MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
January 16, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Roger Houdersheldt, Bill Kuehner, John Miller, Mike Nuss, Teresa Otte, Matt Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss, and Lynn Yates.

The staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Chrystal Houston, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, Drew ten Bensel, and Josh Bowers of York County NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Yates stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on January 11, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Yates informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 3. ROLL CALL.
Seventeen directors were present during the roll call.

ITEM 4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Miller to adopt the agenda for the January 16, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: None

ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2024, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024, board meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: None
NOT VOTING: Siebert

ITEM 6. DIRECTOR RECOGNITION.
Bill Kuehner and Paul Weiss were recognized for 10 years of service as Upper Big Blue NRD board members.

ITEM 7. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met January 9, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 8. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENT.

One aquifer quality well abandonment cost-share assistance program application was recommended for final payment totaling $750.00. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to make cost-share payment for one well abandonment, as reviewed by the committee at a cost of $750.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None

ITEM 9. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES.

The Water and Regulations Committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for 9 parcels totaling 498.52 acres, which yielded an increase in irrigated acres of 14.63. This brings the total irrigated acres within the district to 1,249,681.08 acres. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to certify the acres' changes as presented to the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None

NOT VOTING: Houdersheldt

ITEM 10. NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY (NDEE) - CHEMIGATION PERMIT PAYMENT.

A total of 171 new and 1,535 renewal chemigation permits were received by the district. The NDEE receives $5.00 for each new permit and $2.00 for each renewal permit issued by the district. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Miller to pay the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy $3,925.00 for chemigation permits issued. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None

ITEM 11. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Eight water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $3,830.64. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to make cost-share payments for eight water meter repair cost-share assistance applications in the amount of $3,830.64. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None

NOT VOTING: Siebert

ITEM 12. PAYMENT TO SANDERSON IRRIGATION FOR WATER METER MAINTENANCE.

An invoice was received from Sanderson Irrigation for the water meter maintenance work completed to-date. The invoice was for servicing 302 meters along with gaskets and canopy boots. Sanderson

Irrigation is expected to be finished by the end of February. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahly to pay the invoice from Sanderson Irrigation in the amount $28,117.00. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: None

ITEM 13. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on January 9, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 14. VILLAGE OF GILTNER DRAINAGE ASSISTANCE REQUEST.

Colin Cates, Utility Superintendent for the Village of Giltner addressed the committee regarding Giltner's plan for improving drainage in the northeast area of the Village. The Village of Giltner has been working with a local contractor to implement portions of the recommendations from the Miller & Associates 2021 Drainage Study, which the NRD helped fund. The proposed project includes alterations to the 3 blocks of the south side of the railroad, the 3 blocks north along H Street, and the 2 blocks west of H Street near the village park and bank. The initial cost estimate for this work is $54,000. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve funding assistance for 25% of the costs, not to exceed $13,500, to the Village of Giltner for the drainage improvement project in the northeast area of the Village. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: None

ITEM 15. HAMILTON COUNTY INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND ASSISTANCE REQUEST.

Kim Eberly gave the committee a presentation on the Hamilton County Inclusive Playground Project. This project began in January 2024 and volunteers have been raising funds for this inclusive playground to be installed in Aurora. The City of Aurora donated the land for the playground. The playground will be like the Peyton Parker Lane playground in York with parallel play for all children. The theme of the playground will be "Community Heroes." Kim applied for funding assistance through the NRD's parks program. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Miller that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve funding assistance of $10,000 for the Hamilton County Inclusive Playground through the NRD's parks program. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: None

ITEM 16. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM PAYMENT.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of one completed NRD land treatment project with a cost-share of $500.00. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates
NAY: Weiss

ITEM 17. BRUCE L. ANDERSON RECREATION AREA RFP FOR GRANT/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

The Upper Big Blue NRD received quotes from three consultants, The Flatwater Group, JEO Consulting

Group, and EA Engineering. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Houdersheldt that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve the quote from EA Engineering of $19,000 for the Bruce L. Anderson Recreation Area Grant/Funding Opportunity RFP. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None

ITEM 18. BULGRIN DAM RFP FOR CURED IN PLACE PIPE.

Staff sent specifications for cured in place pipe at Bulgrin Dam to four contractors and received interest from two additional contractors from the website posting of the RFP. Staff received a quote from Subsurface Inc. and a quote from Hydro-Klean LLC. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve the quote from Subsurface Inc of $64,355.00 for the Bulgrin Dam cured in place project. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None

ITEM 19. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on January 9, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 20. DIRECTORS' FOURTH QUARTER PER DIEM & EXPENSES.

The Executive Committee reviewed the directors' per diem and expenses for this past quarter. Totals for the 4th quarter 2024 directors' per diem are $6,230.00 and expenses are $3,031.12, for a total expenditure of $9,261.12. Individual expense vouchers were available for review. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Dickinson to approve payment of 4th quarter 2024 directors' per diem of $6,230.00 and expenses of $3,031.12, for a total of $9,261.12, and to publish these approved expenditures in the December 2024 Financial Report, except that each director, who has per diem and/or reimbursement of expenses included in such financial report, abstains from voting for the approval of his or her own per diem and/or expense reimbursement. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None

ITEM 21. 2024 GENERAL ELECTION COSTS.

Two invoices were received for 2024 general election costs. The requests came from the Clerk of Fillmore County for $535.65 and $234.33 from the Clerk of Saline County. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Stahr to approve payments of $535.65 to the Fillmore County Clerk and $234.33 to the Saline County Clerk for the 2024 general election costs. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None

ITEM 22. NRD OFFICE INSULATION AND ROOF REPAIR BIDS.

Two bids were received for repair of the office building roof insulation and ventilation. A bid proposal from Midwest Spray Foam and Custom Insulation, LLC, was received for a total of $514,500. A bid proposal from JLC Inc was received for a total of $539,950. The bids were publicly opened on December

17, 2024. A summary of the bids was provided at the December 19, 2024, board meeting. The estimated consultant fee for Jackson – Jackson & Associates, Inc. will remain at or below $40,000 unless the scope of service changes. Any changes would have to be agreed upon in writing by both parties. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Eberspacher to accept the bid from Midwest Spray Foam and Custom Insulation, LLC for a total of $514,500 with construction oversight to be provided by Jackson – Jackson & Associates, Inc. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: A. Bohaty, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert

ITEM 23. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR DECEMBER 2024.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period December 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, that was distributed. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Houdersheldt to approve the financial report for December 2024 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None

ITEM 24. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Roger Houdersheldt, Matt Perry, and Teresa Otte were appointed as the nominating committee for the 2025 election of officers and the NARD representative and alternate. They were tasked with forwarding at least two names for each of the positions to the board for consideration. They were unable to get more than one candidate for the offices of secretary, treasurer, and NARD representatives.

The candidates for the office of chair were Lynn Yates and John Miller. Paul Weiss nominated Bill Kuehner, but he declined the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor. Since Yates was one of the two candidates he turned the chair over to Bill Kuehner during the voting. Marie Krausnick and Terry Julesgard were asked to count the ballots. Lynn Yates received 7 votes and John Miller received 10 votes. Miller will serve as chair for a 2-year term.

Candidates for the office of vice-chair were Bill Kuehner and Roger Houdersheldt. There were no nominations from the floor. Kuehner received 11 votes; Houdersheldt received 6 votes. Kuehner will continue to serve as vice-chair for a period of two years.

The only candidate for the office of secretary was Matt Perry. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Houdersheldt to unanimously elect Matt Perry for secretary for a 2-year term. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None

The only candidate for the office of treasurer was Doug Dickinson. There being no nominations from the floor, it was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Stahly to unanimously elect Dickinson as treasurer for a 2-year term. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates

NAY: None
NOT VOTING: Dickinson

Paul Bethune was the only candidate put forth for the position of NARD representative. Generally, we have at least two candidates and the one with the most votes becomes the NARD representative and the other candidate is named NARD alternate. Teresa Otte was nominated from the floor. Bethune received 12 votes and Otte received 5 votes. Bethune will continue serving as NARD representative and Otte will become the NARD alternate for a 2-year term.

ITEM 25. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates to adjourn the meeting at 2:46 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Miller, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: None

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held January 16, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

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Bill Stahly, Secretary

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MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
February 20, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Roger Houdersheldt, Bill Kuehner, John Miller, Teresa Otte, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss, and Lynn Yates.

The staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Chrystal Houston, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, Drew ten Bensel, DeeDee Novotny, Calvin Epp, Dalen Hall, Angie Joyce, Tina Oswald, and Nicole Strand of Polk County NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on February 13, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chair Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fifteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. REQUESTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
Mike Nuss and Matt Perry requested their absences from the February 20, 2025, board meeting be excused. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Dickinson to excuse the absence of Mike Nuss and Matt Perry from the February 20, 2025 board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Peterson and seconded by R. Bohaty to adopt the agenda for the February 20, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16, 2025, BOARD MEETING.

It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2025, board meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 8. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met February 13, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 9. EXAMINING EFFECTS OF FERTILIZER APPLICATION PRACTICES ON SOIL NITRATE AND WATER QUALITY.

Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist, with the Lower Loup NRD presented the first-year results of a three-year study to examine the movement of nitrogen in the soil profile. Soil samples were collected throughout the year, including during the growing season to an eight-foot depth. Results show there is considerable movement during the off season which could lead to nitrogen being below the root zone before the plant can utilize it. Discussion following the presentation centered around the Upper Big Blue NRD joining with the Central Platte NRD and the Lower Loup NRD in applying for a Water Sustainability Fund Grant to do a similar study across the three Districts. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to proceed with the Central Platte and Lower Loup NRDs on an application for a Water Sustainability Fund Grant for a soil nitrate study.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Yates to amend the motion to have the Upper Big Blue NRD apply for a Water Sustainability Fund grant for a soil nitrate study on their own. The amendment failed.

AYE: A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Yates
NAY: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Miller
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

The question was called on the original motion. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: A. Bohaty, Eberspacher
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 10. GROUNDWATER TRANSFER AUTHORIZATIONS.

Werhallin LLC owns 155.74 acres in the SE¼ of Section 20-T09N-R03W, which is the source tract. Connie F. Hall owns 7 acres in the NW¼ SW¼ of Section 21-T09N-R03W, which is the destination tract. Both tracts are in York County. This transfer fits within the groundwater transfer rules. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahly to approve groundwater transfer T-126. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

Dalen D. and Lacey L. Hall own 39.8 acres in NW¼ of Section 28-T09N-R03W, which is the source tract. Connie F. Hall owns 7 acres in the SW¼ SW¼ of Section 21-T09N-R03W, which is the destination tract. Both tracts are in York County. This transfer fits within the groundwater transfer rules. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to approve groundwater transfer T-129. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

Dalen D. and Lacey L. Hall own 39.8 acres in the NW¼ of Section 28-T09N-R03W, which is the source tract. Robert K. and Cheryl A. Seng Trust c/o Cheryl A. Seng Trustee own 7 acres in the NE¼ of Section 29-T09N-R03W, which is the destination tract. Both tracts are in York County. This transfer fits within the groundwater transfer rules. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to approve groundwater transfer T-128. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

Dalen D. and Lacey L. Hall own 39.8 acres in the NW¼ of Section 28-T09N-R03W, which is the source tract. Werhallin LLC c/o Angie O'Brien owns 7 acres in the SE¼ of Section 20-T09N-R03W, which is the destination tract. Both tracts are in York County. This transfer fits within the groundwater transfer rules. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahly to approve groundwater transfer T-130. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

Dalen D. and Lacey L. Hall own 160.57 acres in the NE¼ of Section 32-T09N-R03W, which is the source tract. James K. and Joann Jackson own 7 acres in the NW¼ of Section 33-T09N-R03W, which is the destination tract. Both tracts are in York County. This transfer fits within the groundwater transfer rules. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to approve groundwater transfer T-127. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 11. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.
Four aquifer quality well abandonment cost-share assistance program applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments, totaling $3,250.00. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to make cost-share payments for four well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $3,250.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 12. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.
Eleven water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments, totaling $4,796.50. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Dickinson to make cost-share payments for eleven water meter repair cost-share assistance applications in the amount of $4,796.50. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 13. REVIEW DRAFT RULE 5 REDLINE INCLUDING DRAFT LARGE VOLUME WATER WELLS.
Staff provided copies of the revised draft Rule 5 at the January 16th board meeting, and by email. A discussion began on language in Chapter 10, Paragraph 05, page 5-21, regarding groundwater allocation. It was decided that the subject of groundwater allocation needs more discussion and should be addressed at future Water Committee meetings. Three other minor corrections to the draft were identified, page 5-15, last sentence change may to shall, page 5-23, paragraph 01, change following year to prior year. Otte stated she had a correction which she called into the office. Page 5-12, the second sentence on page needs a period at the end. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to advance draft Rule 5 with corrections to the full board for approval and set the hearing date for March 20, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District office, 319 East 25th Street, York Nebraska. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to advance Rule 5 for the purpose of a Public Hearing on March 20, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District office, 319 East 25th Street, York Nebraska. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 14. SANDERSON IRRIGATION WATER METER MAINTENANCE PAYMENT.
An invoice in the amount of $59,248.30 was received from Sanderson Irrigation for the water meter maintenance completed on 650 meters, gaskets and canopy boots. Sandersons expect to be finished by the end of February or early March. There are 424 meters remaining of the 1,895 total to be serviced. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to pay the invoice from Sanderson Irrigation in the amount $59,248.30. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 15. PAYMENT TO WISH NEBRASKA.

An invoice in the amount of $15,282.50 was received from WISH Nebraska, Inc. for the purchase of Seametric batteries for resale. There was a discount of $382.06 if paid within 30 days. The total amount due after the discount is $14,900.44. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Kuehner to pay WISH Nebraska, Inc $14,900.44 for batteries purchased for resale. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 16. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on February 13, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 17. LAND TREATMENT COST-SHARE PROGRAM.

It was moved by Richard Bohaty and seconded by Yates that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of one completed NSWCP land treatment project with a cost-share of $4,892.05 and one completed reverse osmosis system with a cost share of $500.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 18. LAND TREATMENT PROGAM COST-SHARE RATES.

Staff presented data showing how EQIP rates have increased over the past few years. The UBBNRD land treatment program cost-share is based on the lesser amount of actual costs or EQIP rates. NRCS field technicians have asked about increasing the maximum amount of cost-share for land treatment projects. The only practices that exceed the $7,500 maximum cost-share are terraces, and sediment basin projects. The maximum land treatment project cost-share was last addressed in November of 2015 when the NRD increased the maximum cost-share from $5,000 to $7,500. Farming practices have changed, and fewer landowners are installing terraces. The NRD should also look for other land treatment practices that could be provided with cost-share. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Peterson that the Upper Big Blue NRD increase the maximum cost-share for land treatment program practices from $7,500 to $10,000. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: A. Bohaty, Weiss, Yates
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 19. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE.

JEO Consulting has addressed comments from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The most recent draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently being reviewed by FEMA. JEO submitted an invoice in the amount of

$1,056.30 for work performed from October 13, 2024, to January 17, 2024. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency share is 75% or $792.24. The UBBNRD, Hamilton County, Seward County, and York County will split the remaining 25% or 264.06 ($66.02 each). The UBBNRD will invoice the other agencies quarterly. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Stahly that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of $1,056.30 to JEO Consulting Group for work completed on the Upper Big Blue NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update from October 13, 2024, through January 17, 2025. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 20. ADOPTION OF UPDATED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

Each agency participating in the Hazard Mitigation Plan must formally adopt the plan. The plan can be adopted prior to final FEMA acceptance. Agencies must adopt a hazard mitigation plan to be eligible for cost-share programs. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Stahr that the Upper Big Blue NRD adopt the updated Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan by resolution. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 21. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on February 13, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 22. PAYMENT TO NORTH PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPLY FOR THE BLUEPRINT NEWSLETTER.

The committee reviewed an invoice from North Printing & Office Supply in the amount of $11,042.27 for printing the Spring 2025 issue of the Blueprint newsletter. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Bethune to approve payment to North Printing & Office Supply in the amount of $11,042.27 for printing the Spring 2025 issue of the Blueprint newsletter. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 23. 2024 GENERAL ELECTION COSTS.

Invoices were received for 2024 general election costs. The requests were from the Adams County Clerk for $117.63 and the Hamilton County Clerk for $418.11. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to approve payments of $117.63 to the Adams County Clerk and the Clerk of Hamilton County for $418.11 for the 2024 general election costs. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 24. DRAFT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.

Miller provided a list of proposed committee assignments for 2025 - 2027. He attempted to accommodate each director's request while maintaining historical perspective on each committee. The Executive Committee reviewed and agreed to move the recommendations to the entire board.

The board meeting was recessed from 2:50 to 3:00 p.m. to allow the standing committees to caucus for the election of officers. The Projects and Programs Committee elected Richard Bohaty as chair, and Andrew Eberspacher as vice-chair. The Water and Regulations Committee elected Kendall Siebert as chair, and Kevin Peterson as vice-chair. The Executive Committee appointed Lynn Yates as the Projects Committee Representative, and Teresa Otte as the Water and Regulations Committee Representative. The final committee appointments are listed below.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
2025 – 2027

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
RICHARD BOHATY, CHAIR
ANDREW EBERSPACHER, VICE CHAIR
BILL KUEHNER
MICHAEL NUSS
MATTHEW PERRY
BILL STAHLY
PAUL WEISS
LYNN YATES
JOHN MILLER, BOARD CHAIR

WATER & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE
KENDALL SIEBERT, CHAIR
KEVIN PETERSON, VICE CHAIR
PAUL BETHUNE
ANTHONY BOHATY
DOUG DICKINSON
ROGER HOUDERSHELDT
TERESA OTTE, NARD ALTERNATE
BRIAN STAHR
JOHN MILLER, BOARD CHAIR

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JOHN MILLER, BOARD CHAIR
BILL KUEHNER, BOARD VICE CHAIR
PAUL BETHUNE, NARD REPRESENTATIVE
RICHARD BOHATY, PROJECT CHAIR
DOUGLAS DICKINSON, TREASURER
TERESA OTTE, WATER REPRESENTATIVE
MATTHEW PERRY, SECRETARY
KENDALL SIEBERT, WATER CHAIR
LYNN YATES, PROJECTS REPRESENTATIVE

It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to approve the proposed committee assignments for 2025-2027. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 25. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR JANUARY 2025.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period January 1, 2025, to January 31, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates to approve the financial report for

January 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

ITEM 26. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Houdersheldt to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Nuss, Perry

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held February 20, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

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Matt Perry, Secretary

ndb

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
March 20, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Andrew Eberspacher, Roger Houdersheldt, Bill Kuehner, John Miller, Teresa Otte, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, and Brian Stahr.

The staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Chrystal Houston, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, DeeDee Novotny, and Josh Bowers of York County NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on March 13, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chair Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Twelve directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. REQUESTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
Doug Dickinson, Michael Nuss, William Stahly, and Lynn Yates requested their absences from the March 20, 2025, board meeting be excused. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to excuse the absences of Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, and Yates from the March 20, 2025, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Bethune to adopt the agenda for the March 20, 2025, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2025, BOARD MEETING.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT VOTING: Siebert
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 8. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met March 13, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 9. GROUNDWATER TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION.

Anges A Shonka (life use) owns 80 acres in the E1/2 SE1/4 of Section 23-T12N-R01E, which is the source tract. Mark W. Shonka owns 114.20 acres in the SW1/4 of Section 24-T12N-R01E with 78 acres to be irrigated, which is the destination tract. Both tracts are in Seward County. This transfer fits within the groundwater transfer rules. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to approve groundwater transfer T-131. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 10. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

One aquifer quality well abandonment cost-share assistance program application was reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment totaling $1,000. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by R. Bohaty to make cost-share payment for one well abandonment, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $1,000.00. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 11. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Three water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $1,468.50. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to make cost-share payments for three water meter repair cost-share assistance applications in the amount of $1,468.50. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 12. HDR ENGINEERING INVOICE.

An invoice in the amount of $2,514.72 was received from HDR Engineering for work completed January

20, 2025, to January 25, 2025, on the Hamilton County/City of Aurora Water Sustainability Study. The Water Sustainability Fund will cover 60% and the remaining 40% will be split between the partners. The district will bill the partners for their share. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to pay HDR Engineering for work completed in the amount of $2,514.72. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 13. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE.
Other water user reports will be mailed the week of March 17, 2025, along with orders to cease and desist for late irrigation water use reports. Six operators have not complied with Rule 5, Chapter 13, Paragraph 01 to report all agricultural water use by December 1st. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by R. Bohaty to issue an order of cease and desist to Todd S. Andreasen, Adam Fritz, Greg Gerkensmeyer, Jason Preissler, Clint Ratkovec, and Dallas Troester for noncompliance with Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District Rule 5, Chapter 13, Paragraph 01. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 14. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on March 13, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 15. UBBNRD PARKS PROGRAM – VILLAGE OF BEAVER CROSSING TRAIL & FISHING ACCESS.
Brandon Mares attended the meeting and gave a brief overview of Beaver Crossing's plan for a walking trail and fishing access along the Blue River. Brandon is a village board trustee and a member of Build Beaver, a non-profit. The village applied through the District's Parks Program requesting $10,000 in assistance. Discussion included an interlocal agreement between UBBNRD and the Village of Beaver Crossing to facilitate the payment. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Perry that the Upper Big Blue NRD provide $10,000 of assistance to the Village of Beaver Crossing for trail development, recreation improvements and fishing access via the District's Parks Program. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 16. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM PAYMENT.
It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Siebert that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment for one completed NSWCP land treatment project with a cost-share of $7,500.00. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT VOTING: Peterson
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 17. NEBRASKA BUFFER STRIP PROGRAM PAYMENTS.
The committee reviewed seven buffer strip payments totaling $8,655.50. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve contract payments of $8,655.50 for the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 18. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on March 13, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 19. DIRECTOR'S 2025 GMDA CONFERENCE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT.
The 2025 Groundwater Management District Association (GMDA) annual conference was held in Temecula, California. A reimbursement request was submitted by director Eberspacher for expenses incurred to attend the conference. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to approve the reimbursement payment to Andrew Eberspacher for expenses of $424.78 for the 2025 GMDA annual conference. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT VOTING: Eberspacher
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 20. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR FEBRUARY 2025.
Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period February 1, 2025, to February 28, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Eberspacher to approve the financial report for February 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 21. MOTION TO ADJOURN.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Eberspacher to adjourn the meeting at 2:38 p.m. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Dickinson, Nuss, Stahly, Weiss, Yates

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held March 20, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting,

kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

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Matthew Perry, Secretary

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MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
April 17, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Bill Kuehner, Mike Nuss, John Miller, Teresa Otte, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, and Lynn Yates.

The staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Chrystal Houston, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, Drew ten Bensel, Josh Bowers of York County NRCS, Rodney Verhoeff and Robb Lutz of EA Engineering, and Ron Sedlak.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on April 10, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chair Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Thirteen directors were present during roll call. Perry arrived during the presentation of the Water Committee report.

