

**Minutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Regular Board Meeting
August 11, 2026**

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, Chairman
Ryan Boyle, Vice Chairman
Evan Thomas, Director, arrived at 8:34
Ryan Feigner, Director
James Macy, Director

Staff Members Present

Joshua Bailey, District Manager
Erek Fuchs, Assistant District Manager
Dennis Krueger, Operations Manager
Leslie Maynard, Finance Manager
Collin Cowsill, Special Projects Manager
Michelle Camphouse, Water Records Clerk

Others Present

Virtual: Michael Miller; John Burns, Environmental Science Associates; Mike Britton; David Pilz, Fluent Freshwater Insights; Darren Funk, HP Civil; Ryan Gescher, HP Civil
Others Present: Leroy Buck; David Kaiser; April Snell, OWRC; Kate Fitzpatrick, DRC

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Boyle/Director Macy moved/seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained from vote.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from July 14th, 2026, regular board meeting were presented. A correction to page 3 was made: DM Bailey presented the O&M report. **Director Feigner/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve the July 14th, 2026, regular board meeting minutes with the above correction. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Draft minutes from July 20th, 2026, special board meeting were presented. **Director Feigner/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve the July 20th, 2026, special**

board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.

Draft minutes from July 22nd, 2026, emergency board meeting were presented.

Director Feigner/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve the July 22nd, 2026, emergency board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.

Approval of Bills

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

Financial Reports

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

Office Report

Finance Manager Maynard presented the July 2026 Office Manager's Report.

Environmental Science Associates (ESA) Water Accounting Tool

John Burns of ESA presented the Water Banking Tool. This is a pilot, web-based application, that would help facilitate water leasing among NUID water right holders. The tool is designed to match the seller and quantity with the buyer. Patron transactions will not be made public and will not be included in the interface. The proposed pilot is 12 months in duration and the costs associated with the development of the app are covered by DRC. NUID would be responsible for covering costs associated with modifying the District's water tracking software STORM. This tool will serve as a prototype and on a voluntary basis while further discussions occur regarding the larger water banking concept applicable to the Basin as a whole.

NUID, DRC, ESA Data Sharing Agreement

A data sharing agreement associated with development of the Water Accounting Tool. NUID will make available to ESA Shared Data for the Deschutes Water Bank. ESA and DRC will use the Shared Data solely for the Authorized Purpose (attributing and reporting trades and supporting alignment with OWRD) and for no other purpose. Shared Data is not to be displayed to patrons or other third parties through the Water Banking Tool. **Vice Chair Boyle/Director Feigner moved/seconded to allow Assistant Manager Fuchs to enter into Data Sharing Agreement and make revisions as needed. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

DRC Water Bank Update

Kate Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of the DRC presented an update on the Deschutes Basin Water Bank Program. Fitzpatrick referred to HB 3806. Deschutes Basin senior water right holders may fallow acres and still receive beneficial use requirements by

loaning their allotment to the Water Bank. 25% of the volume of water from fallowed acres must be leased in-stream during the irrigation season. 100% of water loaned through on-farm activities must be winter-released from Wickiup. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have not approved the Charter until an injury test is in place. The Charter would then go to the Commission for approval. Kate Fitzpatrick didn't think the Bank would be available until the 2028 irrigation season at the earliest.

Change Order #2 – Bend Fish Screen Replacement Project

DM Bailey presented HP Civil's Change Order #2 for the Bend Fish Screen Project. Several changes have been needed, resulting in an overall reduction in the original contract price.

