

**Minutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Regular Board Meeting
February 11, 2025**

Chair Kirsch called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 8:31 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
Evan Thomas, Director
Ryan Feigner, Director

Staff Members Present

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

Others Present

NUID Patrons: Katie Oliver via Zoom
Lane Dickson, The Ferguson Group; April Snell, OWRC

Approval of Agenda

DM Bailey requested the addition of COID/NUID Temporary Easement Contract.
Vice Chair Boyle/Director Bare moved/seconded to approve the agenda with the above addition. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

The Ferguson Group – Federal Update

Lane Dickson of The Ferguson Group presented the Federal Government Update. Trump Administration federal grant fund freezes - NUID has future projects that are paused but current projects have not been affected. Will monitor for possible future impacts/delays. Support looks favorable for WaterSmart and infrastructure grants, PL566. Support looks questionable for solar programs.

OWRC – State Legislative Update

April Snell of Oregon Water Resources Congress presented the State Legislative Update.

HB 2803 – Water Resources Department has proposed a 135% fee increase for water transfers.

Public interest review proposed by Water Watch Oregon would require all water transfer requests to go through a public interest review process.

There is a bill supporting the study of wastewater re-use.

Proposed SB 92 would expand and improve the state's existing community solar program by increasing capacity, the flexibility of project locations and customer subscriptions, and incentivizing battery storage for community resilience.

HB 2982 which would boost boat registration fees to fund the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund. That would raise an estimated \$500,000 a year. Funding would help educate and mitigate the spread of Quagga/Zebra Mussels in Oregon waterways.

HB 2170 Authorizes the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Marine Board and the State Department of Agriculture to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with a local government or a local service district to perform aquatic invasive species inspections at check stations.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from the January 14, 2025, regular board meeting were presented.

Directors Bare/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the January 14, 2025, regular board minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.

Approval of Bills

Finance Manager Maynard presented the December 2024 bills. **Vice Chair**

Boyle/Director Thomas moved/seconded to approve the bills as presented.

Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.

Financial Reports

Finance Manager Maynard presented the December 2024 Budget Comparison, DBBC Report, Reserve Funds, Bank Statement, and Office Report. **Vice Chair**

Boyle/Director Bare moved/seconded to approve the financials as presented.

Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.

ESA Section 6 Grant Application Proposal

Grant funding from USF&W is to be used to hire a consultant in preparation for the possible listing of the Western Ridge Mussel to the Endangered or threatened list under the ESA. Proposal from Mt. Hood Environmental to conduct studies and research necessary to prepare the application. The cost of preparing the application would be split with COID and OID. Crook County agencies and the City of Prineville may participate pending approval from their respective boards/commissioners.

Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve Mt. Hood Environmental scope of work and enter into agreement and authorize DM Bailey to sign the proposal. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.

COID/NUID Temporary Easement Contract

To facilitate the construction of the Bend Fish Screen Project, NUID has requested temporary access and staging easements on portions of COID property. The Temporary Construction Access and Staging Easement Agreement was presented to the board for consideration. **Directors Bare/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the Temporary Construction Access and Staging Easement Agreement with COID. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Water Operations Specialist Report

Water Operations Specialist Cowsill presented the water operations report at the meeting. 43-headend automation nearing completion, activating lateral 58 lower measurement at Coyote Pond, existing stilling well and water level sensor will improve flow condition monitoring on L58, farm fair, Emrgy floating solar update, Wickiup automation grant – potential impact from funding pause, OWRD Crooked River Flow Measurement Site – installation of new flow site upstream from CRPS, NUID will tap into flow reading to operate the VFD at CRPS.

O&M Report

Operations Manager Calhoun presented the O&M report at the meeting. Back filling old section of 43-2 lateral, grading main canal, core trenched lateral 41, replaced arch cmp pipe crossings on 58-3 & 41 laterals, parts fabrication for PL43 deliveries, pre-emergent spraying, fleet maintenance, track repair on 320 excavator, replaced hydraulic hose on scraper & repaired exhaust, office staff and crew attended CPR/1st AID class, safety committee held monthly meeting.

House Replacement Ride 64 & 58-11

Working on permits to begin and they should be completed Spring of 2025. The cost of a stick-built home is \$24k more than a manufactured, but that cost includes a concrete driveway, garage, covered patio, and heat pump. The stick-built home will be turn-key ready, as the manufactured home would require connection to utilities and additional work such as a deck/patio. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to begin the public bid process for stick-built homes. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

District Manager's Report

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

- Submittal of conserved water application to OWRD to change the character of use of Wickiup Water.
- Funding Update – all BIL & IRA funding is currently on hold. This funding is for future projects that we have not begun. Funding pause has not affected us yet and we will continue to move forward.
- Grant application is being prepared for ODF&W Bend Fish Screens.
- March 19th joint Town Hall with all Deschutes Basin Irrigation Districts will be held at the Redmond High School from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

Executive Manager's Report

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

- Tracking state legislation.
- Weekly meetings with BOR re: Bend Fish Screens
- Rainmaker (cloud seeding) legislative work reception in March. Grant fund match application to research cloud seeding.

Water Supply/Water Allotment Discussion

OM Calhoun presented the Water Supply Report. Review of current supply, precipitation, and storage vs. same date in 2023. CRPS power issues have been resolved and we will be able to power all pumps this year when water is available.

Public Comment

None.

Other Business and Announcements

Director Bare will not be able to attend the next few board meetings.

Next Board Meeting

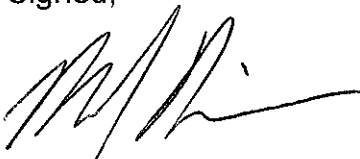
The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 8:30 am.

Meeting recessed at 10:38 am before entering into Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(h).

Board returned to open session at 11:24 am.

Board adjourned at 11:27 am.

Signed,



Mike Kirsch
Chair



Joshua Bailey
Board Secretary/District Manager