ITEM 5. REQUESTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
Roger Houdersheldt, Kendall Siebert and Paul Weiss requested their absences from the April 17, 2025, board meeting be excused. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to excuse the absence of Houdersheldt, Siebert, and Weiss from the April 17, 2025, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Perry, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Yates and seconded by Dickinson to adopt the agenda for the April 17, 2025, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Perry, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2025, BOARD MEETING.

It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Stahr to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Peterson, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT VOTING: Stahly
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Perry, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 8. EA ENGINEERING FINAL REPORT – ANDERSON RECREATION AREA GRANT FUNDING RESEARCH.

Rodney Verhoeff and Robb Lutz of EA Engineering presented the final report of findings for the Bruce L. Anderson Recreation Area Grant/Funding Research Project to the board.

ITEM 9. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Peterson reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met April 8, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 10. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

Six aquifer quality well abandonment cost-share assistance program applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $6,000.00. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for six well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $6,000.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Perry, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 11. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA VADOSE ZONE STUDY.

An invoice was received in the amount of $35,972.32 for work completed November 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025, on the vadose study in the district. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Stahr to pay the University of Nebraska for work completed November 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025, in the amount of $35,972.32. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT VOTING: Perry
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 12. WATER METER MAINTENANCE SANDERSON IRRIGATION INVOICES.

Two invoices were received from Sanderson Irrigation for servicing 593 meters in the amounts of $51,086.75 and $4,050.00 for a total of $55,136.75. Sanderson Irrigation has completed the meter maintenance in zone one which is 2 months ahead of previous years. A total of 1,895 meters were

serviced. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Yates to pay Sanderson Irrigation for meter maintenance performed on 593 meters in the amount of $55,136.75. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 13. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES.
The committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for 9 parcels totaling 621.92 acres, yielding an increase in irrigated acres of 39.48 acres. The total irrigated acres within the district is now 1,249,720.56 acres. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Eberspacher to certify acres' changes as presented to the committee. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT VOTING: Otte
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 14. WISH NEBRASKA INVOICE.
An invoice was received from WISH Nebraska in the amount of $7,581.60 for the purchase of replacement batteries for the AG 3000 meters. These are batteries for resale and will be billed to the operator as they are replaced under the district's battery replace program. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Yates to pay WISH Nebraska for resale batteries for the AG3000 meters in the amount of $7,581.60. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 15. ADOPTION OF REVISED RULE 5 - EFFECTIVE DATE MAY 16, 2025.
Staff emailed the directors the hearing transcript from the March 20th hearing along with the comments that were received from the Department of Environment & Energy and the Department of Natural Resources. Attorney Don Blankenau outlined the next steps in adoption of the revised rule. The committee was provided with a draft "order amending rules" document which will need to be published in the paper for three weeks prior to the rules going into effect. The transcript of the hearing will be posted on the website along with the adopted rules. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Stahr to adopt the amended rules and published and adopt the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District Order Amending Rules Effective Date of Amendment: May 16, 2025. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 16. RULES ENFORCEMENT - ORDERS TO CEASE AND DESIST – WATER USE REPORTS AND PHASE II/III REPORTING.
Four operators have come into compliance with Rule 5 by reporting their irrigation water use and one for Phase II/III reporting. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Kuehner to lift the Orders of Cease

and Desist on Todd S. Andreasen, Adam Fritz (water use order only), Jason Preissler, Dallas Troester and Gene A. Scholz & JoAnn Hoffer for coming into compliance with the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District Rule 5. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 17. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Eberspacher reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on April 10, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 18. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of one completed NSWCP land treatment project with a cost-share of $10,000.00, two completed NRD cover crop projects with a cost-share of $6,376.00, and one completed RO system project with a cost share of $416.99. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 19. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE.

JEO Consulting submitted the revised Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is awaiting comments. JEO submitted an invoice in the amount of $1,207.20 for work performed from January 22, 2025, to March 14, 2025. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency share is 75% or $905.40. The UBBNRD, Hamilton County, Seward County, and York County will split the remaining 25% or $301.80 ($75.45 each). The UBBNRD will invoice the other agencies quarterly. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Stahly that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of $1,207.20 to JEO Consulting Group for work completed on the Upper Big Blue NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update from January 22, 2025, through March 14, 2025. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 20. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on April 10, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 21. DIRECTORS' FIRST QUARTER PER DIEM & EXPENSES.

The Executive Committee reviewed the directors' per diem and expenses for this past quarter. The first quarter directors' per diem is $8,470.00 and expenses are $4,401.33 for a total expenditure of $12,871.33. Individual expense vouchers were available for review. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to approve payment of first quarter 2025 directors' per diem of $8,470.00 and expenses of $4,401.33 for a total of $12,871.33, and to publish these approved expenditures in the

March financial report, except that each director, who has per diem and/or reimbursement of expenses included in such financial report, abstains from voting for the approval of his or her own per diem and/or expense reimbursement. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 22. INVOICE FROM MIDWEST SPRAY FOAM AND CUSTOM INSULATION.
An invoice in the amount of $514,500 was received from Midwest Spray Foam and Custom Insulation LLC for the office building roof insulation and ventilation project. There were no changes to the original contract. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Eberspacher to pay Midwest Spray Foam and Custom Insulation LLC a total of $514,500 for office building roof insulation and ventilation. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 23. BURKE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.
The scholarship selection committee consisting of directors Otte, Stahr and Stahly met April 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. to review scholarship candidates. In 2025, we received 8 applications. Two applications did not meet one of the required criteria for the award (pursuing a career in natural resources). Applicants came from Hastings, Henderson, Goehner, Waco, Seward, and York. The selection committee recommended Evan Frink of Hastings and Sara Weisheit of Henderson. Garret Ostrander of Goehner was selected as the alternate. Frink will graduate from Adams Central High in 2025. He is planning to major in agriculture economics at UNL. Weisheit is a 2024 graduate of McCool Junction Public Schools. She is majoring in agronomy at UNL. Ostrander will graduate from Seward High School in 2025. He is planning to major in plant landscape systems at UNL. Committee Chair Otte provided the committee's recommendations for the scholarships:

- Evan Frink of Hastings
- Sara Weisheit of Henderson
- Garret Ostrander of Goehner (ALTERNATE)

It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to award two $2,000.00 scholarships, one to Evan Frink, and one to Sara Weisheit of Henderson, and to name Garret Ostrander as the alternate scholarship recipient. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 24. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR MARCH 2025.
Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period March 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Stahly and seconded by Yates to approve the financial report for March 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 25. MOTION TO ADJOURN.
It was moved by Peterson and seconded by A. Bohaty to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: Houdersheldt, Siebert, Weiss

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held April 17, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

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MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
May 15, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Roger Houdersheldt, Bill Kuehner, Mike Nuss, John Miller, Teresa Otte, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss, and Lynn Yates.

The staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, DeeDee Novotny, Rita Hoblyn, Patty Connors, Drew ten Bensel, Aaron Shropshire of York County NRCS, Jason Hirschfeld, Sally Reuben, Seth Norquest, Ben Royal, Kelly Kadavy, and Aviv Verad with the BERMAD company.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on May 8, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chair Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fifteen directors were present during the roll call. Eberspacher arrived at 7:05 p.m. and Anthony Bohaty arrived at 7:15 p.m.

ITEM 5. REQUESTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
There were no requests for excused absence.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahly to adopt the agenda for the May 15, 2025, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
NOT PRESENT: A. Bohaty, Eberspacher

ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2025, BOARD MEETING.

It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Stahr to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

NOT PRESENT: A. Bohaty, Eberspacher

ITEM 8. CORNERSTONE INSURANCE GROUP.

Ben Royal and Kelly Kadavy of Cornerstone Insurance Group were present to discuss the fiscal year 2026 insurance renewal process. Cornerstone Insurance Group works as the local agent for FNIC, which is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. FNIC currently insures 15 other NRD's and approximately 80% of the irrigation districts across the state of Nebraska. One of the challenges that they face when obtaining insurance quotes is getting coverage for structural failure of our dams. Few insurance companies offer this coverage. FNIC can provide underwriting for this coverage through Glatfelter. Glatfelter is still working on their proposal, so no renewal premiums were available. A renewal quote for the total insurance package will be presented at the June Executive Committee meeting for approval at the June board meeting.

ITEM 9. PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION.

Seth Norquest was present to update the board on the PCM program and his progress with one-on-one meetings with area farmers. PCM added the York, Nebraska region in 2024 and has enrolled 8 farmers. His goal for this region is to enroll 25 more farmers in 2025.

ITEM 10. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met May 6, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 11. APPROVAL OF BERMAD WATERWORKS METERS.

Aviv Vered and Elad Orenstein presented the Water and Regulations Committee with two examples of the electromagnetic flowmeters the BERMAD company manufactures and requested they be added to the district's approved flowmeter list. The MC10 for pipe diameter of 2" to 6" and the MUT2300/MC406 for pipe diameters of 2" to 12". Specifications were provided for both meters and they meet the district's minimum requirements. The meters are designed to have zero distance requirements for placement in the pipeline. The batteries have a 7-to-10-year life, but for the conditions and applications here, a more realistic battery life would be 5 to 7 years. Staff can be trained and certified to replace batteries with a list price of $200.00 each. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to add the MC10 and MUT2300/MC406 BERMAD meters to the district's approved meter list. Motion approved.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Miller

NAY: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Stahly, Yates

ITEM 12. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

Eleven aquifer quality well abandonment cost-share assistance program applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $9,100.00. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahly to make cost-share payments for eleven well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a

cost of $9,100.00. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 13. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE APPLICATION PAYMENTS.
Eight water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $3,051.48. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Perry to make cost-share payments for eight water meter repair cost-share assistance applications in the amount of $3,051.48. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 14. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES.
The committee reviewed the irrigated acres certification for 5 parcels totaling 328.07 acres which yielded an increase of 191.34 acres and recommended they be certified. The district now has 1,249,911.90 irrigated acres. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to certify acres' changes as presented to the committee. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 15. ISSUANCE OF ORDERS TO CEASE AND DESIST - PHASE II/III EXPIRED TRAINING.
Listed below are producers who have not complied with Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 02 requiring recertification every four years of their Operator Phase II/III training. Staff followed the steps outlined in the District's Rules and Regulations and issued a complaint notice, violation notice, and an intent to issue an order of cease and desist/schedule of compliance notice.

PHASE II/III EXPIRED TRAINING

- Mike Anderson
- Charles J. Augustine
- Brent A. Buller
- Cale Carlson
- Michael George
- Christopher Hauer
- Nicholas Johnson
- Thomas W. Keenan & Jacqueline M. Leaming Co-Trustees
- Todd Lay
- Two R Farms c/o Ross Ronne
- Richard D. Urban

It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Dickinson to issue orders of cease and desist to all producers listed on the attached Phase II/III Expired Training spreadsheet that are out of compliance with Phase II/III & Hastings Management Area Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 02. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

1TEM 16. ISSUANCE OF CEASE & DESIST ORDERS FOR FAILURE TO SUBMIT 2024-2025 PHASE II/III REPORTS & HASTINGS MANAGEMENT AREA.

Listed below are producers who have not complied with Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 06, Annual Reporting Requirements. Staff followed the steps outlined in the District's Rules and Regulations and issued a complaint notice, violation notice, and an intent to issue an order of cease and desist/schedule of compliance notice.

2024-2025 Phase II/III and Hastings Management Area Violators

- Mike Anderson
- Todd S. Andreasen
- Charles J. Augustine
- Christopher S. & Vivian F. Beckler
- Emmett Beckler
- Michael R. Campbell
- Dustin D. Cast
- Allen W. Coufal
- Eric E. & Lauren M. Eberspacher
- Rick Fullner/Platte Center West LLC/Pillen Family Farm
- Greg Gerkensmeyer
- Colton D. & Jared M. Hartman
- Christopher Hauder
- Frederick D. Heuermann
- Roger D. Hohlen
- Jesse Hough
- Nicholas Johnson
- Timothy D. Johnson
- Brad J. & Alisha B. Lavicky
- Jordan Overturf
- Clint Ratkovec
- Adam Roth
- Wes Roth
- Robert Lyle Sterns
- Arlo D. "Bud" Stevens
- Richard D. Urban
- Colton Wehrs
- Galen Winkler
- Philip Wohlgemuth

It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Perry to issue orders of cease and desist to all producers listed on the attached 2024-2025 Phase II & III/Hastings Order to Cease & Desist spreadsheet for out of compliance with Phase II/III & Hastings Management Area Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 06. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

NOT VOTING: Houdersheldt

ITEM 17. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on May 8, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 18. LAND TREATMENT COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Yates that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of two completed reverse osmosis system projects with a cost-share of $1,000.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
NOT VOTING: A. Bohaty

ITEM 19. STORM DAMAGED TREE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of two completed storm damaged tree projects with a total cost-share of $600.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 20. WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN COVER CROP COST-SHARE PROGRAM.

Staff presented a revised WQMP cover crop program that includes the cost-share of $75.00 per acre, with a maximum of $7,500 per landowner/operator, per year. The contract would be for a 1-year term and cooperators can re-apply, but first-time participants would be given priority. Cooperators must follow NRCS cover crop guidelines. The program would encompass the entire Beaver Creek watershed and the well head protection areas within the Upper Big Blue NRD. The smaller upper watershed area located in the Central Platte NRD would not be eligible but could be considered in the future. Applicants will be prioritized by riparian critical zones, very high runoff risk areas, high runoff risk areas, well head protection areas, and the remainder of the Beaver Creek watershed. Applications will be due July 15th and NRD staff will rank applications and make selections by August 15th. The amount of available funding will depend on the annual budget. Applications received after the July 15th deadline may be considered if all available funding is not allocated. The Committee also reviewed the WQMP land treatment incentive program which provides 90% cost-share with a maximum of $15,000 for the Beaver Creek watershed. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD board adopt the WQMP Cover Crop Program and the WQMP Land Treatment Incentive Program for the Beaver Creek watershed within the UBBNRD boundary. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: Miller

ITEM 21. BULGRIN DAM.

Subsurface Inc completed the cured-in-place-pipe lining project at Bulgrin dam on March 28th. The final invoice of $59,060.00 was reduced from the quoted amount of $64,355.00 due to not fully completing the road signage bid item. NRD staff were on site during construction and were satisfied with the contractor's traffic control process but asked the contractor to re-evaluate this bid item. It was moved

by R. Bohaty and seconded by Houdersheldt that the Upper Big Blue NRD board approve payment of $59,060 to Subsurface Inc. for the cured-in-place-pipe lining project completed at Bulgrin Dam. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

The upstream face of Bulgrin Dam has moderate erosion. Staff requested approval to advertise for placing rock on the upstream face of the dam. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Perry that the Upper Big Blue NRD staff solicit quotes for placing rock on the upstream face of Bulgrin Dam. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 22. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE.

JEO Consulting submitted an invoice in the amount of $1,458.70 for work performed on the Hazard Mitigation Plan update from March 15, 2025, to April 11, 2025. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) notified the NRD that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the Upper Big Blue NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan. Remaining JEO work includes collecting agency adoption resolutions and distributing the final plan. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of $1,458.70 to JEO Consulting Group for work completed on the Upper Big Blue NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update from March 15, 2025, through April 11, 2025. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 23. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on May 8, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 24. EDUCATIONAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUND APPLICATION.

The Executive Committee reviewed the Educational Capital Project Fund application submitted by York Public Schools Foundation. The Foundation has established the goal of building an Agri-Science Center to serve the York Public Schools District students. The Center would allow students to explore more career pathways in agronomy, food science, natural resources, veterinary science, wildlife management, agriculture technology, and meat science. The Foundation has purchased real estate located near the YPS middle school and high school. The real estate currently has three buildings. The first building will be dedicated to classrooms and teacher offices and will contain ADA compliant restrooms. The second building will be a dedicated barn space for the school's animal lab. The Agri-Science Center will provide students grades 6-12 with a unique opportunity to engage in hands-on, career-related experiences across various fields within the agricultural industry. The Foundation has invested $285,000.00 of its own funds in the project. It has secured funding in the amount of $552,000.00 from individual and corporate donors. Additional corporate and private donors have pledged approximately $500,000.00 for the years 2025, 2026, and 2027. At this point in time, the Foundation has raised approximately $1,337,000.00 for the project. They are requesting $10,000 of ECAP funding. It was moved by Kuehner

and seconded by Perry to award $10,000 for an ECAP grant to York Public Schools Foundation for an Agri-Science Center. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Miller
NAY: Yates

ITEM 25. INVOICE FROM JACKSON-JACKSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.
An invoice from Jackson-Jackson & Associates, Inc. was received in the amount of $31,985 for oversight of the office building roof insulation and ventilation project. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to pay Jackson-Jackson & Associates, Inc. a total of $31,985 for oversight of the office building roof insulation and ventilation project. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 26. APPROVAL OF FY26 SALARY SCHEDULE.
Management recommended no changes for the FY26 Salary Schedule from the FY25 Salary Schedule. Eigenberg explained his recommendation and answered questions. This schedule will provide guidance on the FY26 salaries. Midpoints were calculated by taking an average of 5 NRDs with similar property valuations, annual payrolls, and staffing numbers. Midpoints were then used to develop minimum (80%) and maximum (120%) wage limits. The salary schedule will be used in accordance with the Operating Policy. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Nuss to approve the FY26 Salary Schedule as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 27. FY26 WAGE INCREASE REQUEST.
Eigenberg requested that the board authorize a 2.5% increase in the FY26 payroll for a total of $45,560 for FY26 salary increases for staff. This 2.5% increase would be provided across the board to every position except the general manager. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Nuss to adjust the annual FY26 salaries of the district staff, except for the general manager, by 2.5% of the FY25 payroll and to authorize the general manager to determine and make salary and wage adjustments, in accordance with the Operating Policy. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 28. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR APRIL 2025.
Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period April 1, 2025, to April 30, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Stahly to approve the financial report for April 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 29. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Houdersheldt to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.
Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held May 15, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

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MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
JUNE 19, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Bill Kuehner, John Miller, Teresa Otte, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, and Lynn Yates.

The staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, Chrystal Houston, DeeDee Novotny, and Drew ten Bensel.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on May 8, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chair Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fourteen directors were present during the roll call.

ITEM 5. REQUESTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
Roger Houdersheldt requested an excused absence from the June 19, 2025, board of directors meeting. It was moved by Perry and seconded by Stahly to excuse the absence of Houdersheldt from the June 19, 2025, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to adopt the agenda for the June 19, 2025, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss
NOT VOTING: R. Bohaty

ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2025, BOARD MEETING.

It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 8. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met June 10, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 9. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.
Three aquifer quality well abandonment cost-share assistance program applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $2,823.12. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to make cost-share payments for three well abandonments as reviewed by the committee at a cost of $2,823.12. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 10. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.
Twelve water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $5,814.67. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to make cost-share payments for twelve water meter repair cost-share assistance applications in the amount of $5,814.67.Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 11. CHEMIGATION COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.
Four chemigation cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments of $3,455.00. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for four chemigation cost-share assistance applications in the amount of $3,455.00. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 12. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES.
The committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for 5 parcels totaling 368.42 acres which yielded an increase in irrigated acres of 87.77 acres. The total irrigated acres in the district are now 1,249,999.67. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to certify acres' changes as presented to the committee. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 13. PAYMENT TO UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA – VADOSE ZONE STUDY.

An invoice was received in the amount of $13,929.05 for work completed from March 1 through April 30, 2025, on the vadose study in the Upper Big Blue NRD. June 2025 was the original completion date for the study but because of equipment issues and COVID the project was delayed. Dr. Snow is working on an eighteen-month extension to use the remaining funds in the grant. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to pay University of Nebraska for work completed March 1, 2025, through April 30, 2025, in the amount of $13,929.05. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: Dickinson

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 14. RULES ENFORCEMENT - PRODUCER TRAINING & RECERTIFICATION – LIFTING ORDERS TO CEASE AND DESIST.

Six producers have come into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 02, requiring initial training or recertification every four years of their Operator Phase II/III training. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to lift orders of cease and desist on Cale Carlson, Christopher Hauder, Thomas Keenan & Jacquelin Leaming Co-Trustees, Todd Lay, Michael George, and Ross Ronne/Two R Farms for coming into compliance with Phase II/III & Hastings Management Area Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 02. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 15. RULES ENFORCEMENT - 2024-2025 PHASE II/III REPORTING & HASTINGS MANAGEMENT AREA – LIFTING ORDERS TO CEASE AND DESIST.

Staff presented the names of 22 producers who have complied with Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 06, Annual Reporting Requirements. A list is attached to these minutes. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Dickinson to lift orders of cease and desist for all producers listed on the attached 2024-2025 Phase II & III/Hastings Order to Cease & Desist Dismissals spreadsheet for coming into compliance with Phase II/III & Hastings Management Area Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 06. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 16. FY26 DRAFT WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW.

Staff provided the committee with a second draft of the 2025-2026 budget. Staff requested a second monitoring well site be included in next year's budget. The site being considered is between Seward and Garland along the eastern border of the district. Area residents are requesting it to monitor water levels due to the new acreages which are being developed. Staff have been in contact with Kathleen Cameron at CSD on a possible site. The addition to the budget would be $80,000. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Dickinson to forward the second draft Water Department budget, with committee changes, to the Executive Committee for inclusion in the consolidated budget. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 17. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on June 12, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 18. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM PAYMENT.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Yates that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of one NRD land treatment project with a cost-share of $300.00, and forward for payment to the state nine completed NSWCP land treatment projects with a cost-share of $26,060.37. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 19. STORM DAMAGED TREE PROGRAM.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Perry that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of three completed storm damaged tree projects with a total cost-share of $876.94. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 20. NEBRASKA BUFFER STRIP PROGRAM 4TH QUARTER PAYMENTS.

The Upper Big Blue NRD pays the landowner for buffer strip contracts and is reimbursed by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Yates that the Upper Big Blue NRD Board approve the 4th quarter FY25 Nebraska buffer strip payments for ten Nebraska buffer strip contracts, with a total cost-share of $16,222.30. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 21. PAYMENT TO NARD FOR TREES.

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts submitted an invoice for NRD tree seedings purchased by UBBNRD. The total cost to the Upper Big Blue NRD was $17,494.91, which was reduced $1,854.46 by the Executive Travel grant, leaving a balance due of $15,640.45. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD Board approve the payment to the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts for the 2025 NRD tree seeding program of $15,640.45. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 22. NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES – STREAM GAGING SITES.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources submitted an invoice for the operation and maintenance of the new stream gaging sites on the Big Blue River at Staplehurst and the West Fork Big Blue River near Grafton. The Upper Big Blue NRD has an agreement with NeDNR to cost-share on these stream gaging sites. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Stahly that the Upper Big Blue NRD Board approve the payment to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources of $9,796.20 for the operation and maintenance cost-share for the two stream gaging sites. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 23. BULGRIN DAM EROSION CONTROL CONTRACT.
Staff received five quotes for the Bulgrin Dam upstream face erosion control project. Project work items include mobilization, traffic control, and placement of approximately 104 tons of NDOR type B riprap. Quotes ranged from $11,006.00 to $24,730.40. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Perry that the Upper Big Blue NRD Board award Broken Arrow Excavating a contract for placing riprap on the upstream face of Bulgrin Dam for their submitted quote of $11,006.00. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 24. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE – PAYMENT TO JEO.
JEO Consulting submitted an invoice in the amount of $754.50 for work performed on the Hazard Mitigation Plan update from April 12, 2025, to May 16, 2025. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have both approved the final Upper Big Blue NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan. Minor remaining work items include collecting agency adoption resolutions and distributing the final plan. Staff will file the final report and reimbursement request with NEMA following the end of the quarter (June 30, 2025). It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Siebert that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of $754.50 to JEO Consulting Group for work completed on the Upper Big Blue NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update from April 12, 2025, through May 16, 2025. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 25. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on June 12, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 26. FISCAL YEAR 26 INSURANCE RENEWAL.
Staff worked with Cornerstone Insurance Group to obtain quotes from FNIC for the FY26 insurance renewal package. Due to the liability for the district-owned dams we are unable to get other insurers to quote the entire package. We have 1 high-hazard dam (Hastings Northwest) and 6 significant-hazard dams (Dorchester 1A, Dorchester 2A, Larson, Struebing, Recharge Lake and Oxbow), and 24 low-hazard dams that the district owns and maintains.

