

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

September 10, 2026
3:00 P.M.

1. Call Meeting to Order

This meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Roger Eirich. Notice of the meeting was given to the public by publishing a legal notice on September 3, 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, Ryan Reuter, Mark Westphal

Board Members Absent: Pete Lapaseotes, Dan Weinreis

Others Present:

Members of the Public: John Maser

North Platte NRD Staff: Danielle Madden, Scott Schaneman, Lydia Hendrickson

NRCS: Georgette Jordening

Adaptive Resources, Inc. (ARI): Thad Kuntz

J.G. Elliott: 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 August 13, 2026, Board of Directors meeting
3. Treasurer's Report & Accounts Payable
4. Manager's Report
5. Proposed FY-27 Budget

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of August 13, 2026, regular Board meeting.

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Darnall, to approve the minutes of August 13, 2026, regular monthly meeting. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lapaseotes, Weinreis

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

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lapaseotes, Weinreis

6. Comments from the Public

Georgette Jordening reported on current operations of NRCS.

John Maser spoke to the board. In the past there were supplemental wells under irrigation districts. Maser has noticed supplemental wells have become primary wells. There are 7 wells in his area he feels run all the time. Those wells are running and not using ditch water. 4 in his area, they have not used any surface water. Years ago the senior manager of Farmers Irrigation District stated there was a state law that if you hadn't used your surface water for 3 years you lose it. Wells in his area are down 10ft +. Is there anything the NRD could do to encourage those users to use surface water before using wells?

Scott Schaneman commented he had made a great point. There was a question in the past whether there should be a different allocation for those with a surface water right. Using the surface water first is important for the NPNRD. In the past dry years it was observed that the aquifer dropped. This year the aquifer stress is at a maximum level due to conditions.

Maser stated he has 3 supplemental wells down to 550-650gpm from as much as 950-1050gpm.

Kent Andreas commented there are surface water rights not being used in other places of the district as well.

7. Manager's Report

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

The Groundwater Expo had 350-355 attendance.

Scotts Bluff County commissioners provided support for browns canyon repair. Scott Schaneman provided input on the importance of the project at the commissioners meeting. Scotts Bluff Count gave \$20,000 toward the project. The commissioners have an interest in helping to establish a district wide drainage district to help with infrastructure needs to include drainage. The NPNRD has made a significant effort compared to where we have been in the past. The FY27 budget has a \$230,000 line item for drainage.

OneRed Rollout will be on September 17th. The program is still being developed but the program must start enrolling producers in 2027 to not lose funding.

Managers retreat was the 25th-26th in Ogallala. There was discussion amongst just managers with no others allowed in attendance.

Scott Schaneman provided an interview to the star herald concerning drought.

PRRIP has made a big effort to try and enhance habitat to include creating sandbars. PRRIP had a project from 2017-2022 for sediment augmentation. Sand was dumped over Overton bridge. 240,000 cubic yards of sand was dumped into the river to try and create artificial habitat at a cost of several million dollars. This equates to 30,000 truckloads of sand. Schaneman feels there has to be a better way of doing this. 98,000-acre feet of water was pushed down the river in June. This district pumps about 160,000-acre feet of water to produce crops. Schaneman is on the downstream water users committee for PRRIP. Schaneman will be resigning from that committee. If there was a place for the NPNRD it would be with the upstream water users. Currently the committee operates by voting unanimously on issues. Some issues are not necessarily good for the NPNRD. John Thorburn may be serving in Schaneman's place. Schaneman intends to be part of the water advisory committee.

Fall conference is on the 28th and 29th of September.

The Governors summit is also on the 29th September.

8. Budget and Personnel Committee Report

Scott Schaneman provided testimony in the hearing preceding the board meeting. The loss of revenue is mainly due to the freeze in NET money. Scott expects those revenues to return when the court case gets decided. Unfunded mandates without sources of revenue place the burden on the taxpayer. Operating expenses decreased but revenues also decreased in the proposed FY27 budget.

9. Discussion and Consideration of the FY-27 Budget

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Westphal, to adopt the FY-27 budget as presented. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lapaseotes, Weinreis

10. Discussion and Consideration of Setting Final Tax Request and Resolution

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Henkel, to adopt the resolution to set the tax request as presented. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lapaseotes, Weinreis

11. Discussion and Consideration of Entering a Closed Door Session for the Purpose of Discussing a Potential Real Estate Purchase and Related Negotiating Guidance

A motion was made by Andreas, seconded by Westphal, to enter into a closed-door session at 3:37pm. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lapaseotes, Weinreis

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Henkel, to exit closed door session at 4:30pm. Motion passed.

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lapaseotes, Weinreis

12. Discussion and Consideration of Granting Scott Schaneman the Authority to Purchase Real Property in Accordance with the Negotiating Guidance Provided During the Closed Session.

There was no discussion or consideration of granting Scott Schaneman the Authority to purchase real property.

13. Adjourn

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

A motion was made by Andreas, seconded by Henkel, to adjourn the meeting at 4:32pm. Motion Passed.

Aye: Andreas, Darnall, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lapaseotes, Weinreis