

**Minutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Special Board Meeting
July 20, 2026**

Chair Kirsch called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 2:30 pm, in Special Session at the North Unit Irrigation District Conference Room, 2024 NW Beech Street, Madras, OR 97741. Remote participation available via Teleconference: 1-408-638-0968 Meeting ID: 373 976 1157 Participant ID: # or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3739761157>

Board Members Present

Mike Kirsch, Chairman
Ryan Boyle, Vice Chairman via Zoom
Evan Thomas, Director
Ryan Feigner, Director
James Macy, Director

Staff Members Present

Joshua Bailey, Secretary, District Manager
Erek Fuchs, Assistant District Manager
Dennis Krueger, Operations Manager
Leslie Maynard, Finance Manager
Collin Cowsill, Special Projects Manager

Others Present

Gary Harris, Kelly Nance, Jack Ickler, Katie Oliver, Marla Rae Vibbert, Jason Harris, Leroy Buck, Todd Christopherson, Dale Bender, Chris Casad, Stan Sullivan

Approval of Agenda

Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained from voting.

Public Comments on Agenda Items (5 mins)

None

Water Supply and Demand

Drought conditions and the severe lack of snow accumulation in the watershed for the Deschutes Basin this last winter have produced challenges to water management. There is concern that at the present rate of demand, projections show a potential deficit, relative to current capacity in Wickiup Reservoir of approximately 4,850 acre-feet of water, if all water allotted this year is delivered. Should this be the case, a modest reduction of the current allotments may be necessary to ensure that flow requirements for the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) are met.

Extra 5k from Crane Prairie.

An option exists to call for up to 5,000 acre-feet of water to be released from Crane Prairie Reservoir into Wickiup Reservoir as a provision of the HCP to be split between North Unit, Arnold, and Lone Pine Irrigation Districts. This option is only allowed twice during the first seven years of the implementation of the HCP. As it was utilized in 2021, we only have one use left to utilize. If exercised, it could significantly reduce the storage deficit currently forecasted. This provision requires close coordination and consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Central Oregon, Arnold and Lone Pine Irrigation Districts. DM Bailey to further engage the leadership of COID to discuss this option, causing no reduction of current allotments at this time.

Public Comment (5 minutes)

None

Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 8:30 AM

The NUID board will reconvene at the regularly scheduled meeting on August 11th, at the Jefferson County Annex, 66 SE D Street in Madras.

Board adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Signed,



Mike Kirsch
Chairman



Joshua Bailey
District Manager