actions to reduce water use through restrictions and increased rates on top tiers. Normal precipitation for February 2026, and water-year-to-date for the 2025-2026 water year (October 1, 2025, to March 10, 2026), had increased slightly since February 10, 2026, but the snowpack total in the Upper Colorado River Basin is at 64 percent of average and the South Platte River Basin is at 69 percent of average.

Discussion was held throughout regarding the following:

- Flights for the Colorado Airborne Snowpack Measurement (CASM) program were to begin the following week, a new lower trend line is being set for snowpack and stream flows, and the West Slope stream flow forecast.
- LTWD water supplies are expected to be enough for 2026, however, if conditions do not improve the 2027 water use will need to be strictly managed.
- The need to begin consistent messaging to customers regarding water conservation that is inline with other local water utilities.
- Suggestions on updating the Water Shortage Contingency Plan action levels rating dial, installing a rating dial at the roadside by the LTWD sign, include an agenda item at the April 16, 2026, board meeting to discuss actions to take after Northern Water announces any additional quota or holds at the current 50 percent.

Capital Project Scheduling:

District Engineer Brad E. Eaton presented the following information to the Board: Two major projects, the Markham Tank with Fill and Discharge Pipelines and the Hicks Farm Water Authority Plant and Piping Construction, budgeted for 2026, have been delayed due to circumstances outside of district control. As a result of these project delays, Staff requested the ability to utilize the excess Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds in 2026 to advance other important projects otherwise postponed due to overall CIP funding limitations.

Following discussion, **it was moved by Director Martens and seconded by Director Heiland to allow the changes to the CIP funding as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

Dry Creek Storage:

Operations Manager Saxton provided the following information to the Board: LTWD owns half of the 10,000 acre-feet (ac-ft) of storage available at Dry Creek Reservoir. Additional information was to be discussed in executive session per Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402 part 4 subpart e for determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators. Further discussion on utilizing the storage to the most beneficial use for the district was to be held in the executive session.

Carter Lake Filter Plant (CLFP):

Operations Manager Saxton provided a summary of the meeting:

- **Pretreatment.** The site plan for the pretreatment plant was submitted to Larimer County and is expected to take six to eight weeks for review. The Bureau of Reclamation is expected to take approximately two months to review the relocation of electric service.
- **South Plant Filters 17 and 18.** The recoating project is going smoothly and is expected to be completed by the end of April.
- **Northern Water's Annual Canal Shutdown.** The canal shutdown went smoothly and there were no taste and odor calls from customers. Director Martens mentioned that he thought the water felt different. Mr. Saxton and Director Heiland both asked CLFP Staff if more water from Dry Creek Reservoir could be pumped into the system, especially during the winter months.
- **5 Million Gallon (M-G) Concrete Tank Hatch.** The replacement hatch arrived much earlier than expected and the work to replace the hatch will begin soon.
- **The Town of Johnstown (Johnstown).** Johnstown has asked to use LTWD water while working on their new treatment plant next week.

Public Hearing: Action Item – Motion to Approve: Resolutions 2026-05 Inclusions and 2026-06 Exclusions:

The Public Hearing was properly publicized. No written objections were received. President McMurtrey opened the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m. There were no public comments, and the Public Hearing was closed.

It was moved by Director Szmyd and seconded by President McMurtrey to adopt Resolutions 2026-05 Inclusions and 2026-06 Exclusions of properties located in Larimer and Weld Counties as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

District Manager's Report: In the absence of District Manager Kauffman, Operations Manager Saxton presented the following information to the Board:

- **City of Greeley (Greeley).** District Engineer Eaton and Ms. Kauffman met with Adam Prior of Greeley Water on February 25 to discuss interconnects and services around the Highway (Hwy) 34 and Weld County Road (WCR) 17 interchange. More discussion will be held regarding this area in the coming year as LTWD infrastructure overlaps Greeley's expanding service area.

