

**Minutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Regular Board Meeting
April 8, 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
Evan Thomas, Director
Ryan Feigner, Director

Staff Members Present

Josh Bailey, Secretary, District Manager
Mike Britton, Executive Director – arriving at 10:00 am
Gary Calhoun, Operations Manager
Leslie Maynard, Finance Manager
Michelle Camphouse, Water Records Clerk

Others Present

NUID Patrons: Marla Rae Vibbert, Katie Oliver
Kelly Simmelink, Jefferson County Commissioner via Zoom
Jeremy Giffin, Oregon State Watermaster

Approval of Agenda

District Manager Bailey requested Water Supply to follow Financial Reports to allow Operations Manager Calhoun to assist with priming ditches. **Director Thomas/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve the agenda with the above change. Motion carried 3-0. Director Bare absent. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from the March 11, 2025, regular board meeting were presented. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the March 11, 2025, regular board minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Director Bare absent. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Draft minutes from the March 25, 2025 special board meeting were presented. **Director Thomas/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve the March 26, 2025 special**

board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Director Bare absent. Chair Kirsch abstained.

Approval of Bills

Finance Manager Maynard presented the February 2025 bills. **Vice Chair Boyle/Director Thomas moved/seconded to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Director Bare absent. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Financial Reports

Finance Manager Maynard presented the February 2025 Budget Comparison, DBBC Report, Reserve Funds, Bank Statement, and Office Report. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the financials as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Director Bare absent. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Water Supply

Operations Manager Calhoun and Oregon State Watermaster Giffin presented the Water Supply Report. Review of current supply, precipitation, and storage vs. same date in 2024. Natural flows look positive for 2025 due to increased and intact snowpack in higher elevations. Arnold Irrigation District will not begin deliveries until June 1st allowing NUID to utilize the increased live flow. Conditions will be monitored closely. No change to allotments as it is still early in the season and conditions/demand have not been fully realized.

HDR BFS Plan Code Changes Contract

HDR has completed its review of the Bend Fish Screen Plans. The plans need to be modified to reflect the recent code changes from their original 2015 plans. Additional calculations must be performed before HDR can provide a finalized set of stamped plans. HDR is requesting an additional \$15,000 to carry out this work, and OWEB has approved this expense to be charged to the existing grant. District Manager Bailey is seeking authorization to enter into a contract with HDR to complete the new tasks. **Director Thomas/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve the \$15,000 grant application to cover the above work. Motion carried 3-0. Director Bare absent. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Redmond Resiliency Project Update

The cost of the hydro project is not economically viable given its energy output, and all work has been halted. FCA has suggested exploring alternative approaches, such as over-canal or terrestrial solar energy with battery backup. They recommended partnering with Imagine Energy, which will complete 10% of the design work at no cost to NUID. The Board expressed support for District Manager Bailey to proceed with exploring options to conduct a study of the potential solar opportunities.

Water Operations Specialist Report

District Manager Bailey presented the water operations report at the meeting. All gate sites tested and ready, 43 headend required a non-gear reduced motor – awaiting shipment and installation, general program updates and electrical patchwork, surplus

water program - instructions ready to be posted to website and emailed to patrons, joined ODA local advisory committee, continuing OWRD application for Wickiup flow measurement system, NUID website ADA compliance.

O&M Report

District Manager Bailey presented the O&M report at the meeting. Three burn crews working, building and installing deliveries for PL43 project, installing a temporary check structure at end of PL43 to be used as a measuring system where water re-enters open ditch, pre-emergent applications, new starter installed in 160 excavator, new alternator installed in grader, regular fleet maintenance, SDAO performed safety inspection of office and base facilities.

Flow Control Valves

Installation of flow control valves as part of certain delivery upgrades. Flow control valves will be required for those pumping directly out of 51 lateral. This will require the meter policy to be modified. Further discussions to occur at the May 13, 2025, board meeting.

District Manager's Report

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

- Letter of support for HB 3806 - The act allows a Deschutes Basin water bank pilot program. A voluntary, market-based tool that would allow for management and movement of water to increase water supply reliability for junior irrigation districts, provide cities with access to ground water mitigation and restore in-stream flows in the Deschutes River.
- Mt. Hood Environmental Revised Scope of Work - Applying for grant to study impact of the Western Ridge Mussel potentially being added to ESA. Additional Legislative approvals now required, caused them to miss grant application deadline. Revised scope of work has been presented by MHE for \$10,800, which will be included in previously approved funding. \$10,800 to be split between 3 irrigation districts, City of Prineville and Crook County until Section 6 grant funding can be secured in 2026.
- Emrgy Floating Solar Update - Emrgy's updated site hosting agreement states they will bond \$2.55 million grant, not the entire project cost of \$5-6 million. Bonding the entire cost of the project was a requirement of bid. District Manager Bailey to reach out to Emrgy to ensure full compliance with RFP requirements.

Executive Manager's Report

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

- Spent several days in Salem attending legislative session events.
- Letter of opposition to SB 1153, which would add additional requirements to the water right transfer process.
- Update on cloud seeding study grant funding.

Public Comment

Katie Oliver questioned if Redmond Resiliency Energy Program revenue would be spread evenly among NUID patrons. District Manager Bailey stated it would be added to revenue budget to offset O&M charges.

Katie Oliver requested the cattle guard/gate policy revisited for a patron that came to her with his concerns. District Manager Bailey advised her to have the affected patron contact him to directly to address concerns.

Other Business and Announcements

Board Chair Krisch requested Jefferson County Commissioners to formally request a Drought Declaration for Jefferson County from Governor Kotek's office.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 8:30 am.

Meeting recessed at 10:22 am before entering into Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(a).

Board returned to open session at 10:44am.

Board entered into Executive Session at 10:45 am pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(h).

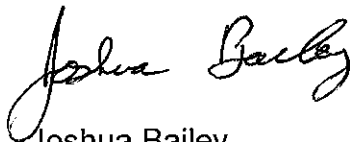
Board returned to open session at 11:07 am.

Board adjourned at 11:08 am.

Signed,



Mike Kirsch
Chair



Joshua Bailey
Board Secretary/District Manager