

**NORTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

January 8, 2026
3:00 P.M.

1. Call Meeting to Order

This meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Kent Andreas. Notice of the meeting was given to the public by publishing a legal notice on December 31, 2025 , in the Scottsbluff Star Herald.

2. Inform Public of Open Meetings Act

Andreas informed the meeting attendees that this meeting would be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, which is posted by the door for public inspection.

Attendance

Board Members Present: Kent Andreas, Lane Darnall, Roger Eirich, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Ryan Reuter, Dan Weinreis

Board Members Absent: Dave Deines, Mark Westphal

Others Present:

Members of the Public: Matt Stefle, Cassidy Baum

North Platte NRD Staff: Travis Preston, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Danielle Madden, Lydia Hendrickson, Macy Elliot, Ken Ridgeway, Todd Filipi Becky Schaneman, Keelie Williamson, Paula Kilhau, Jody Fiscus, Terry Yeager, Ethan Woehrle, Lynn Okicki, Craig Uhrig

Adaptive Resources, Inc. (ARI): Thad Kuntz

Simmons Olsen Law Firm: Megan Dockery

JG Elliott Co: Lex Larson

Documentation Provided

The following documents were made available at the meeting for the Board of Directors and public review:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of the December 11, 2025, Board of Directors meeting
3. Treasurer's Report & Accounts Payable
4. Manager's Report
5. CropX information packet

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of December 11, 2025, regular Board meeting.

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Reuter, to approve the minutes of December 11, 2025, with the change to show Eirich as absent from the previous regular monthly meeting. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Deines, Westphal

5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

Ryan Reuter reviewed the monthly expenses from the Treasurer's Report with the Board.

A motion was made by Andreas, seconded by Weinreis, to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills with the addition of Simmons Olsen Law Firm for \$1,680 and Allo Fiber for \$243.38. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Deines, Westphal

6. Comments from the Public

There were none

7. Manager's Report

Scott Schaneman reviewed the managers' report

At the end of the month, Ryan, Travis, Paul, and I will be attending the NRD Legislative Conference in Lincoln at the Embassy Suites. The conference begins on Monday January 26th with NARD Board meetings as well as a managers meeting. On Tuesday, the conference officially begins with an opening from Governor Pillen with breakout sessions to follow. Wrapping up the events on Tuesday, there will be a Senators' reception in the ballroom. The conference concludes on Wednesday the 28th.

To provide an update on the contracting progress between NARD and Longitude 103, it is my understanding that the contract was executed on December 29th. A couple of things worth noting: The contract covers "phase 1" with an expiration date of June 30th, 2026. Dean Edson has been authorized to begin negotiating "phase 2" scope of work. The funding contract with DWEE has been signed and requests for payment will be forwarded to DWEE. All other business will be conducted through the steering committee. NARD wanted to make clear that there would be no direct involvement regarding the functionality of Hydro Data. All issues revolving around the database would still be handled in the same fashion.

As the Governor's Task Force on Water begins to wind down, I wanted to share a few highlights from our meeting with Governor Pillen on December 16th in Norfolk. All action items proposed by the Task Force are completely voluntary and incentivized. The driving force behind these proposals is to commit dollars to ag producers to sequester more carbon in our soils. When more carbon is held in our soil it has a direct benefit to soil and aquifer health. Carbon and nitrogen management go hand in hand. The Task Force has been Looking for that balance while at the same time translating that into Statewide programing. This has been our greatest challenge. What you may see from this Task Force are programs geared toward a carbon intensity scoring and registry program that would incentivize participation. As part of the scoring, eligible items such as flowmeters, soil and water sampling, soil moisture probes, cover crops could all be eligible practices for a State run cost share program. I will continue to provide more updates as time goes on. As a side note, I have been asked to stay on as a member of the One Red Advisory Committee and feel fortunate to be able to represent our District in a way that will benefit our producers.

With 2026 being an election cycle for some of our Directors, I would like to remind those Directors whose term is expiring in 2026 that the incumbent filing deadline is February 17th. The Directors that are up for election are: Pete Lapaseotes, Kent Andreas, Lane Darnall, Mark Westphal, and Ryan Reuter.