The renewal quote for the district's insurance package is listed below. The total workers compensation premium is based on actual payroll, so a payroll audit will be conducted at the end of the fiscal year to determine if any additional premium, or refund of premium, is due.

Coverage	FY25 Premiums	FY26 Premiums
Liability, Auto, Fire & Casualty	$83,289	$87,966
Workers Compensation	$12,243	$14,196
Total	$95,532	$102,162

It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to make payment of $102,162 to FNIC for liability, auto, workers' compensation, fire, and casualty insurance for FY26. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 27. PAYMENT FOR THE SUMMER 2025 BLUEPRINT NEWSLETTER.
The committee reviewed an invoice from North Printing & Office Supply in the amount of $13,793.73 for printing the Summer 2025 issue of the Blueprint newsletter. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to approve payment to North Printing & Office Supply in the amount of $13,793.73 for printing the Summer 2025 issue of the Blueprint newsletter. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 28. FISCAL YEAR 25 NRD SALARY REIMBURSEMENT - LOWER BIG BLUE NRD SECRETARY.
The Lower Big Blue NRD submitted an invoice in the amount of $8,286.74 for the salary and benefits of the Saline County NRCS secretary, for work performed in FY25 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025). It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Stahly to approve payment of $8,286.27 to the Lower Big Blue NRD for the Saline County NRCS secretary's FY25 salary and benefits. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 29. GENERAL MANGER'S JOB PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND FY26 COMPENSATION.
It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson that the full board conduct the evaluation of the General Manager's job performance and any salary adjustment. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Siebert that the board to into closed session at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of protecting, and preventing needless harm or injury to, the reputation of the general manager while evaluating his performance. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

It was moved by Yates and seconded by Eberspacher to return to open session at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

It was moved by Yates and seconded by Stahly to set the general manager's salary at $136,000 for fiscal year 2026. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 30. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR MAY 2025.
Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period May 1, 2025, to May 31, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Perry and seconded by Yates to approve the financial report for May 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 31. MOTION TO ADJOURN.
It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Weiss

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held June 19, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

Attachment (1)
ndb

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
JULY 17, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Roger Houdersheldt, Bill Kuehner, John Miller, Mike Nuss, Teresa Otte, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss, and Lynn Yates.

The staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, DeeDee Novotny, and Drew ten Bensel.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on July 10, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chair Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Seventeen directors were present during the roll call.

ITEM 5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Stahly and seconded by Peterson to adopt the agenda for the July 17, 2025, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 19, 2025, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Yates to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NOT VOTING: Weiss

ITEM 7. SERVICE RECOGNITION.
Director Paul Bethune was recognized for 10 years of service on the Upper Big Blue NRD board. Drew ten Bensel was recognized for his 5 years of service to the district.

ITEM 8. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met July 8, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 9. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

Four aquifer quality well abandonment cost-share assistance program applications were reviewed by staff and approved for final payments totaling $2,631.36. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to make cost-share payments for four well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $2,631.36. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 10. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Eleven water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $5,295.22. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to make cost-share payments for eleven water meter repair cost-share assistance applications as reviewed by the committee in the amount of $5,295.22. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NOT VOTING: Kuehner

ITEM 11. CHEMIGATION COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.

Twenty-three chemigation cost-share applications were reviewed by staff and are recommended for final payments totaling $17,032.95. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for twenty-three chemigation cost-share assistance applications as reviewed by the committee in the amount of $17,032.95. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 12. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA – VADOSE ZONE STUDY EXTENSION AND INVOICE.

Dr. Snow provided a letter regarding the extension of Research Agreement #138709 with the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, to allow for completion of the task outline in the statement of work. An invoice was submitted in the amount of $4,582.45 for work completed from May 1 – May 31, 2025, for the ongoing vadose study in the district. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to pay the University of Nebraska for work completed May 1, 2025, through May 31, 2025, in the amount of $4,582.45. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 13. HDR ENGINEERING INVOICE – HAMILTON COUNTY/CITY OF AURORA WATER SUSTAINABILITY STUDY.

Four invoices were received from HDR Engineering for work completed January 26, 2025, to May 31, 2025, on the Hamilton County/City of Aurora Water Sustainability Study. The invoice amounts are March

$4,856.65, April $7,974.29, May $6,717.30, June $11,753.89 for a total of $31,302.13. The Water Sustainability Fund will cover 60% and the remaining 40% will be split between the three partners. The district will bill the partners for their share which is $4,147.53 each. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to pay HDR Engineering for work completed January 26, 2025, to May 31, 2025, in the amount of $31,302.13. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 14. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE.

Other Water Use Reporting Update – 75% of the operators' water use reports have been received which leaves 117 wells to be reported. Staff are working to contact the remaining operators.

Orders of Cease and Desist – Clint Ratkovec has come into compliance with *Rule 5, Chapter 15, Paragraph 01 Water Use Reporting and Chapter 20 Phase II/III reporting.* It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to lift the order of cease and desist on Clint Ratkovec for coming into compliance with Water Use Reporting Chapter 15, Paragraph 01, and Phase II/III & Hastings Management Area Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 02. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 15. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on July 8, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 16. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM.

There were three completed NRD land treatment projects, and one completed NRD reverse osmosis system. The committee reviewed the Land Treatment Program funding for FY2025.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of three NRD land treatment projects with a cost-share of $4,222.02. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: Weiss

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of one NRD reverse osmosis system with a cost-share of $500.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: Nuss, Weiss

NOT VOTING: R. Bohaty

ITEM 17. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on July 15, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 18. DIRECTORS' SECOND QUARTER PER DIEM & EXPENSES.

The Executive Committee reviewed the directors' per diem and expenses for this past quarter. Totals for the second quarter directors' per diem are $8,960.00 and expenses are $4,108.86 for a total expenditure of $13,068.86. Individual expense vouchers were available for review. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to approve payment of second quarter 2025 directors' per diem of $8,960.00 and expenses of $4,108.86, for a total of $13,068.86, and to publish these approved expenditures in the June 2025 Financial Report, except that each director, who has per diem and/or reimbursement of expenses included in such financial report, abstains from voting for the approval of his or her own per diem and/or expense reimbursement. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 19. NRD SHARED SERVICES SALARY REIMBURSEMENT – LITTLE BLUE NRD.

An invoice dated June 30, 2025, in the amount of $29,992.38 was received from the Little Blue NRD for the salary of the Adams and Clay County NRCS secretaries for work performed in FY25 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025). It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Nuss to approve payment of $29,992.38 to the Little Blue NRD for the Adams and Clay County NRCS secretaries FY25 salary. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 20. ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT RESTRICTED FUNDS AUTHORITY.

Eigenberg recommended the approval of the additional 1% restricted funds authority. He reminded the board that an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the majority of those present and voting is required for passage. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to approve an increase in the total budgeted restricted funds authority by an additional 1%. Motion failed.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 21. FY 2026 DRAFT CONSOLIDATED BUDGET.

The Executive Committee made the following changes to the draft consolidated budget. Under line-item 502.05 the $235,000 for the Pioneer Trails north bay silt removal project was added back; $55,000 for the Pioneer Trails ADA fishing dock and sidewalk was removed; $40,000 for the Pioneer Trails boat ramp dock was removed. Under line-item 502.06 $80,000 was removed for one set of monitoring wells. Line-item 470.04 for storm damaged trees in the amount of $8,000 was removed. They eliminated the proposed $110,444 transfer from sinking fund to the general fund. After these changes were incorporated, the new draft had a 1.66% increase compared to FY25 budget. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Perry to adopt the draft FY26 Consolidated Budget with the committees changes for the purpose of Public Hearing. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss,

The dates for two public hearings need to be set so that legal notices can be published. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to schedule the FY26 Budget Hearing for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August

21, 2025, and the FY26 Tax Request Hearing for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 18, 2025. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 22. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR JUNE 2025.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period June 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates to approve the financial report for June 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 23. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Yates to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held July 17, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

ndb

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 7:10 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Roger Houdersheldt, Bill Kuehner, John Miller, Mike Nuss, Teresa Otte, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss, and Lynn Yates.

The staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Terry Julesgard, Sierra Luhn, Jack Wergin, Drew ten Bensel, Patty Connors, DeeDee Novotny, Raymond Asamoah, and Josh Bowers of York NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on August 14, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chair Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fifteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
Richard Bohaty requested an excused absence for the August 21, 2025, board meeting. It was moved by Yates and seconded by Siebert to excuse the absence of Richard Bohaty from the August 21, 2025, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Siebert to adopt the agenda for the August 21, 2025, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2025, BOARD MEETING.

It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Perry to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF FY 2026 BUDGET.

The FY26 proposed budget was reviewed at the public hearing held prior to the board meeting. Miller asked if anyone had any comments on the proposed budget. There were no comments. It was moved by Perry and seconded by Siebert to adopt the FY 2026 Budget as presented. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 9. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met August 12, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 10. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

Three aquifer quality well abandonment cost-share assistance program applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $3,000.00. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for three well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $3,000.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 11. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Nine water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $4,414.26.It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to make cost-share payments for nine water meter repair cost-share assistance applications as reviewed by the committee in the amount of $4,414.26. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 12. CHEMIGATION COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Three chemigation cost-share applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments totaling $2,117.73.It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to make cost-share payments for three chemigation cost-share assistance applications as reviewed by the committee in the amount of $2,117.73. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 13. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES.

The committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for 8 parcels totaling 757.20 acres, which yielded an increase in irrigated acres of 110.24 acres. The total irrigated acres within the district are now 1,250,109.89. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to certify acres' changes as presented to the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 14. HDR ENGINEERING INVOICE FOR HAMILTON COUNTY/CITY OF AURORA WATER SUSTAINABILITY STUDY.

An invoice was received from HDR Engineering for work completed June 1, 2025, to June 28, 2025, on the Hamilton County/City of Aurora Water Sustainability Study in the amount of $3,167.68. The Water Sustainability Fund will cover 60% and the remaining 40% will be split between the three partners. The district will bill the partners for their share, which is $419.72 each. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Nuss to pay HDR Engineering for work completed June 1, 2025, to June 28, 2025, in the amount of $3,167.68. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 15. NORTH PRINTING – LAND & LEGACY NEWSLETTER PRINTING AND MAILING.

An invoice was received from North Printing and Office Supply for the printing and mailing of 5,900 Land and Legacy newsletters in the amount of $8,400.80. Staff have received several phone calls already regarding changes in ownership and questions about the programs highlighted in the newsletter. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to pay North Printing and Office Supply for the printing and mailing of the Land and Legacy newsletter in the amount of $8,400.80. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 16. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE.

Four producers have come into compliance with Rule 5. The Orders of Cease and Desist can be lifted on Brent Buller and Gregory Bolte for completing training requirements; Robert Sterns for completing Phase II/III reporting requirements; and Collin Demuth for completing Phase III water sampling requirements. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Perry to lift order of cease and desist on Brent Buller, Gregory Bolte, Robert Sterns and Collin Demuth for coming into compliance with the requirements in Rule 5. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 17. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Andrew Eberpacher reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on August 14, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 18. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

There were four new reverse osmosis system applications, one new land treatment project application this month, and three completed NRD reverse osmosis system projects. The Committee reviewed the Land Treatment Program funding for FY2026. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Dickinson that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of three NRD reverse osmosis systems with a total cost-share of $1,388.58. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 19. RECHARGE LAKE GRANT/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

EA Engineering submitted an invoice in the amount of $19,000 for the completed study. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of $19,000.00 to EA Engineering for work completed on the Bruce L. Anderson Recreation Area (Recharge Lake) Grant/Funding Study completed earlier this year. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 20. BRUNER DAM AND NOBLE DAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.

Staff requested approval to issue requests for proposals for the slip lining of the outlet pipes at Bruner Dam and Noble Dam in Butler County. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Siebert that the Upper Big Blue NRD issue requests for proposals (RFP) for lining Bruner Dam and Noble Dam in Butler County with cured in place pipe lining. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 21. SOURCEWELL CONTRACTING.

Staff presented information on Sourcewell, which provides cooperative purchasing "Procurement by, or on behalf of, one or more Public Procurement Units." Sourcewell develops RFPs and IFBs for national, competitive solicitation that meet or exceed local requirements. Sourcewell contracts last 4 years and can be extended for 3 more years. The Upper Big Blue NRD has an account with Sourcewell from past purchases that were turned in by companies that the NRD had used previously.

Current planned projects that could utilize Sourcewell include the Pioneer Trails playground through BCI Burke (Creative Sites), and the Oxbow Trail ADA accessible fishing dock (through EZ Dock – PlayPower, Inc – MD Aquatics). Using Sourcewell would permit the NRD to purchase selected equipment without going through a separate RFP. After some discussion, the Projects and Programs Committee recommended that the NRD not use Sourcewell and that the NRD issue RFPs for these projects.

ITEM 22. PIONEER TRAILS PLAYGROUND.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD staff prepare and issue a request for proposals for the playground at Pioneer Trails Recreation Area. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 23. OXBOW TRAILS RECREATION AREA ADA FISHING DOCK.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Perry that the Upper Big Blue NRD staff prepare and issue a request for proposals for the ADA accessible fishing dock at Oxbow Trail Recreation Area. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 24. PIONEER TRAILS RECREATION AREA NORTH BAY SILT REMOVAL.

Staff discussed the silt removal project on the north bay of Pioneer Trails. Wergin suggested it might be advantageous to wait for the results of the upcoming NGPC fish survey to determine the number of fish remaining after the recent fish kill, before proceeding with the pumping of the silt. Depending upon the number of fish remaining it might be an opportunity to revisit lowering the lake level and removing the silt by accessing the lake with heavy equipment. Staff will continue to collect data to prepare for pumping the sediment. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD staff prepare a request for proposals (RFP) for pumping the sediment from the north bay at Pioneer Trails Recreation Area. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 25. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on August 14, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 26. NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS DUES.

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts submitted an invoice in the amount of $41,735.39 for fiscal year 2026 dues. This represents a 2.5% increase over fiscal year 2025 dues. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Dickinson to approve payment of $41,735.39 to the NARD for the FY26 dues.

Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 27. INVOICE FROM CONNOR ROOFING FOR MATERIALS AND FREIGHT FOR STORAGE BUILDING REPAIR.

The board passed a motion October 20, 2022 that read in part "to approve the low quote from Conner Roofing Company, York, Nebraska, for $109,109.50, to make repairs from hail damage to all facilities at 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska and 1112 Recharge Road, York, Nebraska. This will include replacing and repairing asphalt shingles, roofing felt, ice and water barriers, valleys, flashing, rain troughs, downspouts, and furnace vent/rain caps at the main office. (This list may not be inclusive to all damages), and to repair all damaged metal siding, trim, and doors to metal buildings at properties located at 319 East 25th Street, York NE and 1112 Recharge Road, York, Nebraska. This motion also grants authority for the contractor and staff to work directly with property insurance carriers to secure additional insurance funds, if additional items not under the first estimate, are discovered."

Repairs to the metal building have not been completed. Neville Construction of McCool Junction, Nebraska, has been hired as a subcontractor by Conner Roofing Company, York, Nebraska to complete the repairs of all damaged metal siding, roof panels, trim metal buildings and downspouts at properties located at 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska. (This list may not be inclusive to all damage). An invoice for materials and freight in the amount of $28,614.91 was received. Conner Roofing has requested partial payment in the amount of $17,994.91. The insurance claim payment for hail repairs has been received. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Nuss to approve partial payment of $17,994.91 to Conner Roofing Company, York, Nebraska, for the expense of materials and freight to make repairs from hail damage to facilities at 319 East 25th Street, York NE, to repair all damaged metal siding, roof panels, trim metal buildings, downspouts and other damages at properties located at 319 East 25th Street, York NE. This motion also grants authority for the contractor and staff to work directly with property insurance carriers to secure additional insurance funds if additional items, not under the first estimate, are discovered. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 28. INVOICE FROM TRADEBE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, LLC IN CONJUNCTION WITH HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION.

An invoice dated July 11, 2025, totaling $16,185.00, was received from Tradebe Environmental Services, LLC. for disposal of the ag hazardous waste collected in Seward County April 12, 2025. This expenditure will be covered with pass through grant funds. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Perry to approve payment of $16,185.00 to Tradebe Environmental Services, LLC. for disposal of the ag hazardous waste collected in Seward County April 12, 2025. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 29. SHARED SERVICES SALARY REIMBURSEMENT.

An invoice dated July 22, 2025, totaling $13,846.44 was received from the Lower Platte North NRD for the salary of the Butler County NRCS secretary, for work performed in FY25 (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025). It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Perry to approve payment of $13,846.44 to the Lower Platte North NRD for the Butler County NRCS secretary's FY25 salary. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 30. SINKING FUND REASSIGNMENT.

Currently, the sinking fund has money designated for 8 projects. These funds are made up of 17 separate certificates of deposit. Oxbow Trail Development (3), Kezan Creek (2) Recharge Watershed Improvements (6), Seward West Trail (2), Operational & Maintenance (2), and Flood Control (2). The Committee wants to ensure that when there is a fiscal need for a feasible project, invested dollars are correctly categorized. The Committee recommends reassigning account numbers 7590652 – Kezan Creek ($239,217.49), 115270 - Kezan Creek ($246,047.49), 122757 Oxbow Trail Development ($72,457.95) and 4436066 Oxbow Trail Development ($112,169.01) to Recharge Watershed Improvements. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to reassign account numbers 7590652 – Kezan Creek ($239,217.49), 115270 - Kezan Creek ($246,047.49), 122757 Oxbow Trail Development ($72,457.95) and 4436066 Oxbow Trail Development ($112,169.01) to Recharge Watershed Improvements. Motion carried.

AYE: Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: Bethune, Houdersheldt, Otte, Weiss, Yates
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 31. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR JULY 2025.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period July 1, 2025, to July 31, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Perry and seconded by Dickinson to approve the financial report for July 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

ITEM 32. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Siebert to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held August 21, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting,

kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

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MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 7:03 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Bill Kuehner, John Miller, Mike Nuss, Teresa Otte, Matthew Perry, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss, and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Terry Julesgard, Sierra Luhn, Jack Wergin, DeeDee Novotny, and Josh Bowers of York NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on September 11, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fifteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
Roger Houdersheldt and Kevin Peterson requested an excused absence for the September 18, 2025 board meeting. It was moved by Perry and seconded by Dickinson to excuse the absence of Houdersheldt and Peterson from the September 18, 2025, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Stahly and seconded by Siebert to adopt the agenda for the September 18, 2025, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FY26 BUDGET HEARING.

It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Yates to approve the minutes of the FY26 Budget Hearing held August 21, 2025. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 8. APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2025, BOARD MEETING.

It was moved by Perry and seconded by Yates to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 9. ADOPTION OF FY 2026 TAX REQUEST RESOLUTION 2026-1.

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02 provides that the governing body of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District passes by a majority vote a resolution setting the tax request; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held on September 18, 2025, as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request;

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District resolves that:

1. The Fiscal Year 2026 general fund property tax request be set at $3,629,285.45.
2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 12.26% percent.
3. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be $0.01757 per $100 of assessed value.
4. The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District proposes adopting a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be $0.017861 per $100 of assessed value.
5. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District will increase from last year's proposed operating budget by 0.44 percent.
6. A copy of this resolution shall be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2025.

It was moved by Yates and seconded by Dickinson to adopt Resolution 2026-1 setting the FY 2026 property tax request as presented. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 10. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met September 9, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 11. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Five water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and are recommended for final payments, totaling $1,704.72. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to make cost-share payments for five water meter repair cost-share assistance applications as reviewed by the committee in the amount of $1,704.72. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 12. CHEMIGATION COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Two chemigation cost-share applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to make cost-share payments for two chemigation cost-share assistance applications as reviewed by the committee in the amount of $994.59. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 13. HDR ENGINEERING INVOICE FOR HAMILTON COUNTY/CITY OF AURORA WATER SUSTAINABILITY STUDY.

Two invoices were received from HDR Engineering for work completed June 29, 2025, to August 23, 2025, on the Hamilton County/City of Aurora Water Sustainability Study in the amounts of $10,581.23 and $7,542.00 for a total of $18,123.23. The Water Sustainability Fund will cover 60% and the remaining 40% will be split between the three partners. The district will bill the partners for their share which is $2,401.33 each. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahly to pay HDR Engineering for work completed June 29, 2025, to August 23, 2025, in the amount of $18,123.23. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 14. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA VADOSE ZONE STUDY.

An invoice was received in the amount of $6,356.17 for work completed June 1, 2025, through July 31, 2025, on the ongoing vadose study in the district. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to pay the University of Nebraska for work completed June 1, 2025, through July 31, 2025, in the amount of $6,356.17. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 15. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on September 11, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 16. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

There were two new land treatment applications in the month of September. One is a cover crop application under the Water Quality Management Plan. Two RO systems have been installed and are recommended for final payment. The committee reviewed the land treatment program funding for FY2026. The Upper Big Blue NRD will receive $79,600.46 in Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) land treatment funding. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss to pay for two reverse osmosis systems as reviewed by the committee, totaling $1,000.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 17. NEBRASKA BUFFER STRIP PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

Three Nebraska buffer strip contracts were recommended for payment. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD make payment on three Nebraska buffer strip contracts in the amount of $7,312.50. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 18. BULGRIN DAM – BROKEN ARROW EXCAVATING LLC PAYMENT.

Broken Arrow Excavating LLC has completed placing rock on the face of Bulgrin Dam and submitted their invoice for $11,006.00. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher to pay Broken Arrow Excavating LLC for the placement of rock on the Bulgrin Dam face totaling $11,006.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 19. BRUNER DAM AND NOBLE DAM CURED IN PLACE PIPE LINING.

