

**Minutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Regular Board Meeting
June 10, 2025**

Chair Kirsch called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 8:31 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, arriving at 8:37
Evan Thomas, Director
Ryan Feigner, Director

Staff Members Present

Joshua Bailey, Secretary, District Manager
Gary Calhoun, Operations Manager, arriving at 8:48
Dennis Krueger, Watermaster
Leslie Maynard, Finance Manager
Collin Cowsill, Water Operations Specialist
Michelle Camphouse, Water Records Clerk

Others Present

Kelly Simmelink, Jefferson County Commissioner via Zoom
Marilyn Clark, Madras Pioneer via Zoom
Steve Johnson, Emrgy
Dave Filippi, Legal Counsel via Zoom

Approval of Agenda

Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Vice Chair Boyle absent.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from the May 13, 2025, regular board meeting were presented. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the May 13, 2025, regular board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Vice Chair Boyle absent.**

Approval of Bills

Finance Manager Maynard presented the April 2025 bills. **Directors Thomas/Feigner moved/seconded to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Vice Chair Boyle absent.**

Financial Reports

Finance Manager Maynard presented the April 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. Vice Chair Boyle absent.**

64-4-2 Pipeline Reconstruction Proposal

Watermaster Krueger presented pricing options for replacing the damaged pipe on lateral 64-4-2. Requesting approval up to \$145,000 while management will continue to negotiate lower pipe costs. District currently has funds in reserves to cover the costs. **Directors Thomas/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to approve the use of reserve funds up to \$145,000 for 64-4-2 pipeline reconstruction costs. Motion carried 3-0. Director Kirsch abstained.**

District Housing Replacement Options

Operations Manager Calhoun presented updated pricing to replace ditchrider houses 64 and 58-11. Housing and special project reserves to be used. Goal is to have both move-in ready by beginning of irrigation season 2026. **Director Thomas/Vice Chair Boyle moved/seconded to move forward with current housing quotes to replace ditchrider houses 64 and 58-11 funded by housing and special projects reserves. Motion carried 3-0. Chair Kirsch abstained.**

Water Operations Specialist Report

Water Operations Specialist Cowsill presented the water operations report at the meeting. Haystack hydraulic gate motor repair at Wadell with a backup on the shelf; 58-11 valve awaiting new contactors and backup actuator; 43 headend automation has wrong motor configuration, inquiry in with manufacturer to replace; reviving measurement site d/s from Natel 45 hydro facility; ETO and Nline Energy to conduct “no cost to District” feasibility studies for irrigation modernization related hydro power projects, will assess potential at existing pressure reduction valve’s throughout the District; 58-11 Flume BOR grant final award approval underway, will begin flume fabrication once grant has been secured.

O&M Report

Watermaster Krueger presented the O&M report at the meeting. Main canal below Haystack and all laterals were treated with copper sulfate; emergency shutdown at the end of PL43 to repair 48” valve; installed three meters on PL43; spraying weeds throughout District and Wickiup; tree removal along easements; core trenching 41-10 lateral; relief riding on ride 51; installed safety walk planks; built a delivery enclosure box at PL43-5-B; general cleanup and maintenance of NUID HQ; fleet maintenance; Bend fish screen repairs.

District Manager's Report

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

- Prineville Reservoir Limited License Litigation – NUID will be allowed to continue using limited license stored water in Prineville Reservoir until a final ruling is reached.
- Bend Park & Recreation – BP&R board is planning to move forward with accepting the Miles-Fox property quit claim deed and begin the process of applying for permits for the trail from BOR and developing needed agreements with NUID.
- Cattle Guard Funding Report – Searching for funding to replace cattle guards. Cattle guard replacement does not fit current grant(s) eligibility requirements. As the district is responsible for maintaining guards, management will continue searching for funding options. District could also replace a few guards each year as the budget allows.
- Goat Grazing Proposal – The quote for goats to graze weeds on the main canal in Bend is comparable to the cost of NUID employees managing weeds.
- Assistant Manager Search – Current applicants have not met the qualifications. Job description and duties to possibly be revised.
- Project Matrix – Review of current and upcoming District projects.
- Bend Fish Screens Replacement – RFP to be published June 25, 2025. Bids are due August 4, 2025. Mandatory contractor job walk to be performed July 14, 2025.

Executive Manager's Report

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

- Letter to Governor Kotek and legislatures regarding agriculture stabilization and resiliency assistance for Jefferson County.
- The Ferguson Group Federal Affairs Report – Distributed at the meeting.

Water Supply

Watermaster Krueger presented the Water Supply Report. Review of current supply, precipitation, and storage vs. same date in 2024. Allotments to remain unchanged.

Public Comment

None.

Other Business and Announcements

Emrgy Floating Solar Project Update – Emrgy representative, Steve Johnson, provided an update on the project status. On June 1, 2025, Pacific Power tariffs paid to power generation were reduced significantly. If the solar project had battery storage, it would be possible to receive a premium tariff for energy released during peak usage periods. But even with that possibility, the original projected income for NUID has substantially reduced. Emrgy will provide a CAPEX and project schedule for further discussion at the July 8th Board meeting. No board action required at this time.

Next Board Meeting

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

Board entered into Executive Session at 11:15 am pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(h).

Board returned to open session at 11:39 am.

Board adjourned at 11:40 am.

Signed,

Mike Kirsch
Chair

Joshua Bailey
Board Secretary/District Manager