

Upper Republican
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

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

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting
June 2, 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: Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Terry Martin, Brock Stromberger, CJ Swanson, Tyler Turner.

Board Members Absent: Dave Brown, Jay Lee, Tom Schroder.

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 May 5, 2026

Variance request information

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Regular Board meeting minutes May 5, 2026

Financial reports

NRCS Report/Report of Planning Activity

Variance Information

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

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

DIRECTORS' ABSENCES: None

MINUTES:

-  Stromberger moved to approve the May 5, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented.
Second by Large.

Roll call vote: 6-yes, 3-absent. 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 Stromberger.

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

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and announced the appointment of Colton Buckley as Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- ✚ Stromberger moved to approve the NRCS report of planning activity dated May 29, 2026, to include the conservation plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Second by Swanson.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS: None

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Spuds and Suds and Blackshirt Feeders split their Variance requests out for better clarification and resubmitted them to the Variance Committee and Board.

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

Blackshirt Feeders has purchased two fields in N ½ 26-2-42 and does not have a need to irrigate both circles fully. They would like to keep 100.0 certified acres on the NW 26-2-42 and transfer 27.9 certified acres to SE 25-3-42. They would like to keep 100.0 certified acres on NE 26-2-42 and transfer 26.4 certified acres to NE 25-3-42. Spuds and Suds owns the fields in E ½ 25-3-42 and will add the certified acres to the corners of the two fields to use as extra allocation. The reason for this request is that Blackshirt Feeders will be constructing feedlot pens on a significant portion of these two fields and will continue to apply feedlot effluent to the fields in N ½ 26-2-12 until that construction commences and do not have a need for two full sized pivots or the allocation. Spuds & Suds would like to use the 54.3 certified acres to provide an extra allocation to the fields in E ½ 25-3-42. 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. The fields in N ½ 26-2-42 and E1/2 25-3-42 are currently in the same pool, but outside of a floating township from each other.

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 is to approve the Variance request of Blackshirt Feeders and Spuds & Suds to keep 100.0 certified acres on the NW 26-2-42 and transfer 27.9 certified acres to SE 25-3-42 and to keep 100.0 certified acres on NE 26-2-42 and transfer 26.4 certified acres to NE 25-3-42. Spuds and Suds own the fields in E ½ 25-3-42 and will add the certified acres to the corners of the two fields to use as extra allocation.

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

2. Spuds & Suds and Blackshirt Feeders #2.

The field in NE 26-2-42 is currently watered by three wells. Blackshirt Feeders would like to keep two of the wells connected to NE 26-2-42 and disconnect well G-072523 from the other two wells. Spuds and Suds would like to use well G-072523 to water the field S ½ 13-2-42 and connect it to well G-074573. They would like to transfer the certified acres from the S ½ 13-2-42 to well G-072523 with no reduction in acres due to historical use.

The reason for this request is Well G-074573 which currently waters S2 13-2-42 does not pump enough water to efficiently water the field and adding well G-072523 would help Spuds & Suds to do

so. The S2 13-2-42 has a 10-year average historical use of 9.17 inches, which allows for 145.3 certified acres to be transferred to well G-072523. S2 13-2-42 currently has 198.0 certified acres and NE 26-2-42 has a 10-year average historical use of 14.25 inches.

- 🚧 Stromberger on behalf of the Variance committee's recommendation is to approve the Spuds & Suds and Blackshirt Feeders Variance request to keep two of the wells connected to NE 26-2-42 and disconnect well G-072523 from the other two wells. Spuds and Suds will use well G-072523 to water the field in S2 13-2-42 and connect it to well G-074573 and to transfer the certified acres from the 2 13-2-42 to G072523 with no reduction in acres due to historical use. Roll call vote: 6-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

3. Spuds & Suds and Blackshirt Feeders #3.

The field in NW 26-2-42 is currently watered by three wells. Blackshirt Feeders would like to decommission two of these wells and disconnect well G-043582 from NW 26-2-42. Spuds and Suds would like to use well G-043582 to water SE 14-2-42 which is not currently watered by any other wells. They would like to transfer the certified acres on SE14-2-42 to well G-043582 with no reduction in acres due to historical use. The reason for this request is Spuds and Suds would like to begin watering SE 14-2-42 and well G-043582 is nearby, and Blackshirt Feeders does not have a use for it. SE 14-2-42 has a 10-year historical average use of 4.1 inches, which would allow 33.5 certified acres to transfer to well G-043582. SE 14-2-42 currently has 102.3 certified acres. NW 26-2-42 has a 10-year historical average use of 22.84 inches.

- 🚧 Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committees recommendation is to approve the Variance request of Spuds & Suds and Blackshirt Feeders to decommission two wells in the NW 26-2-42 and disconnect well G-043582 from NW 26-2-42. Spuds and Suds will use well G-043582 to water SE 14-2-42 and will transfer the certified acres on SE 14-2-42 to well G-043582 with no reduction in acres due to historical use.

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

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS: None

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: None

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jasper reported that a group of Managers discussed with Longitude 103 concerning their Hydro database that is used for water use reporting. They were told that due to their taking on Producer Connect project that their customer service is inadequate in terms of support. The Managers have also discussed some of the items other NRDs are wanting. With different conversations with managers and Longitude103 they are proposing a premium support level which would involve them hiring a senior or junior developer to work on the projects and support the twelve districts to receive priority service. They think this might be about \$25,000 to \$30,000 for each district per year and have proposed a three-year contract. The Managers will be discussing this at the management meeting tomorrow.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate reported a water issue with the new telemetry meters with square heads on approximately 650 meters out in the fields. There are about 10 or 12 of them that have water in them that fried the electric boards. The water was going in two unused ports and a clear plastic lid, and they hadn't screwed the screws tight, and they used a type of O ring that is made for inside use and they deteriorated being

outside in the weather. Nate is working with McCrometer on these issues, and they have come up with a plan and how to test the 650 meters to see if there is moisture inside. The technicians and a representative from McCrometer will be going out to check these meters and replace electrical components if they need to. These are under warranty so meters covered and will receive an extended warranty.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: None

LEGISLATION: None

STATE ASSOCIATION:

Jasper will be attending the Managers meeting on June 3, 2026. The South Platte Tour will be held on June 8th and 9th and leaving from North Platte.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: None

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer


7-7-26