

**Minutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Regular Board Meeting
March 10, 2026**

Chair Kirsch called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 8:32 am, in regular session at the Madras Municipal Airport 2028 NW Berg Drive, 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
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
Lonnie Lang, Watermaster
Leslie Maynard, Finance Manager
Collin Cowsill, Special Projects Manager
Michelle Camhouse, Water Records Clerk

Others Present

Zoom: Marilyn Clark, Madras Pioneer; Gary Harris, NUID Patron, Michael (declined to identify further)

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

None.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from February 10, 2026, regular board meeting were presented. Vice Chair Boyle noted an error on page 3. Watermaster Lang needs to replace Watermaster Krueger. **Vice Chair Boyle/Director Thomas moved/seconded to approve the February 10, 2026, regular board meeting minutes with above correction. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Draft minutes from the February 24, 2026, special board meeting were presented. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the February 24, 2026, special board meeting as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Approval of Bills

Finance Manager Maynard presented the January 2026 bills. **Vice Chair Boyle/Director Macy moved/seconded to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Financial Reports

Finance Manager Maynard presented the January 2026 Budget Comparison, DBBC Report, Reserve Funds, and Bank Statement. **Directors Thomas/ Feigner moved/seconded to approve the financials as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Office Report

Office Manager Maynard presented the February 2026 Office Manager Report.

Emergency Drought Declaration Request

DM Bailey presented a letter requesting an emergency drought declaration from the Jefferson County Commissioners. Deschutes County has already requested an emergency drought declaration from Governor Kotek. **Directors Thomas/Macy moved/seconded to approve the letter to be submitted to the Jefferson County Commissioners. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

DBWC (Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative) Update

Assistant District Manager Fuchs presented Power Point, discussing the status of DBWC's report and relevant updates.

Special Projects Manager's Report

SPM Cowsill presented the special projects manager's report at the meeting.

O&M Report

Operations Manager Krueger presented the O&M report at the meeting.

Bend Landowner Encroachment

Homeowner fences are encroaching on and enclosing NUID-owned land along the canal in Bend. These fences are preventing necessary maintenance of the canal and the surrounding land. We need legal counsel to draft a notification letter informing homeowners that their fences are considered trespassing, and that if maintenance is required, our equipment will need to access the area, which may result in the removal of the fences. This draft letter will be presented to the Board for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

District Manager's Report

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

- Meeting report with BOR during the NWIO Conference
- NRCS PL-566 Funding Request

- Ride 41 Ditchrider will be transferring to maintenance. James Scott will be transferring from maintenance to 41 ditchrider position.
- Bend Fish Screens Replacement Project update
 - 3-Phase Power Requirement
 - Power Pole Easement
 - Construction Progress – construction crew is doing a stellar job.
 - Still seeking additional funding - should know in April if funds are awarded.
 - Updated price and budget coming

Water Supply

Watermaster Lang presented the Water Supply Report. Review of current supply, precipitation, snowpack, and storage vs. same date in 2025. Discussion of tentative target dates for water turn on. Meeting on March 11th with USF&W for HCP release requirements.

Public Comment

Gary Harris asked if USF&W can require a release of saved frog water at the end of the year. Josh advised that yes, USF&W does have the ability to reserve water until the end of the irrigation season. However, we do not know the schedule that USF&W will require us to release any saved conserved water.

Other Business and Announcements

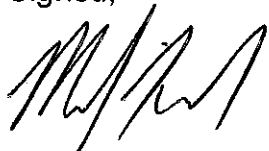
- Public Meeting Law Training video has been assigned to all management staff and board members through Vector Solutions.
- 3/17/2026 Public comment meeting for COID's Pilot Butte Canal Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- 3/18/2026 DBBC is hosting a Joint Town Hall with Central Oregon's Irrigation Districts to discuss the season outlook and efforts toward sustainable water.

Next Board Meeting

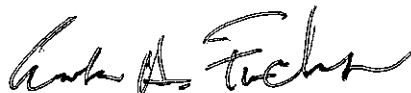
The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th, 2026, at 8:30 am.

Board adjourned at 10:11 am.

Signed,



Mike Kirsch
Chair



Erik Fuchs
Assistant District Manager

