

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
May 5, 2026 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 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) Rod Johnson, Steve Wallin, and John Maddux.

**Information emailed to Directors:**

Agenda

Regular Board meeting minutes April 7, 2026

Variance request information

Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

**Information distributed at Board meeting:**

Agenda

Regular Board meeting minutes April 7, 2026

Financial reports

NRCS report and Report of Planning Activity

Establishment of Notice requirements for Public Hearings to amend Groundwater Allocation or Allocation periods

Variance Information

Report of District applications, contracts agreements

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

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

Introductions of Board Members, Staff, and guests.

**DIRECTORS' ABSENCES: None**

**MINUTES:**

- ✚ Brown moved to approve the April 7, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented.  
Second by Stromberger.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The Financial report was presented to the Board.

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

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

### **NRCS REPORT:**

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and there will be a Local Working Group meeting at 1:30 on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at the URNRD office. The public is encouraged to attend and express their natural resources concerns.

- ✚ Large moved to approve the NRCS report of planning activity dated April 30, 2026, to include the conservation plans as signed for Perkins County. Second by Brown.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

John Maddux discussed problems with planting Eastern Red Cedars in tree rows.

### **GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

Jasper reviewed the establishment of Notice requirements for Public Hearings to amend Groundwater allocations or allocation periods.

- ✚ Brown moved to approve the Order of Establishment of Notice Requirements for Public Hearings to amend groundwater allocations or allocation periods. Second by Turner.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

### **VARIANCE COMMITTEE:**

1. Spuds & Suds & Black Shirt Feeders Variance request.

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 262-42 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.

- ✚ Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committees recommendation to deny the variance request of Spuds & Suds and Blackshirt Feeders.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

2. Steve Wallin-Stan Heinze Variance request.

Steve Wallin is currently irrigating 235 acres on SW 27-7-40 with 179.4 certified acres of allocation. Stan Heinze is currently watering about 100 acres on the E ½ 26-8-42 with 152.2 certified acres of allocation. 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. The 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. The Committee was split into deliberations and does not have a recommendation for the Board.

- ✚ Large moved to approve the Variance request of Steve Wallin and to continue with the full reduction of acres and the 50.0 certified acres will be reduced by 17.6 certified acres and the remaining 32.4 certified acres will be transferred to the SW 27-7-40. The SW 27-7-40 will have 211.8 certified acres and the E ½ 26-8-42 will have 102.2 certified acres. Approval is contingent on lien search.

Roll call vote: 6-yes, 2-no, 1-abstain. Voting yes: Brown, Kunkel, Large, Martin, Schroder, Turner. Voting no: Lee and Stromberger. Abstain: Swanson.

3. Rod Johnson and Ronal Johnson Variance request.

Their request is to take 35.0 certified acres off SE 34-5-39 and add 35.0 certified acres to the NE 27-5-39 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.

- ✚ Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committee recommendation is to approve the Variance request of Rod Johnson and Ronal Johnson to take 35.0 certified acres off SE 34-5-39 and add 35.0 certified acres with no reduction in certified acres with no SDF reduction and 37.5 inches carry forward with the stipulation that they cannot pool until the new allocation period in 2028. Lien search has been completed for this Variance request.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:**

- ✚ Swanson moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated May 4, 2026 to include the NSWCP application. Second by Brown.

Roll call vote: 9-yes. Motion carried.

**LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** None

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Jasper and Cooper had gone to UNL Biological facility to look at the equipment they use for flowmeter work. The NRD could use a simplified version of this equipment and would allow the NRD to test meters in house. Tom Riley is putting some specs together and pricing for this.

Jasper reported working Longitude 103 on the producer connect portal piece of NARD project for water quality and Nate had asked for a proposal to put our real time readings into this portal and they priced it at \$250,000 to do this. We could take some things out and then might be around \$170,000. Jasper and other NRD managers had a conference call with Longitude 103 and expressed concerns they had. Jasper is working in house on a temporary portal for producers to see real time meter readings.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

All telemetry meters have been installed and activated.

**INFORMATION & EDUCATION:** None

**LEGISLATION:** None

**STATE ASSOCIATION:**

The South Platte Tour will be held June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and will be leaving from North Platte. If interested let Deb know for registration.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** None

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:19 am.

Respectfully submitted,

CJ Swanson  
Secretary/Treasurer