

Upper Republican
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting
April 7, 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: None

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

Others: Present: Andy Keep (NRCS).

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda

Regular Board meeting minutes March 17, 2026

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Regular Board meeting minutes March 17, 2026

Financial reports

NRCS report and Report of Planning Activity

Variance request information

Samples of advertising for groundwater allocation and carryforward limits

Variance request information

Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Martin announced that the Open Meetings Act are posted on the back wall.

DIRECTORS' ABSENCES: None

MINUTES:

✚ Brown moved to approve the March 17, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented.

Second by Stromberger.

Roll call vote: 6-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

Tyler Turner arrived at 9:04 am.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial report was presented to the Board.

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

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

Tom Schroder arrived at 9:06 am.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and reported on agricultural operations that have been impacted by recent wildfires. The USDA has technical and financial assistance available to help farmers and livestock producers recover from adverse natural disasters.

- ✚ Large moved to approve the NRCS report of planning activity dated March 31, 2026, to include the conservation plans as signed for Perkins County. Second by Swanson.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Jasper reviewed the establishment of groundwater allocations and carryforward limits for the 2023-2027 allocation period and to have this effective on May 1, 2026 to coincide with Rules and Regulations Order #37.

- ✚ Large moved to approve the Order of Establishment of Groundwater Allocations and Carryforward Limits for the 2023-2027 allocation period effective May 1, 2026. Second by Stromberger.

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

Jasper and the Board reviewed the Public Notice of Meeting and Notice of Adoption and the Establishment of Notice Requirements for Public Hearing to Amend Groundwater Allocations or Allocation periods. They discussed publication of these items and how long to publish these items.

Jay Lee arrived at 9:14 am.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

1. Spuds & Suds & Black Shirt Feeders

Blackshirt Feeders purchased the N1/2 26-2-42 from Spuds & Suds, there are two irrigated circles on the property and six irrigation wells currently used to water the two circles. Blackshirt Feeders has determined the need for only two of these wells, and Spuds & Suds would like to use the remaining four wells to water other fields as offset for a new irrigation well. Spuds & Suds would like to decommission two of the wells located on N1/2 26-2-42, drill a new irrigation well in SW1/4 14-2-42 and connect it to well G-072522 to water the pivot in that section. The well located in NW1/4NW1/4 24-2-42, would be disconnected the well in NE 26-2-42 and used to water S2 13-2-42, connecting it to well G-074573. The well located in NW1/4SW1/4 13-2-42 would be disconnected from NW 26-2-42 and used to water SE 14-2-42, which is not currently watered by any other wells. NE 26-2-42 currently has 126.4 certified acres and NW 26-2-42 currently has 127.9 certified acres. Blackshirt Feeders would like to keep 200.0 certified acres across both fields and is allowing Spuds & Suds to transfer the remaining 54.3 certified acres off. Spuds & Suds would like to transfer these acres to the two fields in E1/2 25-3-42. NE 25-3-42 would receive 26.4 certified acres and SE 25-3-42 would receive 27.9 certified acres. Spuds & Suds would like to increase their pumping capacity on

S2 13-2-42 and SW 14-2-42 as the current wells cannot pump much water. They would like to be able to begin watering SE 14-2-42. They would like to provide extra allocation to the fields in E ½ 25-3-42 which are pooled with the fields in N ½ 26-2-42 but outside the floating township. The 10-year historical averages : NW 26-2-42: 22.84 inches; NE 26-2-42: 14.25 inches, the SDF at N1/2 26-2-42 is 27% and the SDF at E1/2 25-3-42 is 5.3% for a decrease of 21.7%, Both NE 25-3-42 and SE 25-3-42 currently have 126.0 certified acres, NE 26-2-42 is 6.1 miles from NE 25-3-42 and NW 26-2-42 is 5.7 miles from SE 25-3-42

2. Eric & Brenda German.

They are asking to transfer 10 certified acres from SW 27-6-38 to NW 26-7-38 as extra allocation. NW 26-7-38 is better ground than SW 27-6-38 and the allocation will be better used in the new location. The two fields are one section outside of the floating township, otherwise the transfer conforms to all NRD rules pertaining to historical use and SDF. The 10-year historical average on SW 27-6-38 is 14.24 inches, the carryforward balance on SW 27-6-38 is 17.7 inches and there is a 0.2-inch pending penalty. The SDF on SW 27-6-38 is 63% and the SDF on NW 26-7-38 is 50%, the transfer distance is 6.5 miles.


3. Steve Wallin-Stan Heinze.

They would like to take 50.0 certified acres off E2 26-8-42 and add 50.0 certified acres to SW 27-7-40 to cover the majority of remaining satellite acres. They would like no reduction in certified acres due to SDF increase. This allocation offset will be outside of a floating township and the SDF is increasing from E2 26-8-42 to SW 27-7-40. The 10-year historical use of E2 26-8-42 is 14.7 inches, the SDF of E2 26-8-42 is 3.1% and the SDF of SW 27-7-40 is 38.3% for an increase of 35.2% which leads to a loss of 53.8 certified acres. The distance between the two wells is twelve miles.

4. Rod Johnson and Ronal Johnson.

This has changed from the initial request. They are wanting to take 35.0 certified acres off SE 34-5-39 and add 35.0 certified acres with no reduction in certified acres due to historical use or SDF increase. Then add NE 27-5-39 to pool C-143 F1 beginning in 2026 and average the beginning allocations. There are about 120 acres being irrigated on NE 27-5-39 and only 77.8 certified acres, adding the acres would bring the certified acres closer to the actual irrigated acres, allowing for better management of water. The pivot on SE 34-5-39 was shortened due to the topography of the irrigated ground and has extra certified acres. NE 27-5-39 was purchased by Rod in 2020 and was never added to the pool so he would like to add it now to help with the use on the field since the certified acres are less than the actual acres. NE 27-5-39 had 77.8 certified acres and waters about 120 acres and would have 112.8 certified acres if the 35.05 acres were added, the 10-year average use on SE 34-5-39 is 10.4 inches, the SDF on SE 34-5-39 is 16.9% and the SDF on NE 27-5-39 is 25.5%, and the distance between the two fields is 1.6 miles.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

 Brown moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated April 7, 2026 to include the NSWCP application. Second by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: None

MANAGER'S REPORT: None

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Governors' Water Task Force has released recommendations on April 6, 2026.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: None

LEGISLATION: None

STATE ASSOCIATION: None


BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Large asked with the drought about the pumping volumes at the Rock Creek Augmentation Project. Rock Creek this year was originally expected to provide about 3000-acre feet and we only needed to provide 1650 acre feet; about 3100 acre feet were pumped out of NCORPE. Since the Rock Creek project began in 2012, about 40% less water has been pumped for stream augmentation than what would have been for crops had the property remained an irrigated farm.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer



5-5-26