

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

February 12, 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 Thursday, February 5, 2026, 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, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Ryan Reuter, Mark Westphal, Dan Weinreis

Board Members Absent: Roger Eirich, Dave Deines

Others Present:

Members of the Public:

North Platte NRD Staff: Travis Preston, Danielle Madden, Lydia Hendrickson, Ken Ridgeway, Lynn Okicki, Keelie Williamson, Ethan Woehrle, Craig Uhrig

NRCS: Georgette Jordening

Adaptive Resources, Inc. (ARI): Thad Kuntz

Simmons Olsen Law Firm: Megan Dockery

JG Elliott Co: Lex Larson

NFS: Kaden Vowers

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 January 8, 2026, Board of Directors meeting
3. Treasurer's Report & Accounts Payable
4. Manager's Report
5. Blackstone Variance Request VAR-2025-01
6. Pumpkin Creek Pilot Study Presentation

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of January 8, 2026, regular Board meeting.

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Westphal, to approve the minutes of February 12, 2026, regular monthly meeting with the removal of the amendment to the December 11, 2025, minutes motion of approval. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Deines, Eirich

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 Weinreis, seconded by Reuter, to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Deines, Eirich

6. Comments from the Public

Georgette Jordening informed the board that CRP funding was announced, and sign-ups will begin.

7. Manager's Report

Scott Schaneman reviewed the managers' report

On January 26th – 28th Ryan, Travis, Paul, and I attended the NRD Legislative Conference in Lincoln at the Embassy Suites. The conference began on Monday, January 26th with NARD Board meetings as well as the manager's meeting. On Tuesday, the conference officially began with an opening from Governor Pillen with several breakout sessions that followed. On Tuesday, there was a Senators' reception held in the ballroom with Lt. Governor Kelly in attendance. As always, this conference provides an opportunity to network and have meetings outside of the meetings that are always very productive. The conference concluded on Wednesday, the 28th.

On the surface water registration front, the Pathfinder Irrigation District paperwork has been sent out to the patrons of that district. According to the Data Department, there were 750 registrations that were mailed representing around 500 Landowners. That paperwork has been returned to the office in mass, which is good to see.

Several upcoming events worth mentioning. February 19th POAC/PBC will have their bi-monthly meeting virtually. In March, there are two meetings on the books, with the first being a Water Task Force Committee meeting on March 3rd.

followed by a manager's meeting on the 4th in Lincoln. The Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program (PRRIP) Governance Committee has scheduled a two-day meeting in Kearney on March 10th and 11th. This will be my first meeting on the Governance Committee, and I am looking forward to it. Rounding out the month will be a Full Task Force meeting in Lincoln on March 25th in which all members will be approving and signing the report to be sent to the Governor.

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.

8. Legislative Update

Scott Schaneman spoke to the board about current legislation involving the NRD. This year is a 60-day session. The budget shortfall is the major point of discussion in this session. Scott briefly discussed the status of LB384, LB964 and LB1219. There is interest money being pulled from several State accounts. Every department was asked to cut their budgets.

9. 2026 Ag Symposium Recap

Scott Schaneman informed the board about how the Ag Symposium went.

10. NIRiA Program – Ethan Woehrle

Ethan presented on the DWEE NIRiA program and the involvement of the NPNRD.

11. Water Resources Committee Report

Scott Schaneman discussed the Water Resources Committee meeting. The Blackstone Farms Inc. variance (VAR-2025-01) and the details concerning the changes in acres was discussed. An agreement between UNWNRD, NPNRD, and Blackstone is required to ensure mitigation can happen.

The committee discussed recreational property and continuing to look for opportunities. There was discussion about ways to set aside some money for the purchase of property.

Scott Schaneman discussed questions the staff has posed for processes for chapter 11 rules and regulations and cost share programs.

12. Setting a Date for Public Hearing Regarding Variance VAR-2025-01 Blackstone Farms Inc.

Scott Schaneman suggested a public hearing for March 12th, 2026, at 2:45 pm.

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Westphal, to set the hearing date for VAR-2025-01 for March 12, 2026, at 2:45pm. MDT. Motion Passed.

Aye: Andreas, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Weinreis, Westphal

Nay: Darnall

Abstain: None

Absent: Deines, Eirich

13. Pumpkin Creek Allocation Pilot Project – Keelie Willaimson & Thad Kuntz

The presentation covered water usage in the Pumpkin Creek Basin. Compared 2024 to 2025 water use. Continued long-term monitoring will be needed to have a true understanding of what is happening in the basin.

14. Adjourn

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

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Darnall, to adjourn the meeting at pm. 4:00MDT. Motion Passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Deines, Eirich