NORTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 08, 2026
3:00 P.M.

1. Call Meeting to Order

This meeting was called to order at p.m. by Roger Eirich. Notice of the meeting was given to the public by publishing a legal notice on October 1, 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, Lane Darnall, Dave Deines, Roger Eirich, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Mark Westphal
Board Members Absent: Ryan Reuter, Dan Weinreis

Others Present:

North Platte NRD Staff: Scott Schaneman, Travis Preston, Lydia Hendrickson, Kirste Schutte, Kyle Ann Hopkins
Adaptive Resources, Inc. (ARI): Thad Kuntz
J.G. Elliott: Lex Larson
Simmons Olsen: 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 September 10, 2026, Board of Directors meeting
3. Treasurer's Report & Accounts Payable
4. Manager's Report
5. Soil Sample Cost Share Application Draft
6. NPNRD Groundwater Sampling Policy Statement Draft

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of September 10, 2026, regular Board meeting.
A motion was made by Deines, seconded by Westphal, to approve the minutes of September 10, 2026, regular monthly meeting. Motion passed.

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

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

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

6. Comments from the Public

There were none.

7. Manager's Report

Scott Schaneman presented the manager's report to the board.

It is with regret that I inform you that Jody Fiscus has submitted his letter of resignation, in which his last day was September 25th. Jody had been with the district for almost 11 years. He was a tremendous asset to the Water Department. His experience and work ethics will be deeply missed. I will be working with Craig over the next several weeks to evaluate the position and determine when a job vacancy announcement will be made.

I recently had the opportunity to speak at the Governor's Summit in Kearney with two other Task Force Members to provide follow-up information regarding the resolutions that came from the Water Quality and Quantity Task Force. The session was standing room only with the Governor in attendance. The Summit took place on September 29th.

On October 1st, the field staff began taking Fall flow meter readings. We fully expect the data collection and flow meter maintenance will take the entire month of October.
The Nebraska LEAD group was here in the office on Monday, October 5th. Once again, this group was well represented with lots of interest in what we do here at the NPNRD. Both Kirstee Moore and I presented to the group and fielded many of the questions until we just ran out of time. This is always a fun group to work with.

The NPNRD had the privilege to host the Western area Land Judging Contest on October 7th. It is a great opportunity to be able to work with the FFA students and their advisors as well as NRCS who assist in this contest. The staff have also been busy preparing for the bus loads of kids attending this year's Water Education for Tomorrow (WET) program. This event will be held here at the NPNRD on Tuesday October 13th.

At the NARD Fall Conference, the directors accepted a resolution to seek a legislative change granting authority of the Nebraska Chemigation Act to the NRD's from DWEE. The transfer would grant the NRD's the authority under the Act necessary to document, monitor, regulate, and enforce chemigation practices in Nebraska, as well as the authority to retain all permitting fees collected for administration.

I have recently accepted a speaking invitation from the Nebraska Water Center to present at this year's

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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."

There will be ONE RED staff training with DWEE in our office on October 19th and November 2nd. This training will be for the Panhandle NRD's North Platte, South Platte, and Upper Niobrara. The ONE RED program will kick off in just a few weeks.
Dean Edson has made the decision to retire as the NARD Executive Director on December 31st, 2026.

8. Water Resources Committee Report

Scott Schaneman informed the board of topics discussed during the Water Resources Committee Meeting. Discussion was held concerning having the NRD working directly with the crop consultants to meet requirements. This will streamline the process as crop consultants are often the ones taking care of the sampling. The Water Resources Committee expressed support for the direct communication with crop consultants and fertilizer companies.
There was an agenda item concerning grandfathering DAUs in pumpkin creek. Rules already exist to allow this.
There was discussion concerning groundwater pumping in the fully appropriated area. A constituent called in expressing concern about groundwater pumping and its impacts on unirrigated meadows in the area. Previous study work has been done on those areas and contributing factors to aquifer decline in the fully appropriated area.
The committee also discussed the Albin area and aquifer decline there.
Also discussed as a POAC meeting held in Kearney in which CNPPID, NPPD, and DWEE were present. CNPPID and NPPD presented and discussed conditions of Lake McConaughy and the actions they are taking. They made it apparent that inflows are decreasing at Lewellen without accounting for decreases in the entire system including reservoirs in Wyoming.

9. Discussion and Consideration of Soil Sample Cost Share Application Modifications

Soil sampling cost share is currently set at 50% up to $25. This requires invoices to prove the amount spent on the sample. The new cost share would be a flat $25 to simplify the process and remove the requirement for an invoice. There is also changes on the form to ensure only acres within the North Platte NRD are eligible and are irrigated acres.

A motion was made by Westphal, seconded by Henkel, to accept the Soil Sample Cost Share Application Modifications as presented. Motion passed.

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

10. Discussion and Consideration to Change the Number of Acres Required to Register from five (5) Acres to Twenty (20) Acres for Surface Water Registrations

There are many surface water rights smaller than 20 acres that are not delivering. The recommendation from staff was to make the change from 5 acres to 20 acres.

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A motion was made by Andreas, seconded by Darnall, to change the number of acres required to register from five (5) acres to twenty (20) acres for surface water registrations. Motion passed.

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

11. Discussion and Consideration of New Water Sampling Program Policy

Concerns with compliance have led to discussion about how to get water samples taken and into the office. The staff recommended there be an option for landowners to opt into the water sampling program in which staff would coordinate with landowners and operators to go out and take the water samples. Those samples would be collected and paid for by the NPNRD. Landowners and operators would still be able to bring those samples into the office to be sent to a lab for testing. Those who do not opt into the program would be responsible for the cost of those samples. Date for enrollment would be June 30th.

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Deines, to adopt the new water sampling program policy. Motion passed.

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

12. Discussion and Consideration of a Ten (10) Business Day Grace Period for 2026 Water and Soil Samples

Samples may still be at the labs despite the end of the water year. The grace period would allow those samples to be dated with those 10 days and still meet the requirements of compliance.

A motion was made by Andreas, seconded by Henkel, to adopt a ten (10) day grace period for 2026 water and soil samples. Motion Passed.

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

13. Presentation On Preventative Planting Survey and Assessment

Scott Schaneman has mentioned in previous meetings estimating economic impact of drought within the NPNRD. Scott did an analysis of a 24-mile path through farmers irrigation district and the tail end of Pathfinder irrigation district. 126 tracts, 10 GW only, 76 were commingled, and 40 were surface water only. 55% of the tracts were preventative plant, 32% corn, 5% dry beans, 7% pasture grass, and 1% sugar beets. 194,061 acres were reported as preventative plant in the NPNRD.

14. Adjourn

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

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Deines, to adjourn the meeting at 3:51pm. Motion Passed.

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

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