

**Minutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Regular Board Meeting
March 11, 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
Vern Bare, Director
Evan Thomas, Director
Ryan Feigner, Director

Staff Members Present

Josh Bailey, Secretary, District Manager
Gary Calhoun, Operations Manager
Dennis Krueger, Watermaster
Collin Cowsill, Water Operations Specialist
Michelle Camhouse, Water Records Clerk

Others Present

NUID Patrons: Marla Rae Vibbert, Phil Fine
Kelly Simmelink, Jefferson County Commissioner via Zoom
Kate Fitzpatrick, Deschutes River Conservancy via Zoom

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from the February 11, 2025, regular board meeting were presented. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the February 11, 2025, regular board minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Approval of Bills

District Manager Bailey presented the January 2025 bills. **Vice Chair Boyle/Director Thomas moved/seconded to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Financial Reports

District Manager Bailey presented the January 2025 Budget Comparison, DBBC Report, Reserve Funds, Bank Statement, and Office Report. **Director Bare/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve the financials as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Resolution 2025-03 TWSC Prineville Reservoir

Resolution to enter into a Temporary Water Service Contract with the US Bureau of Reclamation to call on NUID stored water at Prineville Reservoir. This is a yearly contract. **Directors Bare/Thomas moved/seconded to approve Resolution 2025-03 to call on NUID stored water at Prineville Reservoir. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Yeoman Bridge Agreement with City of Bend

The City of Bend, in coordination with Pahlisch Homes, has constructed a new bridge over the NUID main canal to facilitate new housing complex. City of Bend will handle homeless encampments and maintenance affecting bridge. Director Thomas requested added language to hold NUID not liable for flooding caused through no fault of NUID i.e. traffic accident with vehicles in canal. District Manager Bailey will confer with counsel and represent the agreement at a later date.

HDR BFS Plan Review Contract

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has requested NUID to conduct a review of the 2015 stamped design and engineering documents for the Bend Fish Screen replacement project. District staff have coordinated this effort with HDR, the engineering firm that originally prepared the documents. OWEB grant funds will be used to cover the costs of this review. Authorization is sought to retroactively approve the contract as of February 17, 2025. **Director Thomas/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to retroactively approve HDR engineering document review for the Bend Fish Screen replacement project as of February 17, 2025. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Resolution 2025-04 ODFW Bend Fish Screen Grant Application

A resolution for the submittal of a grant application for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Passage and Screening program, in the amount of \$750,000. The additional funds will be used to cover material tariffs and project cost overruns. **Directors Bare/Feigner moved/seconded to approve submission of grant application. Motion carried 4-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Water Operations Specialist Report

Water Operations Specialist Cowsill presented the water operations report at the meeting. Reactivating service to all gate sites and diversion, replacing shaft encoder with ultrasonic transmitter at M58, general programming updates, installing JCore input/output system at CRPS to access pumps remotely, gate checks and testing, new headworks East transducer configuration, clean actuator/shafts, surplus water ordering rollout, continuing

OWRD application for Wickiup flow measurement system, federal financial report for Gates & Automation grant.

O&M Report

Operations Manager Calhoun presented the O&M report at the meeting. Repair and install new hub on Bend fish screens, weed burning, building and installing deliveries on 43 pipeline phase 2, finishing up on PL43-I, replaced culvert and 58-3-1-C headgate, completed concrete and shotcrete repairs on lined portion of main canal, Wickiup tube inspection, fleet maintenance, repair grader starter, water truck and 160 excavator repairs, chemical spray training.

District Manager's Report

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

- Kate Fitzpartick with Deschutes River Conservancy discussed introduction of HB 3806. The Deschutes Basin water bank would allow water right holders to deposit all or part of their allotment. This would meet the beneficial use requirements. Twenty-five percent of the volume of water loaned to the water bank as a result of the fallowing of acres during all or part of an irrigation season must be protected by an in-stream lease during the irrigation season. One hundred percent of the volume of water loaned to the water bank as a result of activities other than the fallowing of acres, which must be released from the Wickiup Reservoir and protected by an in-stream lease or flow augmentation right in the Deschutes River during the winter following the loan of the water. This release would qualify for meeting HCP requirements. Any water loaned to the water bank that is more than the water used must be protected by an in-stream lease. The NUID Board supports management to testify in support of bill.
- Mt. Hood Environmental Western Ridge Mussel study costs to be split between OID, NUID, COID, City of Prineville and Crook County.

Executive Manager's Report

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

- Karen Budd-Falen has been appointed Associate Deputy Secretary for the Department of the Interior.
- OWRC State Affairs information packet distributed.

Water Supply/Water Allotment Discussion

Watermaster Krueger presented the Water Supply Report. Review of current supply, precipitation, and storage vs. same date in 2024. Tentative allotments and start date were discussed and will be set at a special meeting the end of March.

Public Comment

None.

Other Business and Announcements

None

Next Board Meeting

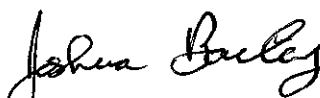
The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 8:30 am.

Board adjourned at 10:23 am.

Signed,



Mike Kirsch
Chair



Joshua Bailey
Board Secretary/District Manager