- **St. Vrain and Left Hand Conservancy District (SVLHCD) 2026 Water Symposium.** Ms. Kauffman attended the SVLHCD on February 26, 2026. Topics included legislative updates on Waters of the US and management of them in Colorado, in stream flow management, invasive species (mussels), funding opportunities and updates on projects in the SVLHCD.
- **NoCo Water Alliance.** Ms. Kauffman and Mr. Saxton attended the NoCo Water Alliance meeting on March 5, 2026. The main points of discussion continue to be membership (the Town of Kersey requested membership) and how best to engage agricultural entities. Also discussed was keeping the focus on getting more traction on the preservation principles with engaging the agricultural community while considering focus groups. A potential focus group could include one for legislative topics.

Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of agencies outside of Northern Colorado joining the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP).

- **Hicks Legacy Water Treatment Authority.** The eight participating agencies met on March 5 to continue discussions around the formation of the authority. The engineering Request for Proposals was sent out to qualified engineers and is due back in April.
- **South Platte Roundtable.** President McMurtrey advised the Board that Ms. Kauffman attended her first meeting and was received very well. Ms. Kauffman has submitted a letter of interest to fill a vacancy on the round table board.

Business Manager's Report: Business Manager Angela Diekhoff presented the following information to the Board:

- **Business Department Relocation.** The Business Department moved into the large conference room during the remodel. Ms. Diekhoff believes it is proving to be a positive experience. The five members of the group are settled in cubicles and the attitude and laughs have been encouraging.
- **New LTWD Phone System.** The new phone system will be installed between April 14 and 16.
- **Drought Situation Phone Calls.** There has been an increase in phone calls regarding water conservation, the possibility of water use restrictions, and the affects on customers' water allotments.
- **Rate Study.** LTWD has engaged Willdan to complete a rate study and hopes to have the presentation at the June board meeting.

Discussion occurred regarding answers for customers before the time period when over-allotment charges typically begin to be added to bills. Some customers claim they should be considered as agricultural not residential properties and Staff would like the Board to assist on deciding on that distinction.

- **Audit.** The auditors are finishing up, and Ms. Diekhoff hopes they will be presenting the results at the May board meeting.
- **Eye-On-Water (EOW).** Sign-ups continue to increase with 41 new accounts in February.

Discussion occurred regarding the following:

- The capabilities of EOW in determining customer water use if they do not sign-up for an account and what data is available to the District from the software either way.

- The likely need for an additional Staff member to process any available data on a regular basis.
- If LTWD or Badger owns the equipment and the data.
- The current number of customer leaks and the Water Resources Department reviewing a better way to track and manage leaks on the LTWD system.
- Scheduling a Badger representative to give a presentation to the Board at a Work Session.

District Engineer's Report: District Engineer Eaton presented the following information to the Board:

- **Commitment to Serve Requests:** LTWD received 473 new taps, and three new Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Commitment to Serve Requests in February, bringing the 2026 year-to-date total to 474 new taps and three ADUs.
- **Capital Projects:** The Northeast Transmission Line relocation work at the intersection of WCR 13 and 54 is complete. The consultant for the Water System Master Plan is making good progress and Staff hope to see a draft report by the end of the second quarter.
- **Development Projects:** With the continued mild weather, all active developments remain busy. All Barefoot Lakes filings are very busy. Welker Farms is a development that has been around for a long time and is starting to make headway. A commitment letter is in process for a proposed 7-11 at the northwest corner of Hwy 287 and 60.
- **Other Engineering Activities:** District-wide construction activities for both development and capital projects continue to be very active and LTWD inspectors have been extremely busy. Ryan Redd, LTWD Civil Engineer I, accepted a new position with the City of Englewood and his last day with the District was March 12. Advertising to fill the position will begin later this month.

Discussion followed regarding ways to keep LTWD new hires on-board for longer time periods and the changing expectations of younger engineers of what their responsibilities should be. Another challenge is that more people want to work remotely full-time, however, all of the departments are very inter-connected, and Staff need to be able to communicate with each other easily and efficiently.

Water Resources Manager's Report: Operations Manager Saxton presented the following information to the Board:

- **Water Resources Manager.** James Sutherland started as the new Water Resources Manger on March 2. He was not available for the Board Meeting as he had plans prior to being hired.
- **Water Use.** The February water use was on par with projections; however, many of the Board Members and Staff noted they have seen irrigation systems already turned on for the season.
- **Cumulative Water Use 2026 Water Year.** Dry Creek Reservoir storage was down a little, but LTWD expected filling to begin shortly.
- **Local Weather and Precipitation.** There has been no rain in February and March and the average temperatures were well above normal. Boulder, Larimer and western Weld counties are in severe drought. The area can recover quickly if there are a few heavy rainstorms.