DM Bailey requested the approval of \$100,000 in grant funds, that will allow HP Civil to proceed with work that would ensure protection of COID's infrastructure and the Deschutes River at the Bend Fish Screen fish return. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve Change Order #2, and an additional \$100,000 in grant funds that will allow HP Civil to proceed with work that would ensure protection of COID's infrastructure and the Deschutes River at the Bend Fish Screen fish return. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

HDR Budget Amendment – Bend Fish Screen Replacement Project

DM Bailey was unable to present the HDR Budget Amendment for the Bend Fish Screen Replacement Project. HDR has nearly exhausted the available budget for the District's Bend Fish Screen project. DM Bailey is requesting approval of an At-Risk Amendment for an additional \$10,000. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the HDR Budget Amendment for an additional \$10,000. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Service Contract with Integrated Water Strategies

DM Bailey presented a service contract with Integrated Water Strategies to provide project supervision services for the District's Bend Fish Screen Replacement project while DM Bailey is away on sabbatical. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the service contract with Integrated Water Strategies. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Special Projects Manager's Report

SPM Cowsill delivered the Special Projects Manager's report during the meeting.

- 58-11 Valve – current actuator needs to be replaced. Estimate is approx. \$16,000. SPM requested Board approval to use reserve funds to facilitate the cost of a new actuator. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to use reserve funds to facilitate the replacement of the 58-11 actuator. Motion passed 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.** Finance Manager Maynard recommended the Hydro Power Fund to finance the actuator.
- Wickiup Automation Project – OWRD grant agreement signed and submitted. Pending USBR grant award.

- McMag Meter Project – many existing paddle meters are nearing their life expectancy; staff are gathering a count of all bad propeller meters. Will obtain estimate for most affordable option.
- NLINE FCA Haystack Hydro – design received impasse with DEQ. Need to investigate further with DEQ.

O&M Report

Operations Manager Krueger presented the O&M report at the meeting. Easement weed spraying, relief ditchriding during vacations, preparing material for Juniper Butte liner project, repairing canal leaks, fleet maintenance, interviews for ride 51 ditchrider.

Assistant Manager's Report

Assistant District Manager Fuchs presented the Assistant Manager's report at the meeting.

- AM Fuchs and Julia Turek met with an SDAO representative and completed a site safety walkthrough inspection. The findings were generally good with only minor infractions noted.
- Attended a public works meeting in Bend wherein plans for upgrades to Bend's wastewater and sewer system were discussed. Assurances were made that any potential impacts to irrigation infrastructure would be communicated as early as possible.
- Staffing update provided.

(LCRB) Contractor Proposals for Segment 3, Lateral 43

At 10:11 am the NUID regular board recessed and convened as the Local Contract Review Board (LCRB) to review 4 bids for Segment 3, Lateral 43 Project. The bids are for the piping of Lateral 43 Segment 3. After review, it was recommended to award the bid to K&E Excavating. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to award Lateral 43 Segment 3 piping project to K&E Excavating. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.** Local Contract Review Board adjourned and reconvened as the NUID Regular Board at 10:20 am.

Resolution 2026-10: OWRD Grant Application, Segment 4 Lateral 43

AM Fuchs presented a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for an OWRD Water Projects Grant and Loan Program. The grant would provide \$2,244,112.05 of match funding to continue piping efforts on Segment 4 of the Lateral 43 Pipeline Project. If awarded, up to 2.3 cfs of conserved water will be placed instream during the winter. **Vice Chair Boyle/Director Thomas moved/seconded to approve Resolution 2026-10 OWRD Grant Application. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

District Manager's Report

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

- Proposal for early removal of fish screen on east side of main canal headworks to facilitate early work on the District's Bend Fish Screen project.
- DBBC Grant Application for BOR Drought Response Programs.

- Review of delinquent accounts.

Water Supply

Operations Manager Krueger presented the Water Supply Report. Review of current supply & demand, precipitation, snowpack, and storage vs. same date in 2025. Continue to monitor closely. If needed, will hold an additional meeting to discuss allotment decrease.

OWRC Legislative Update

OWRC Executive Director, April Snell, gave an update on state and federal legislative initiatives and OWRC activities.

Public Comment

None.

Other Business and Announcements

None.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 8:30 am at the Jefferson County Annex, 66 SE D Street, Madras, OR 97741.

Board adjourned at 11:13 am.

Signed,



Mike Kirsch
Chairman



Joshua Bailey
District Manager

