

Upper Republican  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
May 6, 2025 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, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Brock Stromberger, Janice Stroup, CJ Swanson, Tyler Turner.

**Board Member Absent:** Tom Schroder.

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

**Others Present:** Andy Keep (NRCS), Joel Burke (Attorney), Ian Stevens.

**Information emailed to Directors:**

Agenda	Report of District applications, contracts, and agreements
Regular Board meeting minutes April 1, 2025	
Variance information	

**Information distributed at Board meeting:**

Agenda	Variance information
Regular Board meeting minutes April 1, 2025	Report of District applications, contracts, and agreements
Financial reports	Request to Sponsor Nebraska Range Camp
NRCS report	

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

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

Introductions of Board members, staff, and guests.

**DIRECTORS' ABSENCES:**

**MINUTES:**

- Stromberger moved to approve the April 2, 2025 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented.  
Seconded by Merrihew.

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 3-abstain, 1-absent. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The Financial report was presented to the Board.

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

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report dated May 6, 2025. NRCS is celebrating 90 years of Helping People Help the Land. Andy reported that the 2025 Land Judging contest will be held in the District.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated May 6, 2025, to include the Conservation plans as signed for Chase and Perkins County. Seconded by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:** None.

**VARIANCE COMMITTEE:**

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance Committee report.

#2 Ian Stevens is requesting a variance to drill a new irrigation well to water 130.0 certified acres on the NE ¼ 27-11-38. The NE ¼ 27-11-38 was watered by an irrigation well in SE ¼ 27-11-38 and certified with the fields in SE ¼ 27-11-38 and SW ¼ 26-11-38. The SE 27-11-38 was sold to a new landowner in 2000 and following standard practice at that time the certified acres in the NE 27-11-38 were removed as they could no longer be irrigated due to no longer having access to an irrigation well. Mr. Stevens was not notified of this when it happened and would like to reestablish the 130.0 certified acres and drill a new irrigation well to water the acres. The Board and Mr. Stevens discussed this variance and information that was presented by Mr. Stevens.

- Stromberger moved to postpone the variance request of Ian Stevens to the June meeting for the second hearing. Seconded by Lee.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-abstain, 1-absent. Motion carried.

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

- Large moved to approve the report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated May 6, 2025, to include the NSWCP applications. Seconded by Brown.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

**LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** None

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** None

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Nate reported that the antenna installer will be at the Viaero tower in Elsie and Dundy County to install the antennas and base stations. The portal for irrigators to see usage on their wells is close to being finished.

**INFORMATION & EDUCATION:**

Odessa Zadina is interested in attending Nebraska Range Camp and asked if URNRD would be interested in sponsoring her. Ms. Zadina has attended Range Camp for the past two years.

- Kunkel on behalf of the Information and Education Committee's recommendation to sponsor Odessa Zadina to attend Nebraska Range Camp this year.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

**LEGISLATION:**

Jasper reported that the merger between DNR and NDEE has been approved by the Governor.

**STATE ASSOCIATION:** None

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** None.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:49 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson  
Secretary/Treasurer

6-3-25