Staff sent out a request for proposals (RFP) to repair both Bruner and Noble Dams using cured-in-place pipe lining technology. The RFP was not scheduled to close until September 16, 2025, so staff requested they be allowed to present the proposals at the September 18th board of directors meeting. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher to evaluate the summary of request for proposals to repair both Bruner and Nobles Dams using cured in place pipe lining technology and select a contractor at the September 18, 2025, board of directors meeting. There were three proposals submitted, but the one from NuFlowNebraska was not submitted by the deadline so it was not considered. Ace Pipe Cleaning submitted a price of $67,250 and Subsurface, Inc., submitted a price of $58,050. It was moved by Perry and seconded by Siebert to amend the motion to say that the NRD enter into a contract with Subsurface, Inc., to install cured in place pipe lining at Bruner Dam and Noble Dam in Butler County for their submitted bid of $58,050. Amendment carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

The question was called on the original motion as amended. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 20. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RECHARGE LAKE SILT RETENTION DESIGN.
Staff requested permission to release a request for proposal (RFP) for the design of sediment retention devices at Recharge Lake. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Perry that the Upper Big Blue NRD staff prepare a request for proposals (RFP) for the design of sediment retention devices at Recharge Lake. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 21. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on September 11, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 22. 2025 MASTER PLAN.
The board members were provided with digital copies of the plan for their review. The staff's recommendation is for the board to approve the plan for submission to partnering agencies.

Per Nebraska Revised Statute, Section 2-3276, each Natural Resources District (NRD) is required to maintain a Master Plan, which is an account of goals, objectives, and desired outcomes for the ten years following its adoption. This plan is required to address the 12 purposes in Nebraska Revised Statute, Section 2-3229 including: (1) erosion prevention and control, (2) prevention of damages from flood water and sediment, (3) flood prevention and control, (4) soil conservation, (5) water supply for any beneficial use, (6) development, management, utilization, and conservation of ground water and surface water, (7) pollution control, (8) solid waste disposal and sanitary drainage, (9) drainage improvement and channel rectification, (10) development and management of fish and wildlife habitat, (11) development and management of recreational and park facilities, and (12) forestry and range management.

Nebraska Revised Statute, Section 2-3276 reads as follows: "By August 1, 1979, each NRD shall prepare and adopt a master plan to include but not be limited to a statement of goals and objectives for each of the purposes stated in section 2-3229. The master plan shall be reviewed and updated as often as deemed necessary by the district, but in no event less often than once each ten years. A copy of the master plan is adopted, and all revisions and updates thereto shall be filed with the department and other sister agencies [Nebraska Dept. of Water, Energy, and Environment, the Governor's Policy Research Office, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission].

In years past, the UBBNRD developed a Long-Range Implementation Plan in addition to the Master Plan, [Nebraska Revised Statute, Section 2-3277] Nebraska Revised Statute, Section 2-3277 was replead on July 1, 2025. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to approve the 2025 Master Plan and instruct staff to submit the approved plans to partnering agencies. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 23. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR AUGUST 2025.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period August 1, 2025, to August 31, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Yates and seconded by Siebert to approve the financial report for August 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

ITEM 24. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Otte, Perry, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Peterson

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held September 18, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

ndb

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Roger Houdersheldt, John Miller, Mike Nuss, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss, and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Terry Julesgard, Sierra Luhn, Jack Wergin, Drew ten Bensel, and Tracy Cannon of AMGL.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on October 14, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Twelve directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Bill Kuehner, Teresa Otte, and Matt Perry requested excused absences for the October 16, 2025, board meeting. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Yates to excuse the absence of A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte and Perry from the October 16, 2025, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Dickinson to adopt the agenda for the October 16, 2025, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF FY2026 TAX REQUEST HEARING.

It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Stahr to approve the minutes of the FY2026 Tax Request Hearing. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 8. APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2025, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Stahly and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Houdersheldt
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 9. STAFF RECOGNITION.
Jack Wergin, Projects and Programs Department Manager, was recognized for 10 years of service to the district.

ITEM 10. FY 2025 AUDIT – TRACY CANNON, AMGL.
Tracy Cannon of AMGL CPAs & Advisors presented the FY 2025 audit to the board. She reviewed the management discussion and analysis, financials, and changes to how we report accrued unpaid sick leave as required by GASB 101, *Compensated Absences*. The audit did recommend that the board adopt a formal capitalization policy of at least $2,500. The audit did not identify any deficiencies in internal controls that were considered material weaknesses. Due to the size of the accounting and administrative staff the district is unable to provide optimum segregation of duties, which is deemed a significant deficiency. Ms. Cannon did state that this is a common issue with most small employers.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Bethune to accept the FY 2025 audit as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 11. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met October 7, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 12. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.
Two water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments, totaling $714.50. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to make cost-share payments for two water meter repair cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $714.50. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 13. HDR ENGINEERING INVOICE – HAMILTON COUNTY/CITY OF AURORA WATER SUSTAINABILITY STUDY.

An invoice was received from HDR Engineering for work completed August 24, 2025, to September 27, 2025, on the Hamilton County/City of Aurora Water Sustainability Study in the amount of $6,576.96. The Water Sustainability Fund will cover 60% and the remaining 40% will be split between the three partners. The district will bill the partners for their share which is $871.45 each. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to pay HDR Engineering for work completed August 24, 2025, to September 27, 2025, in the amount of $6,576.96. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 14. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATES (ESA) – MANAGED SERVICES AGREEMENT AND ORDER FORM.

The staff received a managed services agreement from Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for the continued application management, hosting and technical support of the water accounting platform managed by them. The one-year service and fee are $12,000.00. This is the Nitrogen Use Efficiency Dashboard and Water Pooling Accounting Platform used to generate reports which are mailed to the cooperators. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to accept the managed services agreement from Environmental Science Associates and pay the one-year service and fee of $12,000.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 15. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE - PHASE II/III REPORTING.

Jordan Overturf has come into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 22, Paragraph 06.

It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to lift order of cease and desist on Jordan Overturf for coming into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 22, Paragraph 06. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 16. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE – PHASE III IRRIGATION SAMPLING.

Staff issued letters of intent to file orders of cease-and-desist September 12th for Other Water Users who have not reported, and Phase III producers who have not submitted irrigation water samples as required. All the Other Water Users have come into compliance. Four producers remain out of compliance for Phase III Irrigation Sampling as required by Rule 5, Chapter 24, Paragraph 03: Phase III irrigation water nitrate analysis–The operator must have the irrigation water tested for nitrates at least once every three (3) years. Staff have followed the steps outlined in the District's Rules and Regulations and issued a complaint notice, violation notice, and an intent to issue an order of cease and desist/schedule of compliance notice. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to issue orders of

cease and desist on AF Farms Inc, in care of Adam Fritz, Greg Gerkensmeyer, Michael C. Griess, and Logan M. Otto II for non-compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 24, Paragraph 03 Phase III irrigation water nitrate analysis. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 17. CIVICPLUS ANNUAL RENEWAL AND MAINTENANCE.

Staff are working with CivicPlus regarding their invoice and statement of work totaling $45,483.13. The invoice does cover both the maintenance and the producer online portal for our Beehive platform. Staff questioned the increased cost and are in discussions with CivicPlus. They have a standard annual increase of 5% on accounts and the district is attempting to have this percentage decreased. Julesburg anticipated a response from CivicPlus prior to the board meeting, but no additional information was available for the board to review. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to refer the matter back to the Water and Regulations committee in November for consideration. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 18. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Eberspacher reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on October 9, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 19. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM UPDATE AND PAYMENTS.

There were two new Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) land treatment applications, three new NRD WQMP cover crop applications, and two new NRD reverse osmosis system applications in the month of September. The committee reviewed the land treatment program funding for FY2026. The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) reallocated unspent FY2025 NSWCP land treatment funds to each NRD for FY2026. The Upper Big Blue NRD received an additional $39,380.00, which brings the total FY2026 Upper Big Blue NRD NSWCP allocation to $118,980.46. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Yates to pay for three completed NRD WQMP cover crop projects totaling $7,500.00 as reviewed by the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Siebert to pay for two completed NRD reverse osmosis systems as reviewed by the committee, totaling $1,000.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: Weiss

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 20. NEBRASKA NITROGEN REDUCTION INCENTIVE ACT (NiRIA).

Staff continue to receive reports on applied nitrogen from cooperators participating in the NiRIA Program. The first group of payments are ready for approval. The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) has secured funding for the 2026 growing season from the Nebraska Corn Board totaling $1,000,000.00 to continue this program. The Upper Big Blue NRD share is $97,806.73. The deadline to apply for 2026 is November 15, 2025.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Stahly to pay for 48 completed fields (21 cooperators) that have met the Nitrogen Incentive Reduction Act (NiRIA) requirements for 2025 totaling $83,398.98, as reviewed by the Committee. The NRD will make these payments and will be reimbursed by DWEE. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 21. STORM DAMAGED TREE PROGRAM.

A few storm damaged tree program applications were approved in FY2025 that will be reimbursed in FY2026. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Yates that the Upper Big Blue NRD make payment on two completed storm damaged tree applications in the amount of $494.99, as reviewed by the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 22. TREE PRICES FOR 2025-2026.

Staff reviewed the tree prices for the past few years and recommended raising the price to $1.20 per tree and $1.20 for labor to plant each tree. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Yates that the NRD set the 2026 price for trees at $1.20 per tree and the 2026 price for NRD to plant trees at $1.20 per tree, as reviewed by the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 23. OXBOW TRAIL RECREATION AREA – ADA FISHING DOCK.

Staff received two quotes for installing an EZ Dock ADA accessible fishing dock at Oxbow Trail like the ADA fishing dock at Recharge Lake. Staff have a concrete contractor scheduled to install a headwall to anchor the dock to the exiting fishing pier. Staff are working on the design of an ADA sidewalk and handrail to access the dock, which will be presented to the committee at the November meeting.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Houdersheldt to accept the bid of $32,932.00 from MD Aquatics of Lincoln to install an ADA accessible fishing dock at Oxbow Trail Recreation Area as reviewed by the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 24. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Yates reported that the Executive Committee met on October 9, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 25. THIRD QUARTER DIRECTORS' PER DIEM & EXPENSES.
The Executive Committee reviewed the directors' per diem & expenses for this past quarter. Totals for the third quarter per diem were $9,170.00 and expenses were $4,115.44 for a total expenditure of $13,285.44. It was moved by Yates and seconded by Stahr to approve payment of third quarter 2025 directors' per diem. Totals for the third quarter directors' per diem are $9,170.00 and expenses are $4,115.44, for a total of $13,285.44, and to publish these approved expenditures in the September 2025 Financial Report, except that each director, who has per diem and/or reimbursement of expenses included in such financial report, abstains from voting for the approval of his or her own per diem and/or expense reimbursement. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 26. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025.
Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period September 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Peterson to approve the financial report for September 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

ITEM 27. MOTION TO ADJOURN.
It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Houdersheldt to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Otte, Perry

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held October 16, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available

for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

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MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
November 20, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Roger Houdersheldt, William Kuehner, John Miller, Mike Nuss, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss, and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, and Josh Bowers of York County NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on November 13, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fifteen directors were present during roll call. Anthony Bohaty arrived at 1:35 p.m.

ITEM 5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Yates to adopt the agenda for November 20, 2025, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty

ITEM 6. APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2025, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Yates and seconded by Bethune to approve the minutes of October 16, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 7. STAFF RECOGNITION.
Secretary Angie Johnson was recognized for 5 years of service to the district.

ITEM 8. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met November 17, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 9. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to make cost-share payments for three well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $1,911.97. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 10. CHEMIGATION COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to make cost-share payments for nine chemigation cost-share assistance applications as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $6,035.75. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 11. HDR ENGINEERING INVOICE – HAMILTON COUNTY/CITY OF AURORA WATER SUSTAINABILITY STUDY.

An invoice was received from HDR Engineering for work completed September 28 to November 1, 2025, on the Hamilton County/City of Aurora Water Sustainability Study in the amount of $17,762.98. HDR is finishing the draft report which should be available for partners to review in December. A final report and presentation are planned for January. The Water Sustainability Fund will cover 60% and the remaining 40% will be split between the three partners. The district will bill the partners for their share which is $2,353.59 each. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahly to pay HDR Engineering for work completed September 28, 2025, to November 1, 2025, in the amount of $17,762.98. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 12. CIVICPLUS ANNUAL RENEWAL AND MAINTENANCE.

A Statement of Work (SOW) was received from CivicPlus which covers the annual maintenance and hosting for staff desktop portals and online producer portal for the Beehive platform. Once the Statement of Work is signed and returned an invoice will be sent. The annual renewal for this year is $43,777.51. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to approve the Statement of Work and to authorize General Manager, David Eigenberg, to sign and to make annual renewal payment of $43,777.51 upon receipt of the invoice. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 13. NITRATE MOVEMENT STUDY INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH LOWER LOUP AND CENTRAL PLATTE NRD.

To accomplish the Nitrate Movement Study an interlocal agreement between Lower Loup and Central Platte Natural Resources Districts has been drafted. The interlocal agreement outlines the responsibilities of each District for the duration of the Water Sustainability Grant. The purpose of the grant is to track nitrogen movement through the soil profile by collecting soil samples throughout the year focusing on in-season nitrate movement. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to enter an interlocal agreement with Lower Loup NRD and Central Platte NRD to accomplish the Nitrate Movement Study within the three Districts. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 14. NITRATE MOVEMENT STUDY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.

Staff requested permission to develop a Request for Proposal to solicit bids for a contractor to collect the soil samples for the Nitrate Movement Study. A staff member will be on site for quality control and to transport the samples to the laboratory. Staff plan to have proposals from contractors for the December Water and Regulation Committee meeting. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to instruct staff to develop a Request for Proposals for the collecting of soil samples for the Nitrate Movement Study. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 15. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE - PHASE III IRRIGATION WATER SAMPLING.

Logan Otto II has come into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 24, Paragraph 03. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Nuss to lift the order of cease and desist on Logan Otto II for coming into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 24, Paragraph 03. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 16. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on November 17, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 17. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss to pay for three completed NRD reverse osmosis systems with total cost-share of $1,280.85 as reviewed by the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: Weiss

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher to pay for two completed NRD WQMP cover crop projects totaling $13,650.00 as reviewed by the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Stahly

ITEM 18. NEBRASKA NITROGEN REDUCTION INCENTIVE ACT (NiRIA).

Staff continue to receive reports on applied nitrogen from cooperators participating in the NiRIA Program. The second group of payments are ready for approval. The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment has secured funding for the 2026 growing season from the Nebraska Corn Board totaling $1,000,000.00 to continue this program. The UBBRD share for 2026 is $97,806.73. The deadline for 2026 was November 15, 2025. The State may extend this deadline. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher to pay for 11 completed fields (6 cooperators) that have met the Nitrogen Incentive Reduction Act (NiRIA) requirements for 2025 totaling $18,353.55, as reviewed by the Committee. The NRD will make these payments and will be reimbursed by DWEE. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Stahly

ITEM 19. PRIVATE DAMS PROGRAM PAYMENT.

Kirvanek Construction has completed the Michale Fiala private dam south of Oxbow Trail. Mike Nelson Land Development will complete the TM & DH private dam west of Sutton soon. The landowner is responsible for paying the contractor and the NRD will reimburse the landowner. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD make payment of $39,560.01 (75% of the total cost of $52,746.68) to Michael Fiala for the completed Michael Fiala private dam. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Miller
NAY: Weiss, Yates
NOT VOTING: Stahly

ITEM 20. BRUNER DAM – NOBLE DAM – CURED IN PLACE PIPE LINING UPDATE.

Subsurface Inc has completed the cured in place pipe lining projects at Bruner Dam and Noble Dam. A deduction of $2,500.00 from the bid price of $58,050 was made for the non-completion of the canopy inlet repair at Noble Dam. NRD staff plans to install an anti-vortex inlet on both Bruner Dam and Noble Dam. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Houdersheldt that the Upper Big Blue NRD make a payment of $55,550.00 to Subsurface Inc. for the cured in place pipelining projects at Bruner Dam and Noble Dam in Butler County. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 21. OXBOW TRAIL RECREATION AREA.

MD Aquatics will be installing the new ADA fishing dock. They are currently waiting for the ramp to be delivered before starting the installation. The headwall for connecting the dock to the pier has been installed.

Staff contacted four concrete contractors for the ADA accessible sidewalk from the existing sidewalk to the end of the fishing pier. This sidewalk will be reinforced to prevent heaving between sections of sidewalk. To limit the amount of earthwork, the new sidewalk will include two sections of ramps that require handrails. These 2 sections of steeper slope (12:1) fit very well with the existing walk path down

to the pier. There must be a flat section of sidewalk between ramps. The new sidewalk was designed with 2 – 30 foot 12:1 ramps that will require handrails on both sides.

Staff contacted 4 companies that make handrails. Sidewalk ramps can be placed on 12:1:slopes if they include handrails. Staff suggested ordering 4 – 30 foot long aluminum handrails to be installed by NRD staff on both sides of the two planned sidewalk ramps.
It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the NRD select the bid of $14,283.00 from Dankers Concrete of Pleasant Dale to install the reinforced sidewalk from the end of the fishing pier to the existing sidewalk at Oxbow Trail Recreation Area. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Perry that the NRD select the bid of $7,470.00 for 4 – 30 foot long aluminum handrails from H & W Stair and Rail of Lincoln to be installed on the ramp sections of sidewalk at Oxbow Trail Recreation Area. NRD staff will install these handrails. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 22. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on November 17, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 23. PAYMENT TO NORTH PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPLY FOR PHASE II & III NEWSLETTER.
An invoice for $3,618.19 was received from North Printing & Office Supply for printing the Phase II & III Newsletter. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to approve payment to North Printing & Office Supply in the amount of $3,618.19 for printing the Phase II & III newsletter. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 24. PAYMENT TO AMGL CPAS & ADVISORS FOR FY2025 AUDIT.
An invoice for $9,750.00 was received from AMGL CPAs & Advisors for conducting the FY 2025 Audit. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Houdersheldt to approve payment of $9,750.00 to AMGL CPAs & Advisors for conducting the FY 2025 Audit. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 25. RESOLUTION ADDING ROTH ELECTIVE DEFERRAL OPTION TO 457 DEFERRED COMP PLAN.
At the NARD Board meeting on November 10, 2025, directors approved adding Roth elective deferrals to the NARD 457 Plan effective January 1, 2026. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Perry to adopt the resolution to add Roth elective deferrals to the NARD 457 Plan effective January 1, 2026. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ITEM 26. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR OCTOBER 2025.
Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period October 1, 2025, to October 31, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates to approve the financial report for October 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ITEM 27. MOTION TO ADJOURN.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Perry to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held November 20, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

ndb

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
December 18, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Justin Elge, William Kuehner, John Miller, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss, and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, and Josh Bowers of York County NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on December 11, 2025, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fourteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Siebert to excuse the absence of Houdersheldt from the December 18, 2025, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Stahly and seconded by Siebert to adopt the agenda for December 18, 2025, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2025, BOARD MEETING.

It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes of November 20, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 8. APPOINTMENT TO FILL AT-LARGE SUBDISTRICT VACANCY.
The Executive Committee reviewed the Upper Big Blue NRD Operating Policy and the guidelines from the Nebraska Secretary of State on the protocol to fill a vacant director position. Management published notices in several newspapers in the district and posted the notice and application on the district website. As of 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 10, 2025, five applications were received to fill the at-large position. All the applicants reside in the district and are registered voters. Candidates were Ronda Rich, Justin Elge, Gregory Whitmore, Jason M. Tempel, and Jeffery Wochner. The Executive Committee voted to forward all five candidates for the at-large director's position to the full board for consideration and appointment. All five candidates were present at the meeting. Chairperson Miller allowed each candidate five minutes to address the board prior to voting. The voting results for each candidate are listed below.

ELGE: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
RICH: Bethune, Dickinson
TEMPEL: None
WHITEMORE: Perry, Peterson, Weiss
WOCHNER: None

It was moved by Perry and seconded by Peterson to appoint Justin Elge to fill the unexpired term for the at-large subdistrict vacancy. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Nuss

Elge was administered the oath of office and seated on the board.

ITEM 9. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met December 11, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 10. GROUNDWATER TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION.
Carolyn Korgan owns 80.86 acres in the E1/2 NE1/4 of Section 29-T08N-R08W, which is the source tract. Carolyn Korgan also owns the NW1/4 of Section 28-T08N-R08W, which is the destination tract, which has 38.7 acres to be irrigated. Both tracts are in Clay County. This transfer fits within the groundwater transfer rules. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to approve groundwater transfer T-133. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 11. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.
Seven aquifer quality well abandonment cost-share assistance program applications have been reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments, totaling $5,188.47. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahly to make cost-share payments for seven well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $5,188.47.Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 12. CHEMIGATION COST-SHARE PAYMENT.
One chemigation cost-share application was reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment of $521.99. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Dickinson to make cost-share payment for one chemigation cost-share assistance application, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $521.99.Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 13. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENT.
One water meter repair cost-share assistance application was reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment totaling $500.00. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payment for one water meter repair cost-share assistance application, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $500.00. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 14. WATER METER MAINTENANCE – SANDERSON IRRIGATION INVOICE.
An invoice was received from Sanderson Irrigation for water meter maintenance completed to date. The invoice was for 303 meters serviced along with gaskets and canopy boots. Sanderson's crew started November 25th on the 2,126 meters in meter maintenance area two which includes parts of Adams, Clay, York, and Hamilton Counties. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to pay the invoice from Sanderson Irrigation in the amount $27,893.76. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 15. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on December 11, 2025, and

presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 16. LAND TREATMENT COST-SHARE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher to pay for two completed NRD reverse osmosis systems with total cost-share of $930.90 as reviewed by the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Siebert to pay for three completed NRD land treatment - WQMP cover crop projects totaling $11,367.25, as reviewed by the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 17. NEBRASKA NITROGEN REDUCTION INCENTIVE ACT (NiRIA) PAYMENTS.

Staff have received several applications for the 2026 growing season. Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) has secured funding for the 2026 growing season from the Nebraska Corn Board totaling $1,000,000.00 to continue this program. The UBBNRD share for 2026 is $97,806.73. The deadline to apply for 2026 was extended to December 15, 2025. In 2025 the maximum cost-share was set at $7,500.00. The committee requested we add operator names to the corporate applications and also that we add the total acres of each application to the summary. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Siebert to pay for 45 completed fields (12 cooperators) that have met the Nitrogen Incentive Reduction Act (NiRIA) requirements for 2025 totaling $57,810.03, as reviewed by the committee. The NRD will make these payments and will be reimbursed by DWEE. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 18. NEBRASKA BUFFER STRIP PROGRAM SECOND QUARTER PAYMENTS.

The NRD pays cooperators for the Nebraska buffer strip program contracts, and the State reimburses the NRD. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Siebert that the Upper Big Blue NRD make payment of $2,978.24 for four Nebraska buffer strip program contracts for the 2nd quarter of FY26. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 19. PRIVATE DAMS PROGRAM PAYMENT REQUEST.

Mike Nelson Land Development completed the TM & DH Farms private dam west of Sutton. The construction costs totaled $88,724.77, and the private engineering fees were $10,990.00 which results in a total cost of $99,714.77. The landowner is responsible for paying the contractor and the NRD

reimburses the landowner. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD make payment of $74,786.08 (75% of the total cost of $99,714.77) to TM & DH Farms for the completed TM & DH Farms private dam. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: Weiss, Yates
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 20. OXBOW TRAIL RECREATION AREA ADA FISHING DOCK.

