UPPER REPUBLICAN NRD
Perkins, Chase and
Dundy Counties
Headquarters in Imperial
www.urnrd.org

Upper Republican
Natural Resources District

P.O. Box 1140
511 East 5th St.
Imperial, NE 69033
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Board of Directors Regular Meeting
March 17, 2026, at 9:00 am
511 East 5th 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 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, Terry Martin, CJ Swanson, Tom Schroder, Brock Stromberger, Tyler Turner, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Jay Lee.
Board Members Absent:
NRD Staff: Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Julia Strand, and Deb Hayes.
Others: Present: Andy Keep (NRCS), Joel Burke (Attorney), Beau Kramer, and Larry Winger.

Information emailed to Directors:
Agenda
Regular Board meeting minutes January 6, 2026

Information distributed at Board meeting:
Agenda
Regular Board meeting minutes February 3, 2026
Harry Merrihew resignation
Financial reports
NRCS report
Rules & Regulations Order #37
Variance request information
Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
Chairman Martin announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the back wall.

DIRECTORS' ABSENCES:
Chairman Martin accepted Harry Merrihew's letter of resignation.

UPPER REPUBLICAN NRD RULES AND REGULATIONS:
Chairman Martin opened the Rules and Regulations Order #37 Public Hearing at 9:06 am. Chairman Martin appoint Joel Burke as the Hearing examiner. Joel presented Exhibits 1-3, which are the Publisher Affidavits from the Grant Tribune, Imperial Republican and Scoop Media, Exhibit #4 is the proposed Rules and Regulations Order #4. Joel asked if there was anyone who had testimony to present and there was none. Mr. Burke stated that the Public Hearing would stay open until the Rules and Regulations item on the agenda was addressed.

MINUTES:
- Brown moved to approve the February 3, 2026, Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Second by Stromberger.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 1-abstain. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
The Financial report was presented to the Board.

Jasper reported to the Board that a CDARS of approximately $2.3 million is coming due for renewal. Jasper is trying to get a 4% match which is what we are paying on bonds. Discussion was held on taking between two to four million dollars out of CDARS and paying off part of the bonds.

- Large moved to allow the Manager and Treasurer to pay off the bonds if the bank cannot match the 4% and to use their discretion on pay off amounts. Second by Lee.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

- Kunkel moved to pay the accounts payable and to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Brown.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORT:
Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and reported that the US Department of Agriculture announced the enrollment periods for agricultural producers and landowners to submit offers for the CRP program. The first continuous CRP batching period ends March 20, 2026, and after this date will be considered for acceptance in subsequent batching periods if acreage remains available.

- Stromberger moved to approve the NRCS report of Planning activity dated February 27, 2026 to include the Conservation plans as signed for Dundy and Perkins County. Second by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:
Mr. Burke asked if there was anyone that wanted to present testimony for the Public Hearing. Since there was no testimony, the Public Hearing was closed at 9:23.
The Board and Jasper discussed the Rules and Regulations and the allocation. The adoption of the allocation will be an agenda item for the April 7, 2026 Regular Board meeting.

- Large moved to adopt the Rules and Regulations Order #37 as presented. Second by Brown.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 1-no. Motion carried. Voting yes: Brown, Large, Lee, Martin, Schroder, Stromberger, Swanson, and Turner. Voting no: Kunkel.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:
Tyler Turner presented the Variance request of Supreme Investments and Jean Flaherty to decommission the well on NE 30-3-38 and decertify all 129.9 certified acres to us as offset for additional certified acres added to seven other fields. They would like to transfer all 129.9 certified acres with no reduction in certified acres due to historical use or SDF increase. The NW 7-3-38 will

get 15 certified acres, NE 7-3-38 will get 15 certified acres, SW 12-4-39 will get 10 certified acres, SW 24-4-39 will get 6 certified acres, NW 25-4-39 will get 35.9 certified acres, NW 30-4-38 will get 10 certified acres and SW 23-4-39 will get 38 certified acres.

- Turner of behalf of the Variance Committees recommendation to approve Variance request of Supreme Investments and Jean Flaherty to decommission the well on NE 30-3-38 and decertify all 129.9 certified acres to us as offset for additional certified acres added to seven other fields. They would like to transfer all 129.9 certified acres with no reduction in certified acres due to historical use or SDF increase. The NW 7-3-38 will get 15 certified acres, NE 7-3-38 will get 15 certified acres, SW 12-4-39 will get 10 certified acres, SW 24-4-39 will get 6 certified acres, NW 25-4-39 will get 35.9 certified acres, NW 30-4-38 will get 10 certified acres and SW 23-4-39 will get 38 certified acres. With the stipulation that they cannot increase the number of acres that are currently being irrigated.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 1-abstain. Motion carried.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Large moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated March 17, 2026 to include the NSWCP applications and the Recertification of acres for Stromberger Farms. Second by Brown.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 1-abstain. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: None

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jasper discussed sponsoring the UNL Water tour with the Board. UNL and Central Public Power District do a Basin tour every year and this year it is in the Republican basin and has asked URNRD to help with the tour and to help sponsor the tour by donating $500 to $1000.

- Brown moved to sponsor the UNL Water Tour and donate $1000. Second by Stromberger.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

Julia presented the Board with modeling reports she has been working on. She reviewed the Groundwater level changes caused by allocation transfers and wells with 50 ft or less of saturated thickness.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate presented the prescribed grazing agreement with the NRD and Larry Winger to the Board.

- Turner moved to approve the prescribed grazing agreement with Larry Winger. Second by Lee.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: None

LEGISLATION: None

STATE ASSOCIATION: None

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: None

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:27 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer

4-7-26