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

Upper Republican Natural Resources District

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Board of Directors Regular Meeting
July 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: Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Terry Martin, Tom Schroeder, Brock Stromberger, CJ Swanson.
Board Members Absent: Dave Brown and Tyler Turner.
NRD Staff: Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Julia Strand, and Deb Hayes.
Others: Present: Andy Keep (NRCS) and Justin Bussell.

Information emailed to Directors:
Agenda
Regular Board meeting minutes June 2, 2026,
Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:
Agenda
Regular Board meeting minutes June 2, 2026
Financial reports
NRCS Report/Report of Planning Activity
Report of District applications, contracts, and agreements
NARD 457 Deferred Compensation plan, Roth amendment

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:04 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 June 2, 2026, Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Second by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 4-yes, 3-absent, 2-abstain. Motion carried.

Jason Kunkel arrived at 9:07am.

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: 7-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

DRAFT BUDGET:
Jasper reviewed salary increases with the Board. The CPI from May to May was 4.2% and he would like to have the cost-of-living increase and an additional 1% increase, total of 5.2% increase, approved for the salary budget for this year.

Jasper reported that with the Director resignations there was only three Directors left on the Budget committee. Jasper would like to have CJ Swanson appointed to the committee since he is the Board Treasurer and another Board member appointed to the Committee.

- Lee moved to approve the appointment of CJ Swanson and Dean Large to the Budget committee. Second by Stromberger.

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

- Stromberger moved to approve the 42% cost of living salary increase and the additional 1% increase for the salary budget. Second by Lee.

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

NRCS REPORT:
Andy Keep gave the NRCS reported on the handout Our Priorities which is a message from Chief Buckley, updating NRCS' Mission, Vision and Motto and includes NRCS Priorities of Keeping Working Lands in Working Hands.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS report of planning activity dated June 30, 2026, to include the conservation plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Second by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 6-yes, 1-abstain, 2-absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
Justin Bussell discussed his windbreak tree site with the Board. He was not happy with the way the weed barrier was installed, and the wind had made some of it blow up, he felt the holes for the trees were too big and he had dead trees. Mr. Bussell would like the weed barrier replaced. Jasper had Cooper go out and look at the site and CJ Swanson has looked at the site. Jasper discussed that it's unfortunate that he waited two months to report the issue to the NRD and that trees are not guaranteed. Jasper told the Board and Justin that he has talked with Cooper and CJ about this site, and he will either contact Jaegers to go fix the weed barrier or the NRD staff will go out and fix it. As for trees, they will need to be replaced next year and will be eligible for cost share.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS: None
VARIANCE COMMITTEE: None

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Stromberger moved to approve the URNRD Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated July 7, 2026, to include the Pooling contracts. Second by Lee

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: None

MANAGER'S REPORT:
Jasper presented the NARD 457Deferred Compensation Plan, In-Plan Roth Amendment to the Board. All amendments to the NARD plans need to have Board approval. This amendment allows the rollover for the Roth plan.

- Large moved to approve the NARD 457 Deferred Compensation Plan, In-Plan Roth Amendment. Second y Stromberger.

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

Jasper reported that Tom Riley and Dean Eisenhauer will be coming out on July 15th to work with Cooper on flowmeter design and where to put in shop or new building and then they would like to look at a few flowmeter sites and how meters were installed. Tom has been discussing with Jasper our producer portal and ET work and have an Ag Engineering student help us with this and he is working on putting together a proposal for this.

Longitude 103 will be making a final proposal and what it will take for them to hire additional staff to dedicate to the NRD's that want better support from them.

Jasper has put together a temporary producer portal that we are hosting in the cloud that is pulling the real time readings that Longitude has pulled into their database this year. This pulls the date every afternoon around 4:00 and processes that so the next day it will show what the real time usage was until it updates the following day. We will be sending out emails and texts to irrigators so they can get this set up.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:
Nate reported that the technicians are working on the 850 flowcom automated meter heads in Perkins County that have moisture in them and have about 200 of them completed. So far about 15% of the meters have moisture in them. It will probably be another two to three weeks to complete. McCrometer is extending the warranty for another year and any of them that have a humidity level above 80% they are going to replace the boards.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: None

LEGISLATION: None

STATE ASSOCIATION:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Jasper reported to the Board that he has contacted Justin LaVene and Jesse Bradley at the Attorney General's office as there is a lawsuit against the State because they took NET Funds and appropriated these funds within their budget, so the NSWCP cost share funds we receive are tied up in an injunction now. Some of tree plans and other projects that have not been completed or paid are in limbo as to when we may get these funds again. Once Jasper hears back from them, he may discuss with the Board putting up the funds to cover these projects.

Jasper and Nate will be gone August 4th for the Regular Board meeting and are asking to move the Regular Board meeting to August 11th.

- Swanson moved to change the URNRD Regular Board meeting to August 11, 2026. Second by Stromberger.

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

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:47 am.

Respectfully submitted,

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer

8-11-26