MD Aquatics finished installing the ADA fishing dock and submitted an invoice in the amount of $32,932.00 per bid. Dankers Concrete is set to begin installing the sidewalk this week. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the NRD make a payment of $32,932.00 to MD Aquatics for installing the ADA fishing dock at Oxbow Trail Recreation Area. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 21. 2026 SKID STEER LEASE – YORK EQUIPMENT.

The contract for the skid steer lease from York Equipment is set to renew. The lease invoice for $6,500 is the same as last year. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Yates that the Upper Big Blue NRD make a payment of $6,500.00 to York Equipment for the 2026 one-year lease (up to 300 hours) for a Bobcat T770 Track Loader. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 22. REVIEW RULE 6 – UPPER BIG BLUE NRD PARKS REGULATIONS.

Legal has completed a review of the draft Rule 6 and their comments have been addressed. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the NRD set a hearing for accepting Rule 6 with changes for 1:00 p.m., on Thursday, January 15, 2026. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 23. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on December 11, 2025, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 24. EARLY CLOSURE CHRISTMAS EVE DAY.

During the November Executive Committee meeting, the general manager informed the committee of his intention to close the office early on Christmas Eve. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson that the office be closed at 12:00 noon on December 24, 2025, in observance of Christmas. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 25. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR NOVEMBER 2025.
Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period November 1, 2025, to November 30, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Yates and seconded by Bethune to approve the financial report for November 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 26. MOTION TO ADJOURN.
It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Yates to adjourn the meeting at 3:11 p.m. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held December 18, 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

ndb

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
January 15, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Justin Elge, Roger Houdersheldt, William Kuehner, John Miller, Mike Nuss, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Nancy Brisk, Sara Arbuck, Patty Connors, Terry Julesgard, Drew ten Bensel, DeeDee Novotny, Josh Bowers of York County NRCS, Justin Gibson of Lindsey Corporation, and Paul Woodward of HDR.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on January 8, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fifteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Dickinson to excuse the absence of Matthew Perry from the January 15, 2026, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Yates to adopt the agenda for January 15, 2026, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2025, BOARD MEETING.

It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes of December 18, 2025, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Houdersheldt
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 8. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met January 8, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 9. GROUNDWATER TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION.

Carolyn Korgan owns 75.23 acres in the W1/2 NW1/4 of Section 29-T08N-R08W, which is the source tract. Carolyn Korgan also owns the E1/2 NE1/4 of Section 30-T08N-R08W with 35 acres to be irrigated, which is the destination tract. Both tracts are in Clay County. This transfer fits within the groundwater transfer rules. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Nuss to approve groundwater transfer T-134. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 10. ONLINE FIELD LEVEL ET AND RAINFALL TOOL.

Staff presented the Project Proposal for Upper Big Blue NRD Field Water Balance Reporting prepared by Lindsay Corporation. The proposal was to partner with Lindsay to provide daily field level rainfall and ET data for all Phase III acres in the District for the 2026 growing season. The question was raised regarding costs for years 2, 3 and beyond. Justin Gibson wasn't able to provide that information but he provided the current cost for FieldNet Advisor subscribers' fee. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to move Upper Big Blue NRD Field Water Balance Reporting Agreement forward to the full board for consideration.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Nuss to table the motion to enter into the agreement with Lindsay to share field level ET & rainfall data in Phase III areas of the District, not to exceed $20,000.00. Motion failed.
AYE: Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss
NAY: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

It was moved by A Bohaty and seconded by Stahr to send the item back to committee. Motion carried.
AYE: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Siebert, Stahr
NAY: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Peterson, Stahly, Yates, Miller
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 11. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

Two aquifer quality well abandonment cost-share assistance program applications have been reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment, totaling $2,000.00. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for two well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $2,000.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Perry, Weiss

ITEM 12. CHEMIGATION ANNUAL PAYMENT - NDWEE.

The District is required to pay the Nebraska Department of Water, Environment and Energy $2.00 for each renewal chemigation permit and $5.00 for each new chemigation permit issued each year. The District had 1,639 renewals and 202 new permits in 2025, for a total of 1,841 permits, of which 656 were inspected. The total amount due to NDWEE for the chemigation year of 2025 is $4,288.00. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to make payment of $4,288.00 to the Nebraska Department of Water, Environment and Energy for chemigation permits issued in 2025. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Houdersheldt
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 13. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Seven water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and are recommended for final payment, totaling $3,299.25. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Dickinson to make cost-share payments for seven water meter repair cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $3,299.25. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 14. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES.

The committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for eleven parcels totaling 692.67 acres, yielding an increase in irrigated acres of 183.23 acres. The total irrigated acres within the District are now 1,250,293.12 acres. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to certify acres' changes as presented to the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 15. WATER METER MAINTENANCE – SANDERSON IRRIGATION INVOICE.

An invoice was received from Sanderson Irrigation for water meter maintenance. The invoice totaling $41,766.64 was for 453 meters serviced along with gaskets and canopy boots. Sanderson's crew started November 25th and have serviced 756 of the 2,126 meters in meter maintenance area two which

includes parts of Adams, Clay, York and Hamilton Counties. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to pay the invoice from Sanderson Irrigation in the amount $41,766.64. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 16. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA – MESONET WEATHER STATION YORK 2W.
An invoice was received from Nebraska Mesonet for the annual York 2W weather station maintenance agreement for the period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026, in the amount of $3,000.00. The question was raised if the site is needed. Staff noted the weather station is used by the climate center and is part of the network for drought monitoring. Nebraska Mesonet added 21 more stations last year and a minimum of 10 are planned for this year, which will provide even better weather information. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahly to pay the University of Nebraska Lincoln for maintenance agreement in the amount of $3,000.00. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 17. HDR ENGINEERING INVOICE – HAMILTON COUNTY/CITY OF AURORA WATER SUSTAINABILITY STUDY.
HDR provided the partners with the first draft of the report for review, and comments have been addressed. An invoice has been received from HDR Engineering for work completed between November 2, 2025 and November 29, 2025, on the Hamilton County/City of Aurora Water Sustainability Study in the amount of $5,964.95. The Water Sustainability Fund will cover 60% and the remaining 40% will be split between the three partners. The District will bill the partners for their share which is $790.36 each. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to pay HDR Engineering for work completed November 2, 2025, to November 29, 2025, in the amount of $5,964.95. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 18. KLEIN SALES & SERVICE INVOICE – WATERMARK SENSORS FOR RESALE.
An invoice was received from Klein Sales & Service for Watermark sensors for resale in the amount of $9,000.00. These sensors are to replace the one-, two- and three-foot sensors sold in 2025. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to pay Klein Sales & Service for Watermark sensors for resale in the amount of $9,000.00. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 19. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE – LIFT ORDER OF CEASE AND DESIST – ALLEN W. COUFAL.
Allen W. Coufal has come into compliance with Rule 5 for Phase II & III reporting requirements. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to lift the Order of Cease and Desist on Allen W. Coufal

for coming into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 22, Paragraph 06. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 20. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on January 8, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 21. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM.

There were four new Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) land treatment applications, and two completed WQMP cover crop projects (located in Beaver CreekWatershed). . It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss to pay for two completed NRD land treatment - WQMP cover crop projects totaling $9,900.00, as reviewed by the Committee. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: A. Bohaty
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 22. NEBRASKA NITROGEN REDUCTION INCENTIVE ACT (NiRIA).

2025 PROGRAM YEAR

January payments for the 2025 growing season will be $9,134.40. Operator information, priority area and acres were added to the monthly payment report.
It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Yates to pay for 7 completed fields (4 cooperators) that have met the Nitrogen Incentive Reduction Act (NiRIA) requirements for 2025 totaling $9,134.40, as reviewed by the Committee. The NRD will make these payments and will be reimbursed by DWEE. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 23. SEDIMENT REMOVAL FROM NORTH BAY- PIONEER TRAILS RECREATION AREA.

Staff received two bids for the north bay sediment removal project at Pioneer Trails Recreation Area. Organic Sediment Removal Systems, LLC (OSR Systems) submitted a bid of $95,699. MD Aquatics LLC submitted a bid of $121,155. OSR System's bid does not include a quote for the sediment pit to be constructed on site, which was a requirement of the RFP. Staff recommended that the Upper Big Blue NRD select the bid of $121,155 from MD Aquatics, LLC to remove and discharge sediment from the north bay at Pioneer Trails Recreation Area. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss to pass to the full board, two bids for their consideration for sediment removal at Pioneer Trails Recreation Area.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss to amend the motion to accept the bid from MD Aquatics for the sediment removal at Pioneer Trails, not to exceed $121,155.00. Chairman Miller, with the approval of Richard Bohaty and Mike Nuss ruled this a friendly amendment to the motion.

Motion carried
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 24. RECHARGE LAKE SEDIMENT RETENTION SYSTEM DESIGN.
Staff received three bids for the Recharge Lake sediment retention system design and recommended that the Upper Big Blue NRD select the low bid of $59,800 from EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC to design construction specifications and produce an engineering cost estimate for a near-lake sediment basin and in-lake treatment wetlands at Recharge Lake. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Dickinson to pass to the full board, three bids for their consideration for Recharge Lake sediment retention system design.

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Dickinson to amend the motion to award the bid for the Recharge Lake sediment retention system design to EA Engineering, not to exceed $59,800.00. Chairman Miller, with the approval of Richard Bohaty and Dickinson ruled this a friendly amendment to the motion. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 25. ADA FISHING DOCK SIDEWALK PAYMENT REQUEST.
Dankers Concrete, LLC of Pleasant Dale completed the ADA sidewalk connecting the ADA dock to the parking area. Work was completed for $14,283.00, which was the original bid. Staff will complete some backfill and grading around the sidewalk before the handrails are installed. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Houdersheldt that the Upper Big Blue NRD pay $14,283.00 to Dankers Concrete, LLC for work completed on the ADA sidewalk at Oxbow Trail Recreation Area. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 26. RULE 6 – UPPER BIG BLUE NRD PARKS REGULATIONS - REVIEW.
Staff informed the committee that the Rule 6 public hearing needed to be moved back one month to accommodate legal public notification requirements. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the NRD set a hearing for accepting Rule 6 with changes for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 27. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on January 8, 2026, and presented the

committee's recommendations.

ITEM 28. DIRECTORS' FOURTH QUARTER PER DIEM & EXPENSES.

The Executive Committee reviewed the directors' per diem and expenses for this past quarter. Totals for the 4th quarter 2025 directors' per diem are $6,720.00 and expenses are $3,294.16, for a total expenditure of $10,014.16. Individual expense vouchers were available for review. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to approve payment of 4th quarter 2025 directors' per diem of $6,720.00 and expenses of $3,294.16, for a total of $10,014.16, and to publish these approved expenditures in the December 2025 Financial Report, except that each director, who has per diem and/or reimbursement of expenses included in such financial report, abstains from voting for the approval of his or her own per diem and/or expense reimbursement. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 29. PAYMENT TO NORTH PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPLY FOR THE BLUEPRINT NEWSLETTER.

The Committee reviewed an invoice from North Printing & Office Supply in the amount of $10,409.91 for printing the Spring 2026 issue of the Blueprint newsletter. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to approve payment to North Printing & Office Supply in the amount of $10,409.91 for printing the Spring 2026 issue of the Blueprint newsletter. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 30. FINANCIAL INSTITUTION PUBLIC ENTITY AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION.

A change in staffing has caused Cornerstone Bank to request a copy of board meeting minutes ratifying the staff change and a new Public Entity Authorization Resolution adding Sara Arbuck as agent for the District. Authorized designate agents on the UBBNRD Cornerstone accounts are Douglas Dickinson, Treasurer, David Eigenberg, General Manager, and Sara Arbuck, Office Manager. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Stahly to ratify Sara Arbuck as new office manager and provide Cornerstone Bank with a copy of January board meeting minutes notifying them of this change, and to provide a new Public Entity Authorization Resolution authorizing Douglas Dickinson, Treasurer, David Eigenberg, General Manager, and Sara Arbuck, Office manager as district agents. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Dickinson
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 31. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR DECEMBER 2025.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period December 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Yates and seconded by Bethune to approve the financial report for December 2025 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

ITEM 32. MOTION TO ADJOURN.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 p.m. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Perry, Weiss

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held January 15, 2026, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

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Matthew Perry, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
RULE 6 HEARING – NRD PARKS REGULATIONS
February 19, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Justin Elge, William Kuehner, John Miller, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, DeeDee Novotny, Jessica Simants, Don Blankenau, and Todd Vlieger of Hamilton County NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notices of the Rule 6 – NRD Park Regulations hearing were published on January 29, February 5, and February 12, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fifteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
It was moved by Stahly and seconded by Dickinson to excuse the absences of Houdersheldt and Nuss from the February 19, 2026, Rule 6 Hearing as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Eberspacher to adopt the agenda for February 19, 2026, Rule 6 Hearing as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 7. RULE 6 – NRD PARKS REGULATIONS HEARING
Don Blankenau led the discussion on Rule 6. Jack Wergin discussed Exhibit 1, Proof of Publication of the Hearing. The Hearing notice was published in the York News Times on January 29, 2026, February 5, 2026, and February 12, 2026. Don Blankenau continued the discussion and left the hearing open for one-half hour to hear comments or concerns from the public or anyone that was present. No one from the public showed up and no one present had any comments or concerns. The draft rules have been

submitted to DWEE with a deadline of March 11, 2026 for written comments. Hearing was closed at 1:30 p.m.

ITEM 8. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Yates to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the Rule 6 Hearing of the Board of Directors of the District held February 19, 2026, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

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Matthew Perry, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
February 19, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 1:34 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Justin Elge, William Kuehner, John Miller, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, DeeDee Novotny, and Todd Vlieger of Hamilton County NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on February 12, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fifteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
It was moved by Perry and seconded by Siebert to excuse the absence of Houdersheldt and Nuss from the February 19, 2026, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Stahly to adopt the agenda for February 19, 2026, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2026, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Stahr to approve the minutes of January 15, 2026, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 8. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met February 12, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 9. USGS NATIONAL HIGH PLAINS AQUIFER MODEL UPDATE.

Brenda Densmore, USGS Hydrologic Investigation Supervisor, filed a Public Information Request Form on December 9, 2025. Due to technical difficulties, JP Traylor, Hydrologist, with USGS, was not able to present the Power Point of the model that is being developed to better understand the change in cropping practices and the possible effects those changes will have on water quality, until the January Committee meeting. This information will improve the accuracy of the model USGS is building. The formal request includes amount, location, and timing of application of nitrogen applied with a range of 2005 through present. JP stressed during his presentation, no personal information is being requested and all data will be reported as averages. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Dickinson to approve USGS Formal Data Request and provide USGS with the requested data. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 10. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AQWACAP) PAYMENTS.

Two (2) Aquifer Quality Well Abandonment Cost-Share Assistance Program applications have been reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment, totaling $1,236.27. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Elge to make cost-share payments for two (2) well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $1,236.27. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 11. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Sixteen (16) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and are recommended for final payment, totaling $7,719.75. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to make cost-share payments for sixteen (16) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $7,719.75. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 12. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES.

The committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for eight (8) parcels totaling 400.89 acres, yielding an increase in irrigated acres of 16.2 acres. The total irrigated acres within the district is now 1,250,309.32. acres. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Perry to certify acres' changes as presented to the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 13. WATER METER MAINTENANCE – SANDERSON IRRIGATION INVOICE.

An invoice was received from Sanderson Irrigation for water meter maintenance completed so far. The invoice totaling $43,637.34 for 477 meters serviced along with gaskets and canopy boots. Sanderson's crew started on November 25th and 1,233 of the 2,126 meters in meter maintenance area Zone 2, which include parts of Adams, Clay, York and Hamilton Counties, have been serviced. Invoice attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to pay the invoice from Sanderson Irrigation in the amount $43,637.34. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 14. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA – VADOSE ZONE STUDY.

An invoice was received in the amount of $15,072.21 for work completed August 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, on the ongoing vadose study in the district. The shallow and deep coring's have been completed and taken to the UNL Lab for analysis. The final report is expected by the end of the year. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to pay University of Nebraska for work completed August 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, in the amount of $15,072.21. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 15. HDR ENGINEERING INVOICE – HAMILTON COUNTY/AURORA WATER SUSTAINABILITY STUDY.

HDR has provided the partners with the final report for the project. Three invoices have been received from HDR Engineering for work completed: November 30, 2025, to December 27, 2025 in the amount of $7,050.10; December 28, 2025 to January 24, 2026 in the amount of $2,911.33; and January 25, 2026 to January 31, 2026 in the amount of $827.55, for the Hamilton County/City of Aurora Water Sustainability Study for a total of $10,788.98. The invoices, progress reports and Groundwater Sustainability Study spreadsheet are attached. The Water Sustainability Fund will cover 60% and the remaining 40% will be split between the three partners. The district will bill the partners for their share which is $1,429.54 each. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to pay HDR Engineering for work completed November 30, 2025, to January 31, 2026, in the amount of $10,788.98. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 16. ELECTRONIC METER MAINTENANCE – BATTERY REPLACEMENT.

With the increase in battery prices for the Seametrics Meter, staff is recommending to suspend the three-year rotation of battery replacement for the electronic meter and allowing the batteries to quit before being replaced. Staff continually get requests from producers to allow the batteries to live out their life before being replaced. More than 50% of the electronic meters that fail during the season are usually more than a battery issue causing the failure. It was discussed on the process to notify the owners of electronic meters of the change in the program. Staff will generate a letter explaining the change in the program and outline their options once the meter battery quits. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Perry to suspend the districts three-year electronic meter battery replacement program and replace with an "as needed" program giving the meter owner options of the district replacing the battery or to have the battery replaced by another service provider once it quits working. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 17. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – NESTED MONITORING WELLS.

Staff is requesting to send out a Request for Proposals to construct a nested monitoring well site on the property of CPI on the north side of Giltner. Staff investigated if the lagoons would have any effect on the groundwater at the selected site. A report was received from Kathleen Cameron with Conservation and Survey Division stating: The groundwater flow in this area is in general to the northwest, so any seepage from the lagoon will be moving away from the Nest Monitoring Well site. Also, in general, there is a clay layer up to a 30-foot thick clay layer at the surface further reducing seepage concerns. UNL Conservation and Survey will be drilling a test hole so well nest can be properly designed. Document Attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to send out a Request for Proposal for the construction of the nested monitoring wells site on the property owned by CPI on the north side of Giltner, NE upon the completion of well design by UNL Conservation and Survey. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Elge, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Miller
NAY: Eberspacher, Kuehner, Stahly, Yates
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 18. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE.

1. The Water Use Summary and Map should be available at the board meeting. Data is being double checked for accuracy.
2. Lift Order of Cease and Desist – Two producers have not reported their annual water use according to Rule 5, Chapter 15, Paragraph 01: Agricultural User groundwater withdrawal report required – By December 1 of each year, an Agricultural User shall report the groundwater withdrawal from each water well he or she controlled during the twelve (12) months ending October 31. A Groundwater User's first report shall be due on December 1, following the initial information report required by Rule 5, Chapter 15. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Dickinson to issue Order of Cease and Desist on two producers, Todd S Andreasen and Jon G Hansen, for failure to comply with Rule 5, Chapter 15, Paragraph 01. Motion carried.

   AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
   NAY: None
   ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 19. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on February 12, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 20. WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Staff discussed adding the Lake Hastings watershed as a target area for the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District (UBBNRD) Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and making the WQMP incentive programs available for this area (cover crop, increased buffer strip and land treatment incentives). This would only be for the watershed within the UBBNRD. Applications would be the same as offered in the Beaver Creek watershed, and applications would be prioritized similar to the Beaver Creek watershed (using the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework). It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Perry to add the Lake Hastings watershed area of the Upper Big Blue NRD (including the portion above Hastings NW Dam) as a target area of the UBBNRD Water Quality Management Plan, making this area eligible for the WQMP incentive programs (cover crop, increased buffer strip and land treatment incentives). Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss, Siebert

ITEM 21. PIONEER TRAILS RECREATION AREA - PLAYGROUND

Staff received 5 proposals from 4 companies for the Pioneer Trails Playground. Discussion was held on the cost and advantages of each playground proposal. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher to select the Cunningham Recreation (Option 1 for $92,844.86) as the new playground to be installed at Pioneer Trails Recreation Area. The low bid was not chosen with concerns for the safety and height of the playground. Motion carried as amended.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Miller
NAY: Yates
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 22. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on February 12, 2026, and presented that there were no action items to present before the board.

ITEM 23. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR NOVEMBER 2025.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period December 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, that was distributed. It was moved by Perry and seconded by Peterson to approve the financial report for January 2026 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

ITEM 24. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Siebert and seconded by R. Bohaty to adjourn the meeting at 2:32 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Nuss

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held February 19, 2026, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
March 19, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Justin Elge, William Kuehner, John Miller, Matthew Perry, Mike Nuss, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Drew ten Bensel, Patty Connors, Michelle Koch, DeeDee Novotny, and Josh Bowers of York County NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on March 12, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fifteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
It was moved by Perry and seconded by Peterson to excuse the absence of Houdersheldt and Weiss from the March 19, 2026, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Stahly to adopt the agenda for March 19, 2026, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2026 RULE 6 HEARING
It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Yates to approve the minutes of February 19, 2026, Rule 6 Hearing. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 8. APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2026, BOARD MEETING.

It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Yates to approve the minutes of February 19, 2026, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 9. ADOPT RULE 6

It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to adopt Rule 6 as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 10. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met March 12, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 11. VARIANCE REQUEST AND TRANSFER REQUEST

Jeff Lindburg spoke on behalf of Dennis Bjerrum who filed a Variance Request to allow the transfer of irrigation water from the SE ¼ Section 9, Township 13 North Range 4 West in Polk County, which is in a High-Risk Groundwater Management Area, to the NENE ¼ Section 16, Township 13 North Range 4 West in Polk County, which is outside of the High-Risk Groundwater Management Area. Mr. Lindburg outlined the reasoning behind the request and provided background information leading to the request for the Variance. Directors asked questions regarding other options clarifying the request which Mr. Lindburg provided answers to. Discussion was held regarding the boundary lines. Following discussion, the Board directed that the item be referred back to the Water and Regulations Committee for further review in April.

