

**Minutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Regular Board Meeting
January 13, 2026**

Chair Kirsch called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 8:33 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
James Macy, Director

Staff Members Present

Joshua Bailey, Secretary, District Manager
Erek Fuchs, Assistant District Manager
Gary Calhoun, Operations Manager
Dennis Krueger, Watermaster
Lonnie Lang, Future Watermaster
Leslie Maynard, Finance Manager
Michelle Camphouse, Water Records Clerk

Others Present

Marla Rae Vibbert; Ron Oliver; Jos Poland; JoHanna & Jeremy Symons; Sean Vibbert; Jason Harris; Leroy Buck; Gary Harris
Marie Kay Williams, Pat Boyle; Marsh McLennan
Zoom: Marilyn Clark, Madras Pioneer; Sarah Tate & Elise Balin, Falen Law Office; David Filippi, Legal Counsel; Trish & Kerry Backsen, NUID Patrons

Oath of Office: James Macy & Ryan Feigner

DM Bailey administered Oath of Office for Ryan Feigner and James Macy. Both were elected to serve a three-year term on the NUID Board, to begin January 1, 2026, and conclude on December 31, 2028.

Annual Meeting – Election of Officers

Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to appoint Michael Kirsch as Chair and Ryan Boyle as Vice Chair, with Josh Bailey to serve as secretary to the Board. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained from the vote.

Approval of Agenda

Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.

*Virtual public meeting hacked. Images of a racist and sexual nature broadcast before ZOOM connection was ended. After several minutes, the ZOOM connection was restored without further incident, and participants were allowed back online.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from December 9, 2025, regular board meeting were presented. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the December 9, 2025, regular board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

2026 Commercial Insurance Renewal

Presented by Patrick Boyle and Marie Kay Williams from Marsh McLennan Agency, LLC.

Review of policy:

Replacement of two houses planned – noted.

Cyber - is a standalone policy and liability costs are not shared.

Commercial Flood – Crooked River pumps are in a floodplain and are not covered with this policy.

Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the 2026 commercial insurance policy. Motion carried 3-0. Vice Chair Boyle recused himself from discussion and vote. Chair Kirsch abstained.

Approval of Bills

Finance Manager Maynard presented the November 2025 bills. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Financial Reports

Finance Manager Maynard presented the November 2025 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

- The crop reports have all been turned in, Crystal is wrapping up processing them.
- We are working to reconcile the fuel slips and billing repairs to patrons.
- Julia processed the 2026 billings in Storm, team prepped and mailed out.
- Julia also worked to update new owner's information in Storm as the county is currently behind in updating their website.
- Leslie worked on auditing the final 2025 books as final expenses come in and billing went out.
- Processed funding requests to the BOR and OWEB for the Bend Fish Screens grants.
- Transferred \$326,346.07 to BOR for the Safety of Dams annual charge via ACH.

- Urged Hydro clients to submit power usage so we can bill them and backdate into 2025 per the auditor.
- Michelle uploaded the 2026 HRA contributions to the processor, printed and distributed year end forms with OT to comp; sick leave to HRA; and vacation payouts to all eligible employees; processed requested vacation payouts and bonuses.
- Michelle ordered and posted current labor law posters.

Resolution 2026-01 Bank Signatory Roster

Office Manager Maynard presented Resolution 2026-01 authorizing the removal of retiring board member and management employee and the addition of new management and board member as check signers. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve Resolution 2026-01 as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Resolution 2026-02 2026 Board Meeting Dates

Office Manager Leslie Maynard presented Resolution 2026-02 2026 Board Meeting Dates. **Directors Feigner/Thomas moved/seconded to approve Resolution 2026-02 as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Perfect Balance

JoHanna Symons spoke on behalf of Perfect Balance USA. Copies of a letter written by Falen Law Office to the Department of Interior requesting the modification of the HCP were distributed. Jeremy Symons also presented a letter discussing water flows. He is requesting independent biologists to compile science that benefits both frog and farmer.

BOR and CTWS have not been contacted for their input. Perfect Balance USA requested NUID's continued input in possible HCP modifications of winter 2025-2029 Wickiup releases that benefits the ecosystem as a whole.

Perfect Balance USA is currently paying legal costs then the burden is put on ODF&W to provide scientific studies. Once ODF&W responds, NUID would need legal counsel and biologists.

Marla Rae commented that Perfect Balance USA is coming to the NUID Board to request collaboration going forward.

No board action required. Since no formal board action is required, the Executive Session was cancelled.

Special Projects Manager's Report

Assistant Manager Fuchs presented the Special Projects Manager's report at the meeting.

- Attended REAL Oregon session #2 in Roseburg - Learned about private forestry sector; tours of real time logging operations; learned about Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Tribe history and future plans. Sessions #3 will be held in Newport and discuss maritime industries and fisheries.

- Pacific Power EV Grant - Ford ceased Lightning production and fleet line no longer available; submitted request for increased award and received a quote from GM for Sierra EV's.
- Emrgy FPV - Requests for amendments to financial agreement is under review; NEPA 30-day review of Cultural Resources report is underway.
- 58-11 Flume - Flume installed; concrete forms added; next phase is electrical and automation upgrades to valve house.
- NLine Small-scale Hydro Assessment - All of eight feasible sites have been categorized with Fatal-flaw/No-Go; now looking at bypass chute in front of Haystack Reservoir.
- Wickiup Automation Grant – Anticipated announcement for USBR funds this month.
- Meter Repairs Policy Query – Continue charging labor on meter repairs, post-repair installations, and installation of new meters. Internal discussions underway.

O&M Report

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

- Crew was off for Christmas Holiday.
- Worked on new Ops building.
- Installed 58-11 ramp flume, built wing wall then poured concrete.
- Ditchriders have completed their ride inspections and updated the jobs that need to be completed before 2026 irrigation season.
- Continued to prep the main canal below Juniper Butte in preparation for lining project.
- PL52-Z-2 repairs.
- Rebuilt 58-1-C.
- Fleet maintenance.

District Manager's Report

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

- Conserved Water Report - 2025 conserved water made available to NUID will need to be released from Wickiup before beginning of 2026 season.
- OWRD Grant holdback negotiated down to 1%.
- Meeting with Representative Levy regarding the 2025 Agricultural Stabilization and Resiliency Assistance Request.

Water Supply

Watermaster Krueger presented the Water Supply Report. Review of current supply, precipitation, snowpack, and storage vs. same date in 2025. Both precip and snow pack amounts are dismal.

Public Comment

Gary Harris stated he feels Perfect Balance should move forward with their efforts to modify the HCP.

Leroy Buck stated he feels something needs to happen to ensure water rights. Is there any protection as NUID is the only federal district in the Deschutes Basin.

Marla Rae Vibbert stated this board needs to be lenient and willing to listen to Perfect Balance. Past board was not receptive to them and now is the time to look at solutions collaboratively.

Jason Harris asked how the board felt about Perfect Balance's presentation. Chair Kirsch answered that they appreciate it and look forward to discussing it more. Director Thomas stated his concern is the possible HCP modifications opening NUID up to injunctions.

Other Business and Announcements

Gary Calhoun's retirement effective January 16, 2026 after 24 years of service.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2025, at 8:30 am.

Board adjourned at 11:16 am.

Signed,



Mike Kirsch
Chair



Joshua Bailey
Board Secretary/District Manager

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