



Perkins, Chase and  
Dundy Counties  
Headquarters in Imperial  
[www.urnrd.org](http://www.urnrd.org)

# Upper Republican NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1140  
511 East 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Imperial, NE 69033  
Phone 888-883-9066

## **Board of Directors Regular Meeting November 8, 2022 at 9:00 am 511 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Imperial, NE**

Agendas were sent to all Board Members and others requesting agendas. Agendas were posted in the NRD Office in Imperial, the NRCS Offices in Grant and Imperial, and the FSA Office in Benkelman, and posted on the District website. The meeting was announced over KADL-Imperial, KRVN-Lexington and KOGA-Ogallala and published in area newspapers.

**Board Members Present:** Dave Brown, Dean Large, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Tom Schroder, Brock Stromberger, CJ Swanson and Tyler Turner.

**Board Member Absent:** Janice Stroup, Jay Lee, Jason Kunkel.

**NRD Staff:** Jasper Fanning, Julia Strand and Deb Hayes.

**Others Present:** Joel Burke, (NRD Legal Counsel), Andy Keep (NRCS).

### **Information emailed to Directors:**

Agenda	Variance information
Regular Board Meeting minutes October 4, 2022	Long Range Plan

### **Information distributed at Board meeting:**

Agenda	NRCS Report
Regular Board Meeting minutes October 4, 2022	Variance Information
Financial reports	Long Range Plan

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Chairman Martin announced that the Open Meetings Act was posted in the NRD Office.

Jay Lee, Jason Kunkel and Janice Stroup were excused from today's meeting.

Introductions of Board Members, Staff and Public.

### **MINUTES:**

- Stromberger moved to approve the October 4, 2022, Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The Financial Report was presented to the Board.

- Large moved to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the Accounts Payable. Seconded by Brown.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and reported on the Nebraska Great Plains Grassland Initiative.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated November 8, 2022, to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Seconded by Stromberger.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

The Groundwater Committee will be meeting after the Board meeting today.

**VARIANCE COMMITTEE:**

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance Committee report.

#1 Philip Weston Friesen is requesting to drill a new irrigation well in the NE ¼ 19-12-38 to irrigate 126.0 certified acres currently being irrigated by the well in the SE ¼ 19-12-38. He is also requesting no reduction in certified acres due to historical use. He would also like to continue to use the well in the SE ¼ to irrigate the 125.6 certified acres in the SE ¼ 19-12-38. The well in the SE ¼ 19-12-38 currently irrigates both fields in the E ½ 19-12-38 and he would like to be able to better irrigate both fields. The single well does not allow him to water both fields as well as he would like to be able to. The 5-year historical average use for the NE 19-12-38 is 10.96 inches, the transferable acres based on historical use are 106.2 The SDF in the E ½ 19-12-38 is 0.01%. The Board reviewed this application, and this will be on the December agenda for Board consideration.

#2 Ted and Maureen Behlke, Eric and Carrie Behlke and Nathan and Allie Behlke are requesting to transfer 100% of the available certified acres from the SW ¼ 24-2-38 and NW ¼ 31-2-37 to the S ½ 28-4-37. The acres transferred will be based on the 2018-2022 average use. Any non-transferable certified acres will be decertified. The two irrigation wells on the former properties will be retired and a new irrigation well will be drilled on the latter property. Consistent with other wells in the immediate vicinity, the capacity of the well on the former property has dwindled from historical standards. Therefore, the request is being made to transfer water rights from the current area to an area with productive farm ground with a greater potential for a more consistent water supply. The distance of the transfer from the SW 24-2-38 to S ½ 28-4-37 is 11.1 miles. The distance of the transfer from the NW 31-2-37 to S ½ 28-4-37 is 12.1 miles. The SDF at SW 4-2-38 is 17.1%, the SDF at NW 31-2-37 is 17.3%, the SDF at S ½ 28-4-37 is 3.9% for and SDF decrease of about 13.3%. The Board reviewed this application, and this will be on the December agenda for Board consideration.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:** None.

**LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** None.

**REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:**

Jasper reported that there was nothing new to report. Everyone is working on usage reports so they can get them to the State.

**AUGMENTATION PROJECT:**

Jasper reported on the Carbon Storage contract. Nate has been working with a group on carbon storage contract. A group had approached NCORPE about this and Don Blankenau has been negotiating the contract with the company. Nate is working on contract for 6000 acres on the Rock Creek property.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Jasper presented the Long-Range Plan to the Board for approval. The Board had received this by email before the meeting to review.

- Brown moved to approve the Long-Range Implementation Plan for 2023 – 20327.  
Seconded by Turner.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3 absent. Motion carried.

Jasper reported on contractor PSC working on computer programming related to real time telemetry meter readings. The NRD has been working with gWorks and there were some issues including being unable to handle big changes to the database and some performance issues. Jasper had asked them about transferring ownership of the site to us and they would like \$90,000 for us to do this. Jasper is still working on the best solution and other opportunities that may be available.

**INFORMATION & EDUCATION:** No report.

**LEGISLATION:** No report.

**STATE ASSOCIATION:** No report.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:48 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson  
Secretary/Treasurer