Operations Manager's Report and Water Quality Update: Operations Manager Saxton presented the following information to the Board:

- **Locates and Leaks.** Locates sharply decreased and were below the 10 year average yet leaks had increased greatly for February.
- **Project Updates and Notes.** The Operations Crews have been busy completing Pressure Release Valve (PRV) maintenance and inspections. The District has 67 PRV vaults, with two PRVs in each vault. Crews inspect and perform maintenance on each one every year, and complete rebuilding every six years.

Business Project Manager's Report: Business Project Manager Kammy Tinney presented the following information to the Board:

- **Office Remodel, Site Improvement and Accessory Structure Project.** Relocation of Customer Service, Finance, and Operations staff to the east side of the building, shop, and Dry Creek building, and office furniture and equipment moved to storage was completed on February 20. Construction of the office remodel began on March 2, with demolition occurring the past two weeks. A temporary construction trailer with additional meeting/office space and an additional restroom for internal staff use was up and running on February 27; Wi-Fi capable the following week. Coordination with the Project Manager is ongoing daily and will continue throughout the project.

Staff met onsite with Town of Berthoud planning staff on March 16 to address site plan concerns, annexation into the town requiring construction of a regional trail, and hydrant access for fire suppression needs to the pipe shed once constructed.

- **2026 Legislative Session.** The 2026 Legislative Session convened on January 14, 2026, with regular Special District Association (SDA) briefings that began on January 20. Proposed legislation introduced to date that may impact LTWD includes:
 - ❖ HB26-1113 Modifications to Elections
 - ❖ HB26-1272 Extreme Temperatures Worker Protections
 - ❖ SB26-061 Publication Counties without Legal Newspapers
 - ❖ SB26-119 Authorize Electronic Ballot Return
- **Leadership Development.** Department Managers and the District Manager continue to work through reviews of twelve modules within their schedules and follow up as a group every other week. The management team will be joined in person on April 1 for in-depth discussion of Module 8 – Difficult Conversations, and Module 9 – Decoding Disruptions.
- **Employee Engagement Activities.** KUDOS recognition continues with the Backhoe Crew and Customer Service teams continuing to receive rave reviews from our customers. The first installment of our internal newsletter for 2026 was distributed on March 13, and we are coordinating an off-site activity for All staff for some time in April.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

- Director Larry Brandt advised that he had received a call from someone in California asking Mr. Brandt to check on a radio transmitter site that had stopped working. Mr. Brandt reported that Xcel Energy had turned the power off in the area for several days due to the threat of high winds causing electrical lines to spark wildfires.
- Director Martens questioned the parameters that Northern Water uses to set the quotas. President McMurtrey advised what West and East Slope supplies are looked at along with snowpack and drought conditions.

- President McMurtrey advised that some units of Windy Gap water were up for sale. It was recommended that LTWD not purchase any of them.
- Director Heiland noted that he had been contacted by a customer, Chris Downey, who had attended the February 19, 2026, board meeting, requesting additional information on how to further his water conservation efforts.
- Director Szmyd advised that the City of Loveland (Loveland) was still in the process of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated lead service line inventory that all water providers are required to complete. Loveland homeowners are responsible for the downstream water service lines, as are LTWD customers. Mr. Szmyd questioned if there are any home warranty services the district could work with to provide wholesale coverage for all customers. Discussion followed regarding options Staff have already researched and the assurance of further research by Staff.

President McMurtrey excused Staff who would not be attending the Executive Session and called for a break at 7:30 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:36 p.m. Attorney Parsons joined the meeting at this time.

It was moved by President McMurtrey and seconded by Director Szmyd to adjourn to Executive Session subject to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402 part 4 subpart e for Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators for item 6.3, Dry Creek Storage at 7:37 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 8:01 p.m. upon motion duly made by Director Szmyd and seconded by President McMurtrey. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Director Szmyd and seconded by President McMurtrey to confirm the presented lease agreement as written. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Director Martens seconded by President McMurtrey to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Reese Saxton
Acting Secretary*