

**Minutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Emergency Board Meeting
July 22, 2026**

Chair Kirsch called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 10:00 am, in Emergency 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
Evan Thomas, Director via Zoom
Ryan Feigner, Director
James Macy, Director via Zoom

Staff Members Present

Joshua Bailey, Secretary, District Manager
Erek Fuchs, Assistant District Manager
Julia Turek, Water Records Clerk
Michelle Camphouse, Water Records Clerk

Others Present

In Person: Katie Oliver, Marla Rae Vibbert, Jason Harris, Leroy Buck, Noah Vibbert
Zoom: Houston Forsythe, Lashon Reed, RB Griffith

Approval of Agenda

Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained from voting. Vice Chair Boyle absent.

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 has produced new unprecedented water management challenges. At the present rate of demand, projections show a potential deficit of approximately 4,850 acre feet, if all water allotments are 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. NUID would receive 2,500 with Arnold and Lone Pine both receiving 1,250 each.

USF&W also agreed to permit NUID to use up to 5,000 acre-feet of conserved water for irrigation this year. If used, this water must be either repaid during the winter storage season or added to next season's conserved water total, which will decrease the water available for the 2027 irrigation season.

DM Bailey suggested requesting the release of 5,000 acre-feet of water from Crane Prairie. He believes this request will help avoid reducing current allotments, although reductions remain possible. The District will assess the necessity of the additional 5,000 acre-feet of conserved water at the upcoming board meeting and will inform USF&W of their decision.

Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the request of 5,000 acre feet of stored water from Crane Prairie into Wickiup Reservoir. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained from vote. Vice Chair Boyle absent.

Other Business and Announcements

None

Public Comment (5 minutes)

Leroy Buck inquired if USF&W will release HCP water early to assist irrigation during drought. DM Bailey advised those releases only coincide with frog stages of development and mobility between fluctuating water levels.

Katie Oliver asked about how using 5,000 acre-feet of conserved water might affect the 2027 allotments. DM Bailey indicated that this could lead to a potential decrease of 0.05 in Deschutes River water rights and .03 in Crooked River water rights, emphasizing that the water would only be used if necessary.

Next Board Meeting

The NUID board will reconvene at the regularly scheduled meeting on August 11th at 8:30 am, at the Jefferson County Annex, 66 SE D Street in Madras.

Board adjourned at 10:22 am.

Signed,



Mike Kirsch
Chairman



Joshua Bailey
District Manager