

**Minutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Regular Board Meeting
January 14, 2025**

Chair Kirsch called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 8:32 am, in regular session at the Jefferson County Annex, 66 SE D 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, Chair
Ryan Boyle, Vice Chair
Vern Bare, Director arriving at 9:37am
Evan Thomas, Director
Ryan Feigner, Director

Staff Members Present

Josh Bailey, Secretary, District Manager
Michael Britton, Executive Manager via Zoom
Gary Calhoun, Operations Manager
Dennis Krueger, Watermaster
Leslie Maynard, Finance Manager
Collin Cowsill, Water Operations Specialist
Michelle Camphouse, Water Records Clerk

Others Present

NUID Patrons: Marla Rae Vibbert, Leroy Buck
Patrick Boyle and Marie Kay Williams, Marsch McLennan Agency, LLC

Annual Meeting – Election of Officers

Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to appoint Michael Kirsch as Chair and Ryan Boyle as Vice Chair, with Josh Bailey to serve as secretary to the Board. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained from the vote. Director Bare absent.

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Boyle/Director Thomas moved/seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained. Director Bare absent.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from the December 10, 2024, regular board meeting were presented. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the December 10, 2024 regular board minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained. Director Bare absent.**

Approval of Bills

Finance Manager Maynard presented the November 1-30, 2024, bills. **Vice Chair Boyle/Director Thomas moved/seconded to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained. Director Bare absent.**

Financial Reports

Finance Manager Maynard presented the November 2024 Budget Comparison, DBBC Report, Reserve Funds, Bank Statement, and Office Report. **Vice Chair Boyle/Director Feigner moved/seconded to approve the financials as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained. Director Bare absent.**

Resolution 2024-12 2025 Debt Charges

Absent from December's board packet. Will be retro-active to December 10, 2024.

Resolution 2024-12 Debt Charges was presented to the board. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve Resolution 2024-12. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained. Director Bare absent.**

Resolution 2024-13 O&M and Admin Charges

Absent from December's board packet. Will be retro-active to December 10, 2024.

Resolution 2024-13 setting O&M and Admin Charges was presented to the board. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve Resolution 2024-13. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained. Director Bare absent.**

Resolution 2025-01 2025 Board Meeting Dates

A resolution outlining the 2025 board meeting schedule with meetings set on the second Tuesday of each month and the 2026 annual organization meeting date. November 11 (Veteran's Day) meeting to be moved to November 12, 2025. **Director Thomas/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve Resolution 2025-01 with above revision. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained. Director Bare absent.**

2025 Commercial Insurance Renewal

Presented by Patrick Boyle and Marie Kay Williams from Marsh McLennan Agency, LLC. Review of policy and deductible options. Increase property deductible from \$500 to \$5000 and equipment to \$1000 would provide an annual premium savings of \$3500. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the 2025 commercial insurance policy with the deductible increases above. Motion carried 3-0. Vice Chair Boyle abstained. Director Bare absent.**

Resolution 2025-02 OWRD Grant Application

Submission of an application to be used as non-federal cost share applied toward the construction costs of Lateral 43 Pipeline, Segment 3. **Director Thomas/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve Resolution 2025-02. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained. Director Bare absent.**

Conserved Water Pathway Memo and Forbearance Agreement

An agreement between all Deschutes Basin Irrigation Districts to bypass conserved water that they could legally divert. Conserved water from senior water rights districts will be made available to NUID as live flow during the irrigation season. NUID will release the amount of conserved water received from other districts as winter flows to meet HCP requirements. **Vice Chair Boyle/Director Thomas moved/seconded to approve the Conserved Water Forbearance Agreement. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Conserved Water Character of Use Application

Application required to access up to \$5 million in available grant funding from OWRD. This transfer is adding a character of use – flow augmentation – to a specific volume of stored water in Wickiup. This volume is an amount equal to the volume of live flow water being made available to NUID as a result of conservation projects in other Deschutes Basin Irrigation Districts. **Director Bare/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve Conserved Water Character of Use Application. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Redmond Resiliency Project Update

During a meeting in early January, it was discussed that a hydro facility is no longer an economical option. Solar is approx. 1/3 the installation cost and 3x the electrical output of hydro. District staff are instructed to utilize the remaining grant funding to research the potential for an over canal or terrestrial solar array installed within the NUID easement. The project also includes researching a micro grid with battery backup.

Water Operations Specialist Report

Water Operations Specialist Cowsill presented the water operations report at the meeting. 43 headend nearing completion, 58-11 diversion power resolved, CRPS data loss resolution, still waiting for notice from BOR to proceed on 58-11 flume grant project, Emrgy floating solar update, Wickiup automation grant applications submitted, met with reps from DRC and ESA to consider a pilot deployment of their water accounting platform.

O&M Report

Operations Manager Calhoun presented the O&M report at the meeting. Slide show presentation of Taylor NW construction, Holiday time off 12/25 – 1/03, back filling old section of 43-2 lateral, grader operation on main canal as conditions allowed, core trenched section of lateral 57, mowing as conditions allowed, hauled HDPE pipe for 43-6 lateral, meters repaired, yearend inventory, BOR dam tender training, spray classes and confined space training.

Lateral 43 Segment 2, Change Order 001 & 002

Change order 001 & 002 from Black Rock Consulting reviewed. 001 modification are due to Jefferson County Road Department requiring roadway sleeves at crossings, tie new piping into existing manifold and pump station, addition of 8" and 12" turnouts. 002 modification are to allow for North-South irrigation system demands. Cost covered by current grants. No board action required.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Bailey presented the following Manager's Report at the meeting.

- NRCS PL-566 Funding Award - \$2 million was requested, \$8.7 million awarded.
- Trip to DC April 28th.
- COID/NUID Delivery Fee Resolution – agree to cost that is equal to COID patrons.
- 2024 Conserved Water Amount from COID is 7701 AF– conserved water will be released during the 2025 irrigation season at the direction of USF&W to satisfy HCP requirements.
- Project Update – canal liner project will begin winter 2025-26.

Executive Manager's Report

District Executive Manager Britton presented the Executive Manager's Report at the meeting.

- Legislative – House Bill Farmer's Right to Efficiency – can not force a farmer to take more water that they need.
- Interpretive Panel – SHPO requesting panel showing the scale of existing fish screens. However, when installed this could be a problem with pedestrian traffic, as the screens are the largest and oldest screens currently in use and could unwittingly cause an injury to a passerby.

Water Supply/Water Allotment Discussion

Watermaster Krueger presented the Water Supply Report. Review of current supply, water remaining to be delivered, precipitation, and storage vs. same date in 2023.

Public Comment

Marla Rae Vibbert requested entire board packets be posted on the website.

Leroy Buck proposed a review of patron assessments and proposed a concept that would institute a special assessment be added to those on pressurized pipelines to fund future conservation pipeline projects.

Other Business and Announcements

None

Next Board Meeting

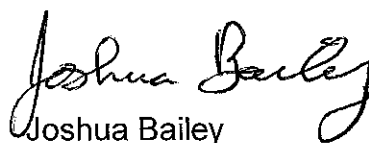
The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 8:30 am.

Board adjourned at 11:37 am.

Signed,



Mike Kirsch
Chair



Joshua Bailey
Board Secretary/District Manager