

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

August 13, 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 August 6th, 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: Kent Andreas, Dave Deines, Roger Eirich, Chuck Henkel, Ryan Reuter, Dan Weinreis

Board Members Absent: Pete Lapaseotes, Mark Westphal, Lane Darnall

Others Present:

Members of the Public:

North Platte NRD Staff: Travis Preston, Lydia Hendrickson, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Danielle Madden, Becky Schaneman, Keelie Williamson, Lynn Okicki, Macy Elliot, Craig Uhrig

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 July 9, 2026, Board of Directors meeting
3. Treasurer's Report & Accounts Payable
4. Manager's Report
5. NPNRD Annual Report Of 2025 Water Use Activities
6. ONE RED Ag Data Bank & Grants Program Draft Handout

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

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

Aye: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, 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. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, Westphal

6. Comments from the Public

There were none.

7. Manager's Report

Scott Schaneman presented the manager's report to the board. Scott informed the board that Alexa Davis from DWEE will be presenting at approximately 4pm.

The staff have been busy for several months preparing for the 2026 Water Expo, and that time has now arrived. On Saturday August 15th we will once again be hosting our annual Water Expo. This has shown to be a tremendous outreach to the community, and it is our hope that tradition will continue on Saturday. It has always been our goal that people have a good time here and leave our campus with a new appreciation for our natural resources.

The Water Advisory Committee for the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program (PRRIP) met on August 4th for their quarterly meeting. Once again, the Program is searching for additional water to meet the program goals. An additional 10,000-acre feet above the 110,000 acre-feet they already have is being sought with sights set on leasing surface water from any interested irrigation district in the North Platte NRD. The Program is also considering and negotiating with CNPPID on as much as 10,000-acre feet. This water would have terms in the lease for drought conditions and would be able to be released when the Program needed instant water in the river for their operations. The PRRIP Governance Committee will also be meeting in Kearney on September 8th and 9th for our quarterly meeting.

Personnel from RJ Meyer and Associates will be conducting their on-site evaluation of our books for the annual audit beginning on August 18th. Once they have completed the on-site work, the auditors will conclude the audit at their home location followed by a presentation to the Board at a future date to be determined.

I will be attending the annual Managers Retreat which will be held this year in Ogallala and hosted by the Upper Republican NRD. The retreat is scheduled for August 24th and 25th.

The 2026 NARD Fall Conference will be held once again in Kearney at the Younes Center on September 28th and 29th. The Fall conference always provides an opportunity to get together with our colleagues across the State to conduct business as well as educate NRD Staff. The Conference will also be a host to the Basin meetings and will wrap up with the opportunity to attend the Governors Ag Summit which will be held at the Younes Conference Center North.

On July 15th both Dave Ford (retired from CNPPID) and I were unanimously voted onto the Water Futures Partnership Board of Directors. As a new Director, I will be representing the NRD's across the State as we continue to build that partnership between surface and groundwater entities. Water

Futures Partnership is the parent organization of the Nebraska State Irrigators Association, Water Leaders Academy. This Board directs and manages the finances and operations of the Academy. I look forward to working with this group, the Academy has played a big role in my professional career along with many others on staff at the NPNRD.

I have recently accepted a speaking invitation from the Nebraska Water Center to present at this year's Nebraska Water Conference. This event will be held on East Campus in Lincoln on October 14th and 15th. The theme of the conference is "The State of Water in Nebraska."

8. Annual Upper Platte Basin Meeting

Scott Schaneman presented the NPNRD Annual Report of 2025 Water Use Activities. Both the District IMP and the Basin IMP are open for change during the annual basin meeting. Disputes can also be discussed at those meetings. All Districts are required to submit a report at the annual meeting outlining water usage.

9. Budget and Personnel Committee Report

Scott Schaneman discussed the Budget and Personnel Committee Meeting. Tax asking will probably be a little higher than it has been in the past. Operating expenses will likely be lower. However, revenue will likely also be going down. Loss of grants is a part of the current changes in revenues. Valuations will be coming out the week of August 17th and will determine the levy. The Committee will get back together after valuations have come in.

Deines asked what is happening with grants. Scott informed him that NET currently has an injunction that will prevent some revenues. This is one example.

10. Set Budget Hearing for September 10, 2026, to Approve the FY-27 Budget

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Henkel, to set a budget hearing for September 10, 2026, at 2:50pm. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, Westphal

11. Set Special Hearing for September 10, 2026, to Approve the Final Tax Request for FY-27

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Henkel, to set a special hearing for September 10, 2026, at 2:55pm, to approve the final tax request for FY 27. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, Westphal

12. Approval of the 1% Budget Lid FY-27

Scott Schaneman explained that by approving the additional 1%, the Governing Board is only increasing their authority to generate additional restricted funds, not actually increasing the property tax request.

A motion was made by Andreas, seconded by Weinreis, to approve the 1% budget lid for FY-27. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, Westphal

13. Data Center Water Use – Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources Inc.

Thad Kuntz presented on data centers and the high energy usage and low water usage in closed loop cooling systems in Texas.

14. NDWEE ONE RED Program – Alexa Davis, Soil & Water Programs Coordinator DWEE

The One Red program goes through 2029 but there will be a request to extend the program to 2030. January 2027 will be the live launch of the program. The first part is the data bank. When a farmer enrolls in the program they will receive a nitrogen application plan. Producers have several opportunities to receive different levels of funding based on participation. Funding will be made available to Districts to support staff for handling the administration of the program. DWEE is contracting with Rural Radio for distribution of advertisement. DWEE has held 30 million dollars back for future additional incentives. There could be a requirement for a minimum of 80 acres and a maximum of 1,000 acres. The transfer of information from the NRD to the data bank will go through Producer Connect.

15. Adjourn

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

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Weinreis, to adjourn the meeting at 4:39pm. Motion Passed.

Aye: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, Westphal