

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

May 14, 2026
3:00 P.M.

1. Call Meeting to Order

This meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Roger Eirich. Notice of the meeting was given to the public by publishing a legal notice on May 7, 2026, in the Scottsbluff Star Herald.

2. Inform Public of Open Meetings Act

Eirich 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: Roger Eirich, Kent Andreas, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Ryan Reuter, Dan Weinreis, Dave Deines

Board Members Absent: Lane Darnall, Mark Westphal

Others Present:

Members of the Public:

North Platte NRD Staff: Travis Preston, Lydia Hendrickson, Ken Ridgeway, Craig Uhrig, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Seth Popp, Kirstee Moore, Todd Filipi

NRCS: Georgette Jordening

Adaptive Resources, Inc. (ARI): Thad Kuntz

Simmons Olsen Law Firm: Megan Dockery

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 April 9, 2026, Board of Directors meeting
3. Treasurer's Report & Accounts Payable
4. Manager's Report
5. Draft letter concerning preventative planting

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of April 9, 2026, regular Board meeting.

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Weinreis, to approve the minutes of April 9, 2026, regular monthly meeting. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Westphal

6. Comments from the Public

Georgette Jordening informed the board that Grassland CRP is currently open. NRCS is starting to obligate EQIP contracts and writing disaster contracts for the fires.

7. Manager's Report

8. Discussion and Consideration to Amend Flowmeter Policy by Removing from the Approved Flowmeter List the McCrometer McMag 3000

Scott informed the board that the McMag 3000 would continue to be supported but will no longer be produced.

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Reuter, to amend the flowmeter policy by removing the McCrometer McMag 3000 from the approved flowmeter list. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Westphal

9. Discussion and Consideration to Approve a Letter from this District Supporting a Preventative Planting Option

Scott presented a draft letter to the board concerning preventative planting and support for the practice from the NPNRD.

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Dienes, to approve a letter from this District supporting a preventative planting option. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Westphal

10. Discussion and Consideration to Financially Commit to the Permanent Repair of Browns Canyon Siphon

Scott Schaneman informed the board of a meeting between Gering Fort Laramie Irrigation District, Mitchell Irrigation District, and Gering Irrigation District and the NPNRD. The county was invited but did not attend. The Browns Canyon siphon failed in 2015 and the NPNRD was involved financially in the temporary repair at that time. Mitchell Irrigation has obtained a grant to cover 90% of the permanent repair. The purpose of the meeting was to determine if previously involved entities would contribute to the permanent repair. There was discussion at the meeting concerning shares of the required 10% match on the grant funds. There was an agreement drafted at the time of the temporary repair outlining percentages of responsibility of the parties named. However, not all parties involved in the agreement signed. Therefore, it was not executed. The NPNRD put \$14,152.97 toward the temporary repair. Gering Fort Laramie did not feel their previous 42% share was appropriate. The meeting attendees would like to get the county involved with the financial responsibility of the project. The group asked Scott Schaneman and Megan Dockery to write a letter to the county and to attend the county commissioners meeting. No shares of responsibility were decided on in the meeting.

The estimated project cost is just over 1 million dollars.

A motion was made by Lapaseotes, seconded by Weinreis, to financially commit a one-time payment, up to \$15,000, toward the permanent repair of Browns Canyon siphon. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Westphal

11. Discussion and Consideration of 2026 Enterprise Recharge Facility Operations

Scott Schaneman discussed the entitlement of the water into the recharge pits. The consumptive use credit would still exist if NPNRD does not divert the water into the pits. The contracts do not obligate the NPNRD to divert the water into the pits.

Thad Kuntz had a question concerning what the order from DWEE says about using the water for irrigation. Scott suggested tabling the consideration until the June meeting until the DWEE order can be reviewed.

12. Resources Department Presentation Regarding Morrill County Fire – Todd Filipi

Todd Filipi presented on the status of windbreaks and infrastructure within the Morrill Fire. Todd and Ken Ridgeway flew over the burn area to observe the damage to the grasslands and windbreaks.

13. Urban Conference Report and Annual Projects Update – Kirstee Moore

Kirstee Moore discussed the public education she has been facilitating. She presented possible amounts of urban water usage in lawn irrigation.

Scott Schaneman informed the board that there was a meeting scheduled with the City of Gering this morning that the city representatives did not attend.

There were levels taken after spring levels where pivots have been running for the last 30 days. The static water level dropped .9ft over those 30ish days.

14. Adjourn

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

A motion was made by Andreas, seconded by Lapaseotes, to adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm. Motion Passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Westphal

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