ITEM 12. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AQWACAP) PAYMENTS

Three (3) Aquifer Quality Well Abandonment Cost-Share Assistance Program applications have been reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment, totaling $2,305.69. A list is attached. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for three (3) well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $2,305.69. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 13. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS

Seven (7) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and have been recommended for final payments, totaling $3,500.00. A list is attached. Staff asked if the Committee would consider lifting the $1,000.00/year limit on meter repair. This will help many producers with multiple meters needing repairs and only doing two per year because of the limit on cost-share. This will assist them getting into compliance with the meter requirement rules. Staff was instructed to place a request on next month's committee agenda for discussion. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Siebert to make cost-share payments for seven (7) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $3,500.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 14. WATER METER MAINTENANCE – SANDERSON IRRIGATION INVOICE

An invoice was received from Sanderson Irrigation for water meter maintenance completed to date. The invoice totaling $26,994.96 is for 296 meters being serviced along with gaskets and canopy boots, as needed. Sanderson's crew started on November 25th and 1,529 of the 2,126 meters in meter maintenance area 2, have now been serviced. This area includes parts of Adams, Clay, York and Hamilton Counties. Invoice attached. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Stahr to pay the invoice from Sanderson Irrigation in the amount $26,994.96. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 15. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA – VADOSE ZONE STUDY

An invoice was received in the amount of $8,058.77 for work completed January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, on the ongoing vadose study in the district. The work remaining is to complete the Lab analysis and completing the final report, which is expected by the end of the year. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Elge to pay University of Nebraska for work completed January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, in the amount of $8,058.77. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Dickinson
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 16. REVIEW PROPOSALS – IN-SEASON VADOSE STUDY

Three proposals (3) were emailed to the Water and Regulation Committee on Monday March 9, 2026, for review. The bids were Spheros - $319,500.00; Rock River Lab (shallow samples only at $150.00/hr.), approximately $302,400.00; EA Engineering Science $190,586.60. Spheros and EA Engineering Science met all the requirements listed within the Request for Proposals. Once a proposal is approved, the planning meeting will take place with sampling beginning prior to planting. An overview and recommendation document is attached. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by R. Bohaty to accept EA Engineering Science proposal for work to be completed during the three year In-Season Vadose Study, in the amount of $190,586.60. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Eberspacher
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 17. RULE 5 – DRAFT LANGUAGE DRYLAND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Staff prepared a draft of language to be added to Rule 5 Chapters 20-24 and Chapter 26. The intent of the language is to remove the requirements of dryland tracts and tracts smaller than 25 acres from the reporting requirement of Phase II and III Groundwater Management Areas. The language to be added after each time the word Operator appears is "*of Irrigated land greater than 25 acres in size*". Discussion followed. It was moved by the committee to move the proposed changes to Rule 5 to the full board for consideration. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Elge to accept the Water and Regulation Committee proposed language changes to Rule 5 and instruct the Water and Regulation Committee to proceed with the process of finalizing changes and begin the process of setting up a hearing on the proposed changes. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 18. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Lift Order of Cease and Desist – One producer has come into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 15, Paragraph 01: Agricultural User groundwater withdrawal report required. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Yates to lift Order of Cease and Desist on Jon G. Hansen for coming into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 15, Paragraph 01. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Houdersheldt, Weiss

ITEM 19. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on March 12, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 20. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM

There were four (4) new NSWCP Land Treatment Applications (total estimated cost-share of $13,915.35) and one (1) Reverse Osmosis System project (total cost-share estimate of $418.50) this month. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss to pay for two (2) completed NSWCP Land Treatment Projects with a total cost-share of $16,934.29 and one (1) NRD reverse osmosis system project with a total cost-share of $331.35, as reviewed by the committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 21. NEBRASKA BUFFER STRIP PROGRAM – 3RD QUARTER PAYMENTS

The NRD pays the landowners and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture reimburses the NRD. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss to make payments for six (6) Nebraska Buffer Strip contracts for the 3rd quarter of FY2026 totaling $8,665.50, as reviewed by the Committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss, Yates

Motion was amended to reflect the correct price of $7,395.50. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 22. NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT – STREAM GAGING

The NRD has an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to reimburse 50% of the cost for operating and maintaining two stream gages (North Fork of the Blue River near Staplehurst and the West Fork of the Big Blue River near Grafton). It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Perry to pay the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment $10,490.35 (50% of the total annual O&M cost) for the operation and maintenance for two (2) stream gaging sites for the year 2025 (North Fork of the Blue River near Staplehurst and the West Fork of the Big Blue River near Grafton), as recommended by the Committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: Kuehner
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 23. LITTLE BLUE NRD – LOWER BIG BLUE NRD HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

In past years the Upper Big Blue NRD has cooperated with the Little Blue NRD and the Lower Big Blue NRD on a nine (9) county All Hazards Mitigation Plan (covering Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Webster, Nuckolls, Thayer, Jefferson and Gage counties). The Federal Emergency Management Agency has reduced the cost-share percentage for updating Hazard Mitigation Plans from 75% to 50%. This has increased the amount of local funding and in-kind services estimated for each county and each NRD. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD commit to a contribution of $5,400 of funding and $5,400 of in-kind service for the update of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Little Blue NRD and the Lower Big Blue NRD (which covers Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Webster, Nuckolls, Thayer, Jefferson, and Gage counties), with the request to add the Lower Republican NRD as a contributing agency, which may lower each county's and each NRD's contribution amounts. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: R. Bohaty, Perry, Siebert
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 24. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on March 12, 2026, and presented that there were no action items to present before the board.

ITEM 25. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR FEBRUARY 2026.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period February 1, 2026, to February 28, 2026, that was distributed. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Bethune to approve the financial report for February 2026 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss, Yates

ITEM 26. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 2:52 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Houdersheldt, Weiss, Yates

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held March 19, 2026, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
April 16, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Justin Elge, Roger Houdersheldt, William Kuehner, Mike Nuss, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss (7:10), and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Drew ten Bensel, Michelle Koch, Patty Connors, DeeDee Novotny, and Josh Bowers of York County NRCS.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Vice-Chairperson Kuehner stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on April 9, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Vice-Chairperson Kuehner led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Vice-Chairperson Kuehner informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fourteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Peterson to excuse the absence of Miller and Stahly from the April 16, 2026, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly, Weiss

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to adopt the agenda for April 16, 2026, board of directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly, Weiss

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2026, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Yates to approve the minutes of March 19, 2026, board of directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
Abstain: Weiss
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 8. PRESENTATION ON HIGH-RISK GROUNDWATER AREA

Terry Julesgard, Water Department Manager, gave a presentation on the Variance History & Maps of the High-Risk Groundwater Area.

ITEM 9. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met April 7, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 10. TRANSFER REQUEST – T 136 LINDBURG.

Jeff Lindburg spoke on behalf of Dennis Bjerrum and Robert Lindburg requesting a transfer from the NW ¼ Section 15, Township 13 North, Range 4 West to the NE 1/4 of the NE ¼ Section 16, Township 13 North Range 4 West in Polk County. Jeff was present and explained that this is an alternative option to irrigate the 26-acre track. This transfer meets all the requirements of the district's Transfer Rules and Regulations. Application and Maps attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to approve T-136 Application for Authorization to Transfer Groundwater in the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District.

Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 11. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AQWACAP) PAYMENTS.

Five (5) Aquifer Quality Well Abandonment Cost-Share Assistance Program applications have been reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment, totaling $4,691.80. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to make cost-share payments for five (5) well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $4,691.80. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 12. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Thirteen (13) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and have been recommended for final payments, totaling $6,077.50. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to make cost-share payments for thirteen (13) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $6,077.50. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None

ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 13. FLOWMETER ANNUAL COST-SHARE LIMITS.
Staff inquired if the Committee would consider lifting or increasing the $1,000.00/year limit on flowmeter repair/replacement. This will help many producers with multiple meters needing repair and only one taxpayer identification number. A document is attached outlining the benefits of lifting or increasing the cost-share limits. Following review of the document and discussion the following motion was made. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to increase the flowmeter annual limit from $1,000.00 to $2,500.00 per year, effective immediately. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: Weiss
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 14. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES.
The committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for fifteen (15) parcels totaling 1,106.00 acres, yielding an increase in irrigated acres of 200.16 acres. The total irrigated acres' within the district is now 1,250,509.48 acres. It was noted that the District Total indicated a decrease, and the Summary indicated an increase. The increase is correct and document was corrected for the board packet. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to certify acres' changes as presented to the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 15. WATER METER MAINTENANCE – SANDERSON IRRIGATION INVOICE.
An invoice was received from Sanderson Irrigation for water meter maintenance completed to date. The invoice totaling $47,925.74 is for 527 meters being serviced along with gaskets and canopy boots, as needed. Sanderson's crew started on November 25th and 2,056 of the 2,126 meters in meter maintenance area 2, have now been serviced. There will be at least one more invoice for the remaining 70 meters to be serviced. This area includes parts of Adams, Clay, York and Hamilton Counties. Invoice attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to pay the invoice from Sanderson Irrigation in the amount $47,925.74 for the routine maintenance of 527 mechanical flowmeters. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 16. RULE 5 – CHANGES TO DRYLAND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS – SET HEARING DATE.
Staff provided language to be added to Rule 5 Chapters 20-24 and Chapter 26. The intent of the language is to remove the reporting requirements of dryland tracts and tracts smaller than 25 acres in size in the Phase II and III Groundwater Management Areas, and Hastings Wellhead Protection Groundwater Management Area. The language changes to Rule 5 Chapter 20-24 and Chapter 26 will be replace the term "Operator" with "*Operators of irrigated land greater than 25 acres in size*."

It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt that in Rule 5 Chapters 20-24 and Chapter 26, to replace the term "Operator" with "*Operators of irrigated land greater than twenty-five (25) acres in*

size," and to set the public hearing for 6:00 PM on June 18, 2026, at the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources, 319 East 25th Street, York NE., and to instruct staff to publish changes and hearing notice as required by State of Nebraska Statutes. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 17. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE.

Lift Order of Cease and Desist – Two producers have come into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 15, Paragraph 01: Agricultural User groundwater withdrawal report required, and one for coming into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 22 Paragraph 06 Phase II and III Reporting requirements. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to lift Order of Cease and Desist on Todd Andreasen and Greg Gerkenmeyer for coming into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 15, Paragraph 01 and Greg Gerkenmeyer for coming into compliance with Rule 5 Chapter 22 Paragraph 06. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

On April 7th, 341 past due Phase II and III postcards were mailed out. Producers were given until April 17th to send in their reports before the compliance process begins.

ITEM 18. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on April 9, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 19. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM.

There were five (5) new Land Treatment Applications (total estimated cost-share of $27,630.49) and two (2) new Reverse Osmosis System applications (total cost-share estimate of $1,000.00) this month. The Committee reviewed the Land Treatment Budget. It was moved by R Bohaty and seconded by Perry to pay for three (3) completed NRD reverse osmosis system projects with a total cost-share of $1,418.50, as reviewed by the Committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Stahr, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: Weiss
PASS: Siebert
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Miller, Stahly

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Yates to pay for four (4) completed NSWCP Land Treatment Projects with a total cost-share of $35,436.36 and one (1) NRD Land Treatment Project with a total cost-share of $5,130.00, as reviewed by the Committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Miller, Stahly

ITEM 20. PIONEER TRAILS RECREATION AREA – SEDIMENT REMOVAL – PAYMENT REQUEST.

MD Aquatics of Lincoln has completed pumping the sediment from the north bay at Pioneer Trails. The contractor worked 12 hour days, 7 days per week, and employees stayed in a camper onsite to increase security of equipment. The final invoice ($121,155.00) was for the amount of MD Aquatics bid, which was approved by the Board. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Houdersheldt to pay MD Aquatics $121,155.00 for removal of sediment in the north bay of Pioneer Trails Recreation Area, as reviewed by the Committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 21. OXBOW TRAILS – BUTLER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT – INCREASED DEPOSIT.

Butler Public Power District (BPPD) notified the NRD that the required deposit for the Oxbow Trail supply well has increased by $6,600.00. The required deposit is set by 2X the amount of the highest monthly bill from the previous year. NRD operations were not to run the supply well during the months of May, June, July, and August in an effort to not harm the irrigation wells in the area. Oxbow Trails was off the entire summer of 2025 and the lake dropped over four feet. The supply well was started the first of September and ran for 32 days to fill the lake. The September 2025 BPPD bill was $5,685.00. This resulted in a new deposit requirement of $11,485.00. The existing deposit was $4,865.00, so the NRD will need an additional $6,600.00 to meet the $11,485.00 deposit requirement. This requirement is reviewed each January, and if reduced, BPPD will refund the excess or credit the account. BPPD does credit an interest amount on deposits of $1,000.00 or more. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Yates to pay the Butler Public Power District $7,619.38, which includes the March 2026 monthly bill amount of $1,019.38 and the increased deposit requirement of $6,600.00, as recommended by the Committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 22. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on April 9, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 23. DIRECTORS' FIRST QUARTER PER DIEM & EXPENSES.

The Executive Committee reviewed the directors' per diem and expenses for this past quarter. The first quarter directors' per diem is $7,770.00 and expenses are $3,588.80 for a total expenditure of $11,358.80. Individual expense vouchers were available for review. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates to approve payment of first quarter 2026 directors' per diem of $7,770.00 and expenses of $3,588.80 for a total of $11,358.80, and to publish these approved expenditures in the March 2026 Financial Report, except that each director, who has per diem and/or reimbursement of expenses included in such financial report, abstains from voting for the approval of his or her own per diem and/or expense reimbursement. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 24. BURKE SCHOLARSHIPS.

The selection committee of Directors Dickinson, Elge and Stahr met April 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to review scholarship candidates. There were five completed applications submitted for the 2026 Burke Scholars program. Committee Chairperson Dickinson provided the committee's recommendation of:

- AWARD - Bryn Christensen, Seward, a 2025 graduate of Seward High School, who is studying plant biology – ecology & management at UNL.
- AWARD - Preston Sjuts, Trumbull, a 2026 graduate of Doniphan - Trumbull High School, who will be studying Ag Engineering at UNL.
- ALTERNATE - Reyce Krause, York, a 2026 graduate of York High School, who will be studying agronomy at UNL.

  It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Siebert to award two $2,000.00 Burke Scholarships, one to Bryn Christensen, one to Preston Sjuts, and name Reyce Krause as alternate. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 25. LEGAL COUNSEL INVOICE.

Invoice #98097047 for $6,327.30 from Woods/Aitken LLP has been received for services provided during the month of February 2026. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Perry to approve payment of $6,327.30 to Woods/Aitken LLP for services provided during the month of February 2026. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 26. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR FEBRUARY 2026.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period February 1, 2026, to February 28, 2026, that was distributed. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Dickinson to approve the financial report for February 2026 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Kuehner,
NAY: None
ABSENT: Miller, Stahly

ITEM 27. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Kuehner to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held April 16, 2026, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one

copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
May 21, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Richard Bohaty, Andrew Eberspacher (7:10 p.m.), Justin Elge, Roger Houdersheldt, William Kuehner, John Miller, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, William Stahly, Brian Stahr, and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Michelle Koch, Drew ten Bensel, Jack Wergin, Gia Adelson, Patty Connors, DeeDee Novotny, Josh Bowers of York County NRCS, and Robert Lutz of EA Engineering, Science, and Technology.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on May 14, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Twelve directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
It was moved by Stahly and seconded by Perry to excuse the absence of Dickinson, Weiss, Nuss from the May 21, 2026, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Siebert to approve the agenda for May 21, 2026, Board of Directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2026, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Yates and seconded by R. Bohaty to approve the minutes of April 16, 2026, Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Yates

NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Stahly, Miller
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 8. PRESENTATION ON RECHARGE LAKE SEDIMENT RETENTION SYSTEM DESIGN – EA ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Robert Lutz, EA Engineering, gave a presentation on the Recharge Lake Sediment Retention System Design

ITEM 9. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met May 12, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 10. FLOWMETER REQUEST FOR APPROVED LIST

John Skolaut with Seametrics provided PowerPoint and spec sheets on their Model PS32 150 psi Clamp-On Saddle Meter. This meter has been used in California for many years and features a ceramic bearing as the only moving part and a 4–5-year battery life to the totalizer head. He was questioned regarding the possibility of freezing and breaking the ceramic bearing for applications of watering livestock during the winter months. The totalizer is password protected so reading cannot be changed. A question was raised regarding whether the totalizer also displays gallons per minute. John will have this answer prior to the board meeting. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to add the Seametrics PS32 150 PSI Clamp-On Saddle Meter to the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District approved meter list. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Perry, Peterson, Miller
NAY: R. Bohaty, Kuehner, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 11. EA ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY – CONTRACT MODIFICATION

Robert Lutz and Dale Schlautman were present to request a Contract Modification to the In-Season Vadose Sampling Project. Robert explained while reviewing the scope of work in the RFP, they focused on the sentence: "This proposed study will focus on determining the loss of nitrogen leaching from different soil types and fertilizer application practices including traditional fall fertilizer application, side-dress fertilizer application, fall manure application or other in the LLNRD, CPNRD, and UBBNRD." In doing so, they overlooked the following sentence which states "three fields for each fertilizer application practice". They also stated in reviewing the RFP again it is clearly stated there will be nine fields to be sampled in the project. To ensure the project stays on track, EA has completed the deep samples in all nine fields and will be completing the 8-foot samples the week of May 18th. EA is also committed to keeping the project moving forward until the Modification is accepted or if a different direction is taken. Robert and Dale emphasized that this situation had not previously occurred during a bidding process. The following questions were raised on the bidders of the project. Number of bidders for the project; Three contractors submitted bids for this project. Two of the bidders could fulfill all the requirements in the RFP, one could only do the shallow sampling. With modification, is EA still the low bid of qualified providers; Yes, with this modification EA is now at $315,307.00; Spheros' next-highest bid was $319,500.00. What about rebidding the project; Because the bids are already public information, rebidding could create issues with fair bidding practices. Will this cause an issue with the auditors; not likely because EA is still the low bidder of qualified providers. The Contract Modification documents were emailed out to the Water Committee on April 30th for their review and were included in the committee packet. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to accept and authorize David Eigenberg, General Manager, to sign EA Engineering

Science Contract Modification in the amount of $124,720.40, which revises the total contract amount to $315,307.00 and allows EA Engineering, Science to continue for the three years of the project. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 12. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AQWACAP) PAYMENTS

Eleven (11) Aquifer Quality Well Abandonment Cost-Share Assistance Program applications have been reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment, totaling $10,750.00. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for eleven (11) well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $10,750.00. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 13. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS

Seventeen (17) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and have been recommended for final payments, totaling $7,744.53. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Eberspacher to make cost-share payments for seventeen (17) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $7,744.53. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Kuehner
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 14. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES

The committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for six (6) parcels totaling 392.83 acres, yielding an increase in irrigated acres of 77.84 acres. The total irrigated acres within the district is now 1,250,587.32 acres. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to certify acres changes as presented to the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 15. WATER METER MAINTENANCE – SANDERSON IRRIGATION INVOICE

No invoice was received prior to the committee meeting.

ITEM 16. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA VADOSE STUDY

Two (2) invoices were received from the University of Nebraska for work completed February 1, 2026 through April 30, 2026, in the amounts of $25,061.36 and $2,557.48 for a total of $27,618.84. These invoices cover the last of the core sampling and some of the testing of these samples. The final report is due December of 2026. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to pay the University of Nebraska for work completed February 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026 in the amount of $27,618.84. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates
NAY: Miller
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 17. LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT – IN-SEASON VADOSE STUDY INVOICE
Lower Loup NRD is the reporting agency for the Water Sustainability Grant Funds for the In-Season Vadose Study. All invoice payments will go through the Lower Loup NRD for work completed on the study. Lower Loup NRD will submit invoices to the WSF for reimbursement and will bill 1/3 of the remaining cost to the partner Districts. The Upper Big Blue NRD 1/3 share of the Vadose Core Sample Kit and Soil Moisture Sensor Equipment and Data is $11,709.73. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to pay Lower Loup NRD for 1/3 of expenses incurred for the In-Season Vadose Study in the amount of $11,709.73. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 18. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE
Lift Order of Cease and Desist – Nicholas Johnson has come into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 22, Paragraph 02: renewal of the Phase II & III training requirement. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to lift Order of Cease and Desist on Nicholas Johnson for coming into compliance with Rule 5 Chapter 22 Paragraph 02. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

Issue Order of Cease and Desist – Ronald Consbruck, Meyer Properties LLC in care of Robert Meyer, Jesse Swarts and Dallas Troester are out of compliance for not renewing their Phase II & III Training. Staff have issued all required documents as outlined in Rule 4. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to issue Orders of Cease and Desist to Ronald Consbruck, Meyer Properties LLC in care of Robert Meyer, Jesse Swarts and Dallas Troester for failing to renew training set forth in Rule 5 Chapter 22 Paragraph 02. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 19. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on May 14, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 20. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM
There were ten (10) new Land Treatment Applications (total estimated cost-share of $39,237.29) and one (1) new Reverse Osmosis System application (total cost-share estimate of $500.00) this month. The committee reviewed the Land Treatment Budget. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Perry to pay for one (1) completed NRD reverse osmosis system projects with a total cost-share of $500.00, as

reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Perry to pay for nine (9) completed NSWCP Land Treatment Projects with a total cost-share of $41,165.29 and one (1) NRD Land Treatment Project with a total cost-share of $2,332.00, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 21. RECHARGE LAKE – SEDIMENT REMOVAL DESIGN
EA Engineering, Science, and Technology submitted invoices covering the first few months of the design work for the Recharge Lake Retention System Design project as listed in invoice #2026-00023429 covering 2/19/26 through 3/31/26 or $2,020.19 and invoice #2026-00024551 covering 4/1/26 through 4/30/26 for $2,950.94.

EA attended the May Board meeting to present an update on the project. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Stahly to pay for EA Engineering a total of $4,971.13 for work completed on the Recharge Lake Retention System Design project from February 19, 2026, through April 30, 2026, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 22. ADDITIONAL KAYAK LAUNCH -OXBOW TRAIL, SMITH CREEK
MD Aquatics of Lincoln has delivered and installed the kayak launch at Recharge Lake. Staff observed the installation and will be able to install future kayak launches. Staff recommended purchasing 2 additional kayak launches, one to be installed at Oxbow Trail Recreation Area and one at Smith Creek Recreation Area. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher to purchase 2 additional kayak launches, one for Oxbow Trail Recreation Area and one for Smith Creek Recreation Area, as reviewed by the Committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: Perry, Yates
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 23. AURORA INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND – PAYMENT REQUEST
The City of Aurora's inclusive playground is currently being installed. The concrete has been placed in the parking lot and the restroom is almost complete. Through an agreement with the City, the NRD agreed to provide 25% of the local cost share not to exceed $10,000 for the construction of the playground, including the restroom. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Kuehner to pay the City of Aurora $10,000 (25% of the $40,000 invoice) for construction of the restroom at the Aurora inclusive playground. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 24. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on May 14, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 25. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL
This year's NRD Basin Tour will be held June 8-9, 2026. The tour will be through the South Platte Basin, starting in North Platte and traveling west. The tour will travel out of Nebraska into Colorado. Out-of-state travel will be needed for any director, and up to two staff that wish to attend the 2026 NRD Basin Tour, which will be held June 8-9, 2026, starting at North Platte, Nebraska.

The 2026 GMDA Summer Conference will be held July 21-23, in Lubbock, Texas. Out-of-state travel is approved for any director that wishes to attend the 2026 GMDA Summer Conference, July 21 – 23 in Lubbock, Texas.