Last week I received a call from Ann Joblonski (Governor Pillen's scheduler) regarding the request I made to meet with Governor Pillen. The Governor would like to meet with us to discuss the talking points I included with the meeting request. The issue you might expect is making a date work for everyone. Ann mentioned to me that the Governor would like to meet with the full Board if possible and is looking at a possible mid-March time frame. I told Ann that we would wait to hear back from her when she can nail down a more solid date to get together.

The 2026 Ag Symposium date has been set for February 10th at the Gering Civic Center. This year we have three speakers lined up to provide an excellent program. We will hear from Dr. Jesse Bell, Director of the Water, Climate and Health Program with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). Jesse will be presenting on health issues revolving around high nitrates in groundwater. We will also be hearing from Tyler Kroupa, our area lab representative, from Midwest labs in Omaha. Tyler will be discussing with the audience soil and water sampling procedures and sample submittal. To round out the cast of presenters, we will have the opportunity to hear from Robb Dedman with Agrotech USA. Robb will provide some insight into the management of nutrients once the soil and water samples are received by producers. It is my hope that we have good weather and great attendance for This year's Ag Symposium

In addition to the manager's report Georgette Jordening sent an email with information from NRCS.

8. Exclude Unregistered Surface Water Districts from 2026 Soil Sampling Requirements Outlined in Chapter 11 NPNRD Rules and Regulations

To this point five irrigation district registrations will be completed by February. The purpose of this agenda item is to ask the board to exempt the unregistered irrigated surface water only acres from chapter 11 for water year 2026. Commingled acres would still be subject to chapter 11 rules and regulations. Enterprise Irrigation District, Farmers Irrigation District, Lisco Irrigation District, Pathfinder Irrigation District, and Gering Fort Laramie Irrigation District have been or will be registered by February and all surface water irrigated acres in those districts will still be subject to chapter 11 rules and regulations.

Roger Eirich asked if the NRD still wanted to have soil samples brought in from those districts that are exempt. Scott Schaneman said yes and that cost share would still be honored for those districts.

A motion was made by Lapaseotes, seconded by Andreas, to exempt all surface water only irrigated acres from Chapter 11 Rules and Regulations for water year 2026, except those possessing water rights from the Enterprise Irrigation District, Lisco Irrigation District, Farmers Irrigation District, Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None
Absent: Deines, Westphal

9. 2025 Groundwater Sampling Presentation – Keelie Williamson

Keelie Williamson presented data and information from the NPNRD sampling network.

10. Report Regarding Plastic Surface Ditch Recycling Pilot Project in Cooperation with Keep Scottsbluff/Gering Beautiful – Cassidy Baum

Scott Schaneman reminded the board of the pilot project concerning collection of plastic ditches. The program has turned into a good recycling project.

There were two plastic ditch pickups in 2024 and 2025. The collection service felt the best option would be to pick up at the landowner's location. 4 participating producers in 2024 and 2025. 29,617lbs of ditch have been recycled. Possibly 184 full rolls may have been removed from the district and recycled. Revolution Plastics in Arkansas is the recycling center receiving the plastic ditch. Benefits include not having ditch left out in fields or in waterways and it does not end up in the landfill or burned. Almost 15 tons have been removed from our community. Producers are willing to participate but need a means to remove it. Continued advertising could result in increased participation.

Scott Schaneman explained the need for it to be rolled up and how the participating parties have been very happy to have it removed. The logistics have been proven through this program. The bill to recycle plastic ditch was \$2700 which equates to about \$11/roll.

11. Soil Moisture Probe Project Presentation – Ethan Woehrle

Ethan Woehrle went through the soil moisture probe presentation. He feels these probes were more accurate and had less disturbance to the soil and seem to provide more accurate results. The other probes out do not have as many features.

Scott Schaneman found the unit simple to use.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Henkel, to adjourn the meeting at 4:02 pm. MDT. Motion Passed.

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Weinreis
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Deines, Westphal