ITEM 26. FINANCIAL INSTITUTION PUBLIC ENTITY AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION
A change in District staffing has caused Henderson State Bank to request a copy of board meeting minutes ratifying the staff change and a new Public Entity Authorization Resolution adding Sara Arbuck as agent for the district. Authorized designated agents on the UBBNRD Henderson State Bank accounts are Douglas Dickinson, Treasurer, David Eigenberg, General Manager, and Sara Arbuck, Office Manager. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to ratify Sara Arbuck as office manager and provide Henderson State Bank with a copy of May 2026 board meeting minutes notifying them of this change, and to provide a new Public Entity Authorization Resolution authorizing Douglas Dickinson, Treasurer, David Eigenberg, General Manager, and Sara Arbuck, Office Manager as district agents. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 27. FY27 SALARY SCHEDULE
Management provided a copy of proposed changes for the FY27 Salary Schedule from the FY26 Salary Schedule. Eigenberg explained the logic and starting point behind this recommendation and answered questions. This schedule has been developed to provide guidance on FY27 salary structure. Midpoints were calculated by taking an average of 5 NRDs with similar property valuations, annual payrolls, and staffing numbers. Midpoints were then used to develop minimum (80%) and maximum (120%) wage limits. Salary schedule will be used in accordance with the Operating Policy. The proposed salary schedule was attached to the report. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to approve FY27 Salary Schedule as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 28. FY27 WAGE INCREASE REQUEST
The Executive Committee discussed the wages of current staff positions. Eigenberg requested that the

board authorize a 3.4% increase, up to $56,660, for FY27 salary increases for staff. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to adjust the annual FY27 salaries of the district staff, except for the General Manager, by 3.4% of the FY26 payroll for up to $56,660 and to authorize the General Manager to determine and make salary and wage adjustments, in accordance with the Operating Policy. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 29. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR APRIL 2026.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period April 1, 2026, to April 30, 2026, that was distributed. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Stahly to approve the financial report for April 2026 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 30. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Perry and seconded by Siebert to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion approved.

AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Nuss, Weiss

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held May 21 2026 , that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
Matthew Perry, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
RULE 5 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS HEARING
June 18, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher (6:02), Justin Elge, Roger Heldersheldt, William Kuehner, John Miller, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert (6:09), Bill Stahly, Brian Stahr, and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Michelle Koch, Jack Wergin, Gia Adelson, Patty Connors, DeeDee Novotny, Drew ten Bensel and Don Blankenau.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notices of the Rule 5 – Groundwater Management Regulations hearing were published on May 28, 2026, June 4, 2026, and June 11, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Eleven directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to excuse the absences of R. Bohaty and Nuss from the June 21, 2026, Rule 6 Hearing as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Perry, Siebert, Weiss

ITEM 6. RULE 5 – GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS HEARING
Don Blankenau led the discussion on Rule 5. Terry Julesgard discussed Exhibit 1, Draft of Chapters 22 and 26 with changes highlighted; Exhibit 2, The Hearing notice was published in the York News Times on May 28, 2026, June 4, 2026, and June 11, 2026; Exhibit 3, Letter from Andy Pedley, stating the director of DWEE would transmit testimony prior to hearing on Rule 5 changes, but as of 5:00 p.m., did not receive any testimony. Don Blankenau continued the discussion and left the hearing open for one-half hour to hear comments or concerns from the public or anyone that was present. No one from the public showed up and no one present had any comments or concerns. Hearing was closed and adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the Rule 5 Hearing of the Board of Directors of the District held June 18 2026, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting,

kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
William Stahly, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
June 18, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Justin Elge, Roger Houdersheldt, William Kuehner, John Miller, Matthew Perry, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, William Stahly, Brian Stahr, and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Michelle Koch, Jack Wergin, Gia Adelson, Patty Connors, DeeDee Novotny, and Drew ten Bensel.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the board of directors' meeting was published on June 11, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fourteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Dickinson to excuse the absence of R. Bohaty and Nuss from the June 18, 2026, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates to approve the agenda for June 18, 2026, Board of Directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2026, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Stahly and seconded by Houdersheldt to approve the minutes of May 21, 2026, Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 8. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met June 11, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 9. TRANSFER REQUEST T-137 – KREIS TO CRAFTS.

Staff spoke on behalf of Bob Kreis and Bobbi Jo Crafts requesting a transfer from the SE ¼ Section 35, Township 14 North, Range 3 West to the NE ½ of the NE ¼ Section 2, Township 13 North Range 3 West in Polk County. Dan gave background and provided the purpose of the transfer request. This transfer meets all the requirements of the district's Transfer Rules and Regulations. Application and Maps attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to approve T-137 Application for Authorization to Transfer Groundwater in the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 10. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AQWACAP) PAYMENTS.

Four (4) Aquifer Quality Well Abandonment Cost-Share Assistance Program applications have been reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment, totaling $4,000.00. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for four (4) well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $4,000.00. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 11. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Eighteen (18) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and are recommended for final payments, totaling $8,607.64. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to make cost-share payments for eighteen (18) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $8,607.64. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 12. CHEMIGATION COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Eight (8) new applications for Chemigation Cost-Share have been authorized. Eight (8) have been completed and reviewed by staff and are recommended for the final cost of $6,262.29. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to make cost-share payments for eight chemigation cost-share assistance applications in the amount of $6,262.29. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 13. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES'.

The committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for twenty-four (24) parcels totaling 2,183.30 acres, yielding an increase in irrigated acres of 175.71 acres. The total irrigated acres within the district is now 1,250,763.03 acres. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Elge to certify acres changes as presented to the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 14. WATER METER MAINTENANCE – SANDERSON IRRIGATION INVOICE.

An invoice was received from Sanderson Irrigation for water meter maintenance completed. The invoice totaling $6,300.00 is for 70 meters. Sanderson's crew started on November 25th and 2,126 of the 2,126 meters in meter maintenance area 2, have now been serviced. This area includes parts of Adams, Clay, York and Hamilton Counties. Invoice attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Dickinson to pay the invoice from Sanderson Irrigation in the amount $6,300.00. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 15. SECOND DRAFT WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET.

Staff presented a copy of the second draft of the Water Department budget, with the committee recommended changes, from the first draft. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to forward the Water Department budget to the Executive Committee for consolidation. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 16. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE.

Lift Order of Cease and Desist – Ronald Consbruck has come into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 22, Paragraph 02: renewal of the Phase II & III training requirement. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to lift Order of Cease and Desist on Ronald Consbruck for coming into compliance with Rule 5 Chapter 22 Paragraph 02. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

On Friday June 12, 2026, staff mailed out twenty-nine violation notices with intent to issue orders of cease and desist for producers who have not submitted their Phase II/III Reporting forms for the 2025 growing season.

ITEM 17. EA ENGINEERING SCIENCE – INVOICE.

An invoice in the amount of $37,114.29 was received from EA Engineering Sciences for work completed April 1, 2026, to June 9, 2026, for the UBBNRD Soil Sampling Project, EA 64395-01-00-LS. Work completed

includes the kickoff meeting, 2026 pre-plant deep sampling event and the May 2026 shallow sampling event. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to pay EA Engineering Science for work completed April 1, 2026, to June 9, 2026, in the amount of $37,114.29. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Perry, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Eberspacher, Kuehner, Siebert,
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 18. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Andrew Eberspacher reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on June 11, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 19. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM.
There were three (3) new NSWCP Land Treatment Applications (total estimated cost-share of $19,039.78) and one (1) new NRD Land Treatment Application (estimated cost-share of $4,701.00) this month. The committee reviewed the Land Treatment Budget. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Stahly to pay for two (2) completed NRD reverse osmosis system projects with a total cost-share of $1,000.00, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Houdersheldt that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of one (1) completed NRD Land Treatment project with a cost-share of $4,701.00, and forward for payment to the state six (6) completed NSWCP Land Treatment Projects, with a total cost-share of $24,565.06. The payment needs to be approved by the Committee to meet the State's fiscal year deadline, which is June 15, 2026. The Board will ratify this motion at the June 18th Board meeting. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 20. NEBRASKA BUFFER STRIP PROGRAM – 4TH QUARTER PAYMENTS.
The NRD makes the contract payments for the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program, and the State reimburses the NRD. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Yates to make payments for ten (10) Nebraska Buffer Strip Program contracts totaling $16,222.30 for the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2026, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 21. WQMP COVER CROP – 2027.
Staff presented data from WQMP cover crop projects in 2026. The NRD offered a five-year tiered payment option ($50, $50, $40, $30, $30)/acre with a $7,500 maximum and a one-year fixed rate option ($75/acre) with a $7,500 maximum for areas located in the target areas of the UBBNRD WQMP. A new cover crop program from Farmers for Soil Health is offering $35/acre with a 2,000-acre maximum over a 20-state

area. The current Environmental Quality Incentive Program from the NRCS offers a payment of $78.40/acre (75% of $104.53/ac) for multi-species and $63.58/acre (75% of $84.78/acre) for basic cover crop. For comparison, the CPNRD cover crop program will pay 50% of the cost of seed up to a maximum of $2,000, with a requirement of 2 soil samples.

Last year's discussion included allowing cooperators to skip a year due to crop rotations. The committee decided to recommend not extending the one-year cover crop program. Staff will steer operators interested in shorter term, cover crop projects, to other programs. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Elge to end the one-year WQMP Cover Crop Program and to continue the five-year tiered rate WQMP Cover Crop Program with the option of giving cooperators a term of 6 years to complete the 5-year cover crop requirement. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates,
NAY: A. Bohaty, Perry, Miller
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 22. RECHARGE LAKE – SEDIMENT REMOVAL DESIGN.

EA Engineering submitted a brief update and invoice #2026-00026361 for $8,185.83 covering May 1, 2026, through May 31, 2026, for work on the Recharge Lake Sediment Project. EA continues to work on the 75% design. The Committee instructed staff to request a more detailed update and invoice from EA Engineering. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Siebert to pay EA Engineering a total of $8,185.83 for work completed on the Recharge Lake Retention System Design project from May 1, 2026, through May 31, 2026, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 23. PIONEER TRAILS PLAYGROUND – UPDATE – PAYMENT REQUEST.

Cunningham Recreation/GameTime completed the installation of the Pioneer Trails Playground yesterday (June 10, 2026). The NRD received invoice #INV-00106859 from GameTime dated May 29, 2026, for $92,844.86, which was the amount of their bid approved by the Board on February 19, 2026. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Stahly to pay GameTime for the materials and installation of the Pioneer Trails playground $92,844.86, as listed in invoice #INV-00106859 dated May 29, 2026. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Miller
NAY: Dickinson, Yates
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 24. 2027 PROJECTS BUDGET – SECOND DRAFT.

The Committee reviewed the second draft (dated June 11, 2026) of the Projects Department's 2027 budget. Changes from the first draft included changes to 502.05 Project Construction costs by increasing the estimate for picnic shelter at Overland Trail, increasing estimate for Johnson Creek 12 dam pipe lining, adding Urbanek-Hoeft dam pipe lining, moving security cameras from 448.05 Supplies and Maintenance to 502.05 Projects Construction Cost. Security camera costs were discussed, decided to leave off the sites and list $30,000 as a place holder until a better estimate is obtained. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Siebert to forward the draft Projects Budget with the changes as discussed to the Executive Committee for consolidating with the NRD Budget. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 25. 2027 PARKS/FORESTRY BUDGET – SECOND DRAFT.
The Committee reviewed the second draft (dated June 11, 2026) of the Parks/Forestry Department's 2027 budget. Changes from the first draft included adding the replacement of 2 mowers in 505.04 Machinery & Equipment. Mowers are generally replaced after 1000 hours of use, and both mowers will likely be reaching 1000 hours in the spring of 2027. It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Siebert to forward the draft Parks/Forestry Budget to the Executive Committee for consolidating with the NRD Budget. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 26. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on June 11, 2026, and presented the committee's recommendations.

ITEM 27. FY27 INSURANCE RENEWAL - CORNERSTONE INSURANCE GROUP.
Staff worked with Cornerstone Insurance Group to obtain a quote for the FY27 insurance renewal package. Due to the liability for the district-owned dams, it is difficult to get insurers to quote the complete package. The district has one (1) high-hazard dam (Hastings Northwest) and six (6) significant-hazard dams (Dorchester 1A, Dorchester 2A, Larson, Struebing, Recharge Lake and Oxbow), and twenty-four (24) low-hazard dams that the district owns and maintains.
The renewal quote for the district's insurance package was presented by Cornerstone Insurance Group. The total workers compensation premium is based on actual payroll, so a payroll audit will be conducted at the end of each fiscal year to determine if any additional premium or refund of premium is due. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Eberspacher to make payment of $106,453 to the Cornerstone Insurance Group for liability, auto, workers' compensation, fire, and casualty insurance for FY27. Motion Carried.

Coverage	FY26	Proposed FY27
Liability, Auto, Fire & Casualty	$87,966	$92,709
Workers' Compensation	$14,196	$13,744
Total	$102,162	$106,453

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 28. PAYMENT REQUEST FROM NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT (NARD).

An invoice totaling $16,882.14 was received from NARD for trees and supplies for the FY26 tree planting season. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Dickinson to make payment of $16,882.14 to NARD for trees and supplies for the FY26 tree planting season. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 29. FY26 NRD SHARED SERVICES SALARY REIMBURSEMENT.

The Little Blue NRD submitted an invoice in the amount of $33,496.06 for the salary and benefits of the Adams and Clay County NRCS secretary positions, for work performed in FY26 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026). It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to approve payment of $33,496.06 to the Little Blue NRD for the Upper Big Blue NRD's portion of the Adams and Clay County NRCS secretary positions, for work performed in FY26. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

The Lower Big Blue NRD submitted an invoice in the amount of $8,514.65 for the salary and benefits of the Saline County of the NRCS secretary position. Salary and benefits are for work performed in FY26. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to approve payment of $8,514.65 to the Lower Big Blue NRD for the Upper Big Blue NRD's portion of the Saline County NRCS secretary position. Salary and benefits are for work performed in FY26. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weis

ITEM 30. ACTION ON RESIGNATION OF SUBDISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR MATTHEW PERRY.

Matthew Perry submitted a letter of resignation effective June 19, 2026, to Chairman Miller. Matthew is relocating to a residence outside the Subdistrict 8 boundary. Nebraska Revised Statute §2-3215 governs director vacancies and authorizes the board to fill them. Notice of the official vacancy will be given to the full Board at the July Board meeting. Written notice of the vacancy date, the office vacated, and the length of the unexpired term will be submitted to the Secretary of State. The district will publish a notice of vacancy explaining how interested individuals may apply. Applicants must submit a district-provided application to the board chairperson. After applications are received, the executive committee will review them and forward all legally qualified applicants to the Board. There is a 45-day timeframe to fill a formal vacancy. Deadline for applications will be July 15, 2026. All applications will be taken to the July executive committee meeting. The committee will review them and forward all that are lawfully qualified to the board for official appointment at the July board meeting. By statute there is a 45-day timeframe to fill a formal vacancy. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to accept the resignation of Matthew Perry as the Subdistrict 8 UBBNRD Director. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Perry
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 31. EVALUATION OF GENERAL MANAGER JOB PERFORMANCE AND FY27 COMPENSATION.

The Executive Committee recommended that the full board consider the General Manager's job performance and any salary adjustment at the June 18, 2026, board meeting. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Dickinson that the full Board conducts an evaluation of the General Manager's job performance and any salary adjustment. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates that the board go into closed session at 7:46 p.m for the purpose of protecting, and preventing needless harm or injury to the reputation of the general manager while evaluating his job performance. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

It was moved by Yates and seconded by Eberspacher to return to open session at 8:00 p.m. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Eberspacher to set the salary of General Manager Dave Eigenberg at an annualized salary of $140,000.00. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 29. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR APRIL 2026.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period April 1, 2026, to April 30, 2026, that was distributed. It was moved by Stahly and seconded by Houdersheldt to approve the financial report for May 2026 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Perry, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: R. Bohaty, Nuss, Weiss

ITEM 30. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held June 18, 2026 , that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available

for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
William Stahly, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
July 23, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Justin Elge, Gale Holmes, Roger Houdersheldt, William Kuehner, John Miller, Kevin Peterson (7:05 pm), Kendall Siebert, William Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Michelle Koch, Drew ten Bensel, Josh Bowers, Gia Adelson, Patty Connors, DeeDee Novotny, Bill Hoffman, Bryn Christensen, Preston Sjuts, Scott Sjuts, Nikki Sjuts, and Alexa Davis.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the Board of Directors meeting was published on July 16, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. APPOINT BOARD SECRETARY.
Bill Stahly was appointed as Board Secretary.

ITEM 5. ROLL CALL.
Fourteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 6. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
No excused absences were received.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by R. Bohaty to approve the agenda for July 23, 2026, Board of Directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Nuss, Peterson

ITEM 8. APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2026, RULE 5 HEARING.
It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Kuehner to approve the minutes of June 18, 2026, Rule 5 Hearing. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: None
PASSED: Peterson, Weiss
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 9. APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2026, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Dickinson and seconded by Yates to approve the minutes of June 18, 2026, Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
PASSED: Weiss
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 10. BURKE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.
Bryn Christensen and Preston Sjuts were present to receive their Burke Scholarships and speak about their college plans and field of study.

ITEM 11. APPOINT SUB-DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR.
Gale Holmes and Bill Hofmann were each given 5 minutes to talk about themselves. Bill Hofmann decided to withdraw his name and retry in two years. Gale Holmes was sworn in as the new District 8 Director.
It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to appoint Gale Holmes to fill the unexpired term for District 8 vacancy.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 12. ONE RED PROGRAM PRESENTATION
Alexa Davis from DWEE presented information on the Nebraska One Red Program and provided a handout.

ITEM 13. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Siebert reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met July 9, 2026, and presented the Committee's recommendations.

ITEM 14. AQUIFER QUALITY WELL ABANDONMENT COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AQWACAP) PAYMENTS.
Nine (9) Aquifer Quality Well Abandonment Cost-Share Assistance Program applications have been reviewed by staff and recommended for final payment, totaling $8,313.31. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to make cost-share payments for nine (9) well abandonments, as reviewed by the committee, at a cost of $8,313.31. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 15. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Nine (9) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments, totaling $4,225.17. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to make cost-share payments for nine (9) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $4,225.17. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 16. CHEMIGATION COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Three (3) new applications for Chemigation Cost-Share have been authorized. Nineteen (19) have been completed and reviewed by staff and are recommended for the final cost of $15,225.73. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for nineteen chemigation cost-share assistance applications in the amount of $15,225.73. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 17. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES.

The committee reviewed the irrigated acres certification for seventeen (17) parcels totaling 1,248.99 acres, yielding an increase in irrigated acres of 136.80 acres. The total irrigated acres' within the district is now 1,250,899.83 acres. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Elge to certify acres changes as presented to the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes, Stahr
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 18. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA VADOSE STUDY.

An invoice was received from the University of Nebraska for work completed May 1, 2026, through May 31, 2026, in the amount of $5,326.37. The invoice covers testing samples. The final report is due December of 2026. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to pay the University of Nebraska for work completed May 1, 2026, through May 31, 2026, in the amount of $5,326.37. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: Dickinson, Kuehner, Miller
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 19. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE.

A. Lift Order of Cease-and-Desist – No orders to lift this month

B. Issue Orders of Cease-and-Desist Phase II/III Reporting - for failure to submit 2025-2026 Phase II/III Reporting & Hastings Management Area. Staff provided a list of producers who have not complied

with Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 06, Annual Reporting Requirements. Staff have followed the steps outlined in the District's Rules and Regulations and issued a complaint notice, violation notice, and an intent to issue an order of cease-and-desist/schedule of compliance notice. A list of producers who are out of compliance is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to issue order of cease-and-desist to all producers listed on the attached 2025-2026 Phase II & III/Hastings Management Area spreadsheet for being out of compliance with Phase II/III & Hastings Management Area as stated in Rule 5, Chapter 20, Paragraph 06 (Matthew Adams, AF Farms Inc % Adam Fritz, Mike Anderson, Charles J Augustine, Christopher Hauder, Jeff Perry, Clint Ratkovec, Louis E "Robbie" Roberts, Luann Thole and Jeff Vojta). Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

C. Issue Orders of Cease-and-Desist Phase III Water Samples – for Phase III irrigation water nitrate analysis. Staff has provided a list of operators who have not submitted irrigation water samples to be tested for nitrates at least once every three (3) years. Staff have followed the steps outlined in the District's Rules and Regulations and issued a complaint notice, violation notice, and an intent to issue an order of cease and desist/schedule of compliance notice. A list of producers who are out of compliance is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to issue order of cease-and-desist to all producers listed on the attached Phase III Water Sample spreadsheet for being out of compliance with Phase III Irrigation Water Nitrate Analysis as stated in Rule 5, Chapter 24, Paragraph 03 (AF Farms Inc % Adam Fritz and Michael D & Amanda M Wellman % Michael Wellman). Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 20. EA ENGINEERING SCIENCE – INVOICE.

An invoice in the amount of $11,565.15 was received from EA Engineering Sciences for work completed June 22-24, 2026, for the UBBNRD Soil Sampling Project, EA 64395-01-00-LS. Work completed includes the June shallow sampling, which includes nine shallow events completed, for a total of 27 eight-foot cores collected for analysis. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to pay EA Engineering Science for work completed June 22-24, 2026, in the amount of $11,565.15. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 21. ADOPTION OF REVISED RULE 5 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2026.

A hearing was held at the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District office on June 18, 2026, on proposed changes to the District's Rule 5 Groundwater Management Area Rules and Regulations, to remove dryland and irrigated tracts smaller than 25 acres from reporting and providing the district with language to request voluntary reporting on those tracts. There were no public comments provided on these changes in the rule. DWEE was also notified of the proposed changes and provided an email after the hearing, and the Department had no issues with the changes. A copy of the hearing transcript was available for review. After the discussion, the following motion is forwarded to the full board. It was

moved by Siebert and seconded by Houdersheldt to adopt the amended rules as published and adopt the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District Order Amending Rules. Effective Date of Amendment: August 21, 2026. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 22. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on July 9, 2026, and presented the Committee's recommendations.

ITEM 23. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM.
There were no new Land Treatment Applications. The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment has put a hold on the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program funding. Three (3) NSWCP projects approved for payment in June will be switched to NRD funding in July. The committee reviewed the Land Treatment Funding Summary. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of one (1) completed NRD reverse osmosis system project, with a total cost-share of $500.00, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSTAIN: A. Bohaty, Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of eleven (11) completed NRD Land Treatment projects with a cost-share of $50,637.28, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY:
ABSTAIN: A. Bohaty, Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 24. RECHARGE LAKE – SEDIMENT REMOVAL DESIGN.
EA Engineering submitted a brief update and invoice #2026-00028262 for $21,414.54 covering June 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, for work on the Recharge Lake Sediment Project. EA submitted the 75% design to staff on July 8, 2026. Staff will make the 75% report available to Board members. Due to the upcoming due date for the Nebraska Environmental Trust grant applications (September 8, 2026), instead of advertising for consultants to put together an application for Recharge improvements, NRD staff will draft an application. Cooperating agencies will review the NRDs application. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Elge that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve a payment of $21,414.54 to EA Engineering for work completed on the Recharge Lake Sediment Retention System Design project from June 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 25. RULE 6 – UPPER BIG BLUE NRD PARKS REGULATIONS – SIGNS.

Staff contacted four (4) companies to get quotes for making the new rules and regulation signs at the NRD recreation areas. Staff received three (3) quotes and two (2) of the companies did not submit quotes. In order to complete the signs by the Rule 6 implementation date of July 28th, the signs need to be ordered prior to the July 23rd Board meeting. One company included two bids, one with increased thickness for the large rules signs. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve ordering fifty-six (56) updated Rule 6 signs from Precision Signs & Graphics of Bruning, at an estimated cost of $8,774.50, for the six (6) recreation areas of the Upper Big Blue NRD. The order for the signs needs to be approved by the Committee in order to meet the target date for implementation of the new rules, which is July 28th. Precision Signs & Graphics of Bruning needs an estimated two (2) weeks from the order placement to complete the signs on time. The Board will ratify this motion at the July 23rd Board meeting. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss
NAY: Yates, Miller
ABSTAIN: Holmes, Kuehner
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 26. OXBOW TRAILS – HANDRAIL PAYMENT.

H & W Stair and Rail has completed the handrails for the sidewalk leading to the ADA fishing dock at Oxbow Trail Recreation Area. The NRD has already paid $3,000.00 for the materials to make the handrails. NRD staff picked up the handrails and will install them in the next few weeks. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Houdersheldt that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve a payment of $5,549.00 to H & W Stair and Rail for building the handrails for the sidewalk leading to the ADA fishing dock at Oxbow Trails Recreation Area. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 27. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on July 21, 2026, and presented the Committee's recommendations.

ITEM 28. DIRECTORS' SECOND QUARTER PER DIEM & EXPENSES.

The Executive Committee reviewed the directors' per diem and expenses for this past quarter. Totals for the second quarter directors' per diem are $7,700.00 and expenses are $6,362.98 for a total expenditure of $14,062.98. Individual expense vouchers were available for review. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to approve payment of second quarter 2026 directors' per diem of $7,700.00 and expenses of $6,362.98, for a total of $14,062.98, and to publish these approved expenditures in the June 2026 Financial Report, except that each director, who has per diem and/or reimbursement of expenses included in such financial report, abstains from voting for the approval of his or her own per diem and/or expense reimbursement. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 29. RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM NARD 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN, OFFERING IN-PLAN ROTH ROLLOVER CONTRIBUTIONS AND ROLLOVER TRANSFERS.

The NARD Board of Directors approved amending the NARD 457 Deferred Compensation Plan to offer In-Plan Roth Rollover Contributions and Rollover Transfers, effective November 1, 2026. Action needs to be taken by the UBBNRD board ratifying this action. This resolution needs to be approved and signed/dated by your board chair. Resolution is attached. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to approve resolution amending the NARD 457 Deferred Compensation Plan approving an In-Plan Roth Rollover Contributions and Rollover Transfers, effective November 1, 2026. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 30. FY26 NRD SHARED SERVICES SALARY REIMBURSEMENT.

The Lower Platte North NRD submitted an invoice in the amount of $15,553.42 for the salary and benefits of the Butler County NRCS secretary position, for work performed in FY26 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026). It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Houdersheldt to approve payment of $15,553.42 to the Lower Platte North NRD for the Upper Big Blue NRD's portion of the Butler County NRCS secretary position, for work performed in FY26. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 31. FY 2027 DRAFT CONSOLIDATED BUDGET.

Eigenberg recommended the approval of the additional 1% restricted funds authority. The Board will need to take action to approve the additional 1% restricted funds authority. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the majority of those present and voting are required to pass. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to approve an increase in the total budgeted restricted funds authority by an additional 1%. Motion Failed.

AYE: Bethune, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Weiss
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

A draft of the FY27 Consolidated Budget was presented to the Committee. Total tax asking in this draft is an increase of 4.05% compared to the FY26 budget. Eigenberg provided a brief presentation outlining the budgeting process and rationale behind the proposed budget. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by R. Bohaty to adopt draft FY27 Consolidated Budget for the purpose of Public Hearing.

Motion was amended by Yates and seconded by Kuehner to remove the $2,000.00 from the Storm Damaged Tree Program; and $30,000.00 from the Land Treatment Program. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: Miller
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates for call of the question. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by R Bohaty to adopt draft FY27 Consolidated Budget for the purpose of Public Hearing as amended. Motion Carried.
AYE: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: Bethune
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

The dates for two public hearings need to be set so that the proper public notices can be published. In the past, public hearings have coincided with August and September Board meetings. The Board will need to take action to schedule the FY27 Budget Hearing for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 20, 2026, and the Special Public Hearing for the FY27 Tax Request for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 17, 2026. Regular monthly Board meetings will also occur on these dates. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to schedule the FY27 Budget Hearing for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 20, 2026, and the FY27 Tax Request Hearing for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 17, 2026. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 32. PROTOCOL FOR HIRING GENERAL MANAGER.
Chairman Miller briefly discussed the procedure that he wishes to follow to hire a new general manager and the need to create an independent search committee. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Houdersheldt to establish an independent General Manager Search Committee consisting of John Miller, Bill Kuehner, Kendall Siebert, Richard Bohaty, and Lynn Yates, with the committee chair to be designated by the Board. The committee is authorized to review applications on paper, apply the approved minimum-qualification and scoring procedures, select the interview pool, conduct interviews, and recommend one or more candidates to the Board. The committee may not make a binding employment offer or commit the District to salary, benefits, moving expenses, severance, or other employment terms unless the Board later grants express authority within stated limits. Final selection and employment authorization remain with the Board. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates
NAY: Weiss
ABSTAIN: Holmes, Siebert, Miller

ABSENT: Nuss

It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to designate John Miller as Chairperson for the General Manager search committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Nuss

ITEM 33. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR JUNE 2026.
Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period June 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026, that was distributed. It was moved by Yates and seconded by Stahly to approve the financial report for June 2026 and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Holmes
ABSENT: Miller, Nuss

ITEM 34. MOTION TO ADJOURN.
It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Eberspacher to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.
I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held July 23, 2026 , that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
William Stahly, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
August 20, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 7:06 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Gale Holmes, Roger Houdersheldt, William Kuehner, John Miller, Mike Nuss, Kevin Peterson, William Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, Michelle Koch, Drew ten Bensel, Josh Bowers, Gia Adelson, Patty Connors, DeeDee Novotny, Patsy Beins, Lori Medinger and Robb Lutz (EA Engineering).

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the Board of Directors meeting was published on August 13, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Fifteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to excuse the absence of Justin Elge from the August 20, 2026, board of directors meeting as requested. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Stahr to approve the agenda for August 20, 2026, Board of Directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2026, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Yates and seconded by Stahly to accept the minutes of July 23, 2026, Board of Directors meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF FY27 BUDGET

It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Dickinson to adopt the FY 2027 Budget as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 9. EA ENGINEERING – RECHARGE LAKE SEDIMENT REMOVAL DESIGN.

Robb Lutz from EA Engineering presented information and answered questions on the sediment removal design for Recharge Lake.

ITEM 10. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Peterson reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met August 11, 2026, and presented the Committee's recommendations.

ITEM 11. TRANSFER REQUEST T-138 – THIESZEN TO THIESZEN.

Elmer D Thieszen is requesting a transfer from the NW ¼ Section 25, Township 10 North, Range 05 West to the SWSW ¼ Section 24, Township 10 North Range 05 West in Hamilton County. Because of prior commitments, a representative was not present. Staff stated this transfer meets all the requirements of the district's Transfer Rules and Regulations. Application and Maps attached. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Stahr to approve T-138 Application for Authorization to Transfer Groundwater in the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 12. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Nineteen (19) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments, totaling $8,822.80. A list is attached. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for nineteen (19) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $8,822.80. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: A. Bohaty
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 13. CHEMIGATION COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Four (4) Chemigation cost-share applications have been completed and reviewed by staff and are recommended for the final payment of $2,565.99. A list is attached. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Dickinson to make cost-share payments for four (4) chemigation cost-share assistance

applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $2,565.99. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 14. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES'.
The committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for fourteen (14) parcels totaling 1,101.48 acres, yielding an increase in irrigated acres of 636.80 acres. The total irrigated acres' within the district is now 1,251,536.63 acres. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Stahr to certify acres' changes as presented to the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Dickinson
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 15. CIVICPLUS ANNUAL RENEWAL AND MAINTENANCE.
An invoice for the annual agreement renewal for Beehive maintenance and Portal management was received from CIVICPLUS. The renewal period is September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027. This invoice represents a 3% increase over last year's renewal which was negotiated down from 5% by staff. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Yates to pay CIVICPLUS invoice in the amount for $45,090.84 for renewal of the Beehive maintenance and Portal management agreement for the period of September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 16. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE.
Lift Order of Cease-and-Desist – Three producers have come into compliance with the District Rules and Regulations. Jordan Overturf has completed training; LuAnn Thole and Jeff Perry have completed their Phase II/III reporting. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Houdersheldt to lift orders of cease-and-desist on Jordan Overturf for coming into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 22, Paragraph 02, Phase II/III Operator Training; LuAnn Thole and Jeff Perry for coming into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 22, Paragraph 06 Phase II/III Annual Reporting Requirements. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 17. MONITORING WELLS – GILTNER.
Staff received a Proposal Bid Page from Charles Sargent Irrigation Inc. dba Sargent Drilling out of Geneva in the amount of $53,540.60 for the installation of three groundwater quality monitoring wells west of Giltner. There were fourteen RFPs sent to drillers in and around the District along with being posted on the District's Bid Page on our website. Sargent Drilling has been the low bidder on all of the monitoring wells which have been installed in the District. This bid is comparable to the last two sets of monitoring wells which were installed. It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Stahr to accept Charles Sargent Irrigation Inc. dba Sargent Drilling's bid of $53,540.60 for the installation of three groundwater quality

monitoring wells in the NENE of the SE ¼, Section 01, Township 09 North, Range 08 West, to be completed on or before April 1, 2027. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 18. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on August 13, 2026, and presented the Committee's recommendations.

ITEM 19. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM.

There were no new Land Treatment Applications. The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment has put a hold on the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program funding. Staff have instructed the NRCS to accept land treatment applications to utilize FY2027 NRD land treatment funds. The committee reviewed the Land Treatment Funding Summary. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Yates that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of one (1) completed NRD reverse osmosis system project, with a total cost-share of $435.00, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller

NAY: Weiss

ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of four (4) completed NRD Land Treatment projects with a cost-share of $14,073.08, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 20. ONE RED OPPORTUNITY FOR NEBRASKA - REDUCING EMISSIONS & DECARBONIZATION.

Discussion of Nebraska's ONE RED Program designed to build on the strengths of Nebraska agriculture by supporting voluntary, producer-led efforts. Each NRD has been asked to enter an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) that allows the NRDs to assist with the program. Funding is available to administer the program. The NRD would educate producers, collect accurate data, keep data confidential, and work with DWEE. Discussed NRD staff time, and thoughts are that existing staff can handle the program administration. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Stahly that the Upper Big Blue NRD authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment to have the UBBNRD administer the ONE RED Program within the UBBNRD. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 21. RECHARGE LAKE – SEDIMENT REMOVAL DESIGN.

EA Engineering submitted a brief update and invoice #2026-00029749 for $2,556.98 covering June 1,

2026, through July 31, 2026, for work on the Recharge Lake Sediment Project. EA submitted the 90% design to staff and will give a presentation to the Board at the August 20, 2026 Board Meeting. Staff continues to work on a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant application. Applicants can ask for varying cost-share match in their applications. Cooperating agencies have been successful with a 50-50 match. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Yates that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve a payment of $2,556.98 to EA Engineering for work completed on the Recharge Lake Sediment Retention System Design project from June 1, 2026, through July 31, 2026, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 22. DAM MAINTENANCE – URBANEK-HOEFT DAM, HROMAS DAM.

Outlet pipes at Urbanek-Hoeft Dam and Hromas Dam in Butler County are experiencing deterioration and staff would like to line these outlet pipes. Staff has been working with DWEE to schedule pipe camera reviews of both dams, but DWEE's pipe camera is currently being repaired. Staff would like to use Cured in Place Pipelining at both dams but will need to see the camera reviews before finalizing the repair methods. Funding for these repairs was included in the FY2027 budget. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD staff issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the pipe repair of Urbanek-Hoeft Dam and Hromas Dam in Butler County. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 23. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on August 13, 2026, and presented the Committee's recommendations.

ITEM 24. NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS (NARD) DUES.

An invoice dated July 30, 2026, for $42,570.00 has been received from NARD for FY27 dues. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to approve payment of $42,570.00 to the NARD for the FY27 dues. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 25. PAYMENT TO NORTH PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPLY FOR THE BLUEPRINT NEWSLETTER.

The Committee reviewed an invoice from North Printing & Office Supply in the amount of $14,064.07 for printing the Summer 2026 issue of the Blueprint newsletter. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Dickinson to approve payment to North Printing & Office Supply in the amount of $14,064.07 for printing the Summer 2026 issue of the Blueprint newsletter. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 26. 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION COSTS.

Fillmore County Clerk has invoiced the district $2,248.72 for 2026 primary election costs. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by R. Bohaty to approve payment of $2,248.72 to the Fillmore County Clerk for 2026 primary election costs. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 27. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR JULY 2026.

Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period July 1, 2026, to July 31, 2026, that was distributed. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates to accept the financial report for July 2026 as presented, and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: Elge, Siebert

ITEM 28. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Dickinson to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held August 20, 2026 , that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____

William Stahly, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
FISCAL YEAR 2027 TAX REQUEST HEARING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Justin Elge, Gale Holmes, Roger Houdersheldt, William Kuehner, John Miller, Mike Nuss, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, William Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss (7:03) and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, Michelle Koch, Drew ten Bensel, Josh Bowers, Gia Adelson, Patty Connors, DeeDee Novotny, and Steve Barlean.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the FY 2026 Tax Request Hearing was published on September 10, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 3. ROLL CALL.
Sixteen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 4. REVIEW OF FY 202 TAX REQUEST.
Chairperson Miller asked general manager David Eigenberg to review the property tax request and proposed tax rate for fiscal year 2027. Eigenberg reviewed the valuations for the portions of nine counties within the Upper Big Blue NRD. The total valuation was $21,541,088,725 which was an increase of $1,222,023,243 from the prior fiscal year, or 6.01% percent. The property tax needed to fund the FY 27 budgeted expenditure is $3,744,344.84 which will require a property tax rate of 0.017382 to fund the budget. Eigenberg advised the board that they would need to adopt a resolution following this hearing to set the levy. Miller asked those who were present if they had any questions or comments regarding the proposed tax request for fiscal year 2027. No comments were received. He officially closed the hearing at 7:05 p.m.

ITEM 5. MOTION TO ADJOURN.
It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Siebert to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the FY2027 Tax Request Hearing held September 17, 2026, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually

current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
William Stahly, Secretary

pkc

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
September 17, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District met Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 7:08 p.m., following the FY2027 Tax Request Hearing, in the NRD office, 319 East 25th Street, York, Nebraska.

The directors present were Paul Bethune, Anthony Bohaty, Richard Bohaty, Doug Dickinson, Andrew Eberspacher, Justin Elge, Gale Holmes, Roger Houdersheldt, William Kuehner, John Miller, Mike Nuss, Kevin Peterson, Kendall Siebert, William Stahly, Brian Stahr, Paul Weiss and Lynn Yates. Staff and others in attendance were David Eigenberg, Marie Krausnick, Sara Arbuck, Terry Julesgard, Jack Wergin, Michelle Koch, Drew ten Bensel, Josh Bowers, Gia Adelson, Patty Connors, DeeDee Novotny, and Steve Barlean.

ITEM 1. PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING.
Chairperson Miller stated that the legal notice of the Board of Directors meeting was published on September 10, 2026, in the York News-Times.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
Chairperson Miller led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3. OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
Chairperson Miller informed those in attendance that the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room by the entry doors.

ITEM 4. ROLL CALL.
Seventeen directors were present during roll call.

ITEM 5. DIRECTOR REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.
No excused absences.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Dickinson to approve the September 17, 2026 agenda for the Board of Directors meeting as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 7. APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2026, BOARD MEETING.
It was moved by Stahly and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2026, Board of Directors meeting, as presented. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 8. APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2026, FY2027 BUDGET HEARING.

It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Yates to approve the minutes of August 20, 2026, FY2027 Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ITEM 9. ADOPTION OF FY2027 TAX REQUEST RESOLUTION.

It was moved by Eberspacher and seconded by Elge to adopt Resolution 2026-1 setting the FY 2027 Property Tax Request. Motion carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ITEM 10. REPORT OF WATER AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Peterson reported that the Water and Regulations Committee met September 8, 2026, and presented the Committee's recommendations.

ITEM 11. VARIANCE/TRANSFER REQUEST T-139 – BARLEAN.

Steve Barlean is requesting a transfer from the NE ¼ Section 34, Township 15 North, Range 02 East to the SE ¼ Section 27, Township 15 North, Range 02 East, in Bulter County. Barlean explained prior to the requirement of Transfer applications he had installed underground pipe and a pivot on the SW ¼ Section 26, Township 15 North, Range 02 East to irrigate an 80-acre field he was renting. Recently he has acquired the 80-acre field directly to the west of the 80-acre he is renting and irrigating. This Variance/Transfer Request will allow him to move the irrigation system to land he now owns and return the other 80 acres to dryland. Barlean was asked if the owner of the SW ¼ of Section 26 is ok with the land returning to dryland. Barlean replied the owner of SW ¼ of Section 26 has no investment in the irrigation equipment or pipeline supplying the water. If Barlean would ever lose the lease on this farmland the irrigation system would be removed and the underground pipeline capped. After further discussion the following motion was made. Application and Maps attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Stahr to approve Steve Barlean Variance Request to Transfer Groundwater (Rule 5 Chapter 11) which will dissolve the current Grandfather Transfer and replace with Transfer Request T-139 Application for Authorization to Transfer Groundwater in the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District.

Motion Carried.

AYE: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss

NAY: Bethune, Yates, Miller

ABSENT: None

ITEM 12. WATER METER REPAIR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.

Seven (7) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications were reviewed by staff and recommended for final payments, totaling $3,500.00. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to make cost-share payments for seven (7) water meter repair cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $3,500.00. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 13. CHEMIGATION COST-SHARE PAYMENTS.
Four (4) Chemigation cost-share applications have been completed and reviewed by staff and are recommended for final payment of $3,784.54. A list is attached. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Elge to make cost-share payments for four (4) chemigation cost-share assistance applications, as reviewed by the committee, in the amount of $3,784.54. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSENT: None

ITEM 14. CERTIFICATION OF IRRIGATED ACRES'.
The committee reviewed the irrigated acres' certification for sixty-four (64) parcels totaling 5,036.07 acres, yielding an increase in irrigated acres of 870.20 acres. The total irrigated acres' within the district is now 1,252,406.83 acres. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to certify acres' changes as presented to the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 15. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA – MONITORING WELL TEST HOLE AND DESIGN.
An invoice in the amount of $4,175.60 was received from the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division for the test hole drilling, logging and design of three monitoring wells west of Giltner. The district has an agreement with UNL – CSD to provide this service for the district's monitoring well program. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to pay University of Nebraska for the test hole drilling, logging and design of the 3 monitoring wells west of Giltner. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 16. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA – VADOSE ZONE STUDY.
Two invoices were received from the University of Nebraska, Invoice # 2662110081-32 in the amount of $3,449.64 for work completed March 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024, and Invoice # 2662110081-33 in the amount of $21,834.37 for work completed April 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024 on the ongoing vadose study in the district. As we move towards the end of the Vadose Study Project and the balancing of the books, it was discovered these two invoices were not paid. It was also discovered that an over payment occurred on Invoice # 2662110081-36 in the amount of $2,973.16. The district confirmed this after researching email logs and bookkeeping records that these two invoices were not paid and an over payment occurred. The project is still within the budgeted amount with these invoices. The analyzing of the soil samples collected did go over budget, but the University of Nebraska is covering this over budget item. The final report is expected by the end of the year. It was moved by Siebert and seconded

by Houdersheldt to pay University of Nebraska invoice number 2662110081-32 in the amount of $3,449.64 and invoice number 2662110081-33 in the amount of 21,834.37, less the over payment of $2,973.16, for a total of $22,310.85. Motion Failed.
AYE: Bethune, Eberspacher, Elge, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Peterson, Stahr, Miller
NAY: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Holmes, Kuehner, Siebert, Stahly, Weiss, Yates
ABSENT: None

ITEM 17. RULES ENFORCEMENT UPDATE.
Lift Order of Cease-and-Desist – With the revision of Rule 5 to exclude dryland fields and fields less than 25-acres in size from Phase II/III Hastings Groundwater Management Area reporting requirements, seven producers can be moved to in compliance with district rules and regulations. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Yates to lift orders of cease-and-desist on Meyer Properties LLC % Robert Meyer, Jesse Swarts and Dallas Troester for coming into compliance with Rule 5 Chapter 22 Paragraph 02, Phase II Operator Training; Mathew Adams and Jeff Vojta for coming into compliance with Rule 5, Chapter 22, Paragraph 06 Phase II Annual Reporting Requirements; Mike Anderson and Charles A. Augustine for coming into compliance with Rule 5 Chapter 22 Paragraph 02 and Paragraph 06. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 18. EA ENGINEERING SCIENCE – INVOICE.
An invoice was received in the amount of $11,565.16 for work completed the week of July 20 for the UBBNRD Soil Sampling Project, EA 64395-01-00-LS. Shallow soil samples were collected at three locations in the nine fields across the district for the In Season Vadose study. It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Peterson to pay EA Engineering Science for work completed the week of July 20, 2026, in the amount of $11,565.16. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 19. REPORT OF PROJECTS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
Richard Bohaty reported that the Projects and Programs Committee met on September 10, 2026, and presented the Committee's recommendations.

ITEM 20. LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM.
There were no new Land Treatment Applications. Staff has been working on a few new windbreak applications that will be coming in the next few months. The committee reviewed the Land Treatment Funding Summary. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of one (1) completed NRD reverse osmosis system project, with a total cost-share of $500.00, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Yates, Miller
NAY: Weiss
ABSENT: None

It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of one (1) completed NRD Land Treatment project with a cost-share of $4,787.22, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 21. NEBRASKA BUFFER STRIP PROGRAM – 1ST QUARTER PAYMENTS.

Funding for the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program is not affected by the funding issues as some other state funded programs. The NRD pays the cost-share payments and is reimbursed by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of three (3) 1st quarter Nebraska Buffer Strip Program contracts, with a total cost-share of $4,815.00, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 22. NITROGEN REDUCTION INCENTIVE ACT.

Staff has received approximately one third (58 of 158 fields) of the nitrogen reports from the 2026 Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act applications, with a total cost-share of $125,979.87. Each payment is below the $7,500.00 program limit. Total program funding for 2026 is $259,765.47. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Eberspacher that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve payment of $125,979.87 for 58 Nebraska Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act applications, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 23. RECHARGE LAKE – SEDIMENT REMOVAL DESIGN.

EA Engineering submitted an update and invoice #2026-00031444 for $17,091.52 covering August 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026, for work on the Recharge Lake Sediment Project. EA submitted the 90% design to staff and staff provided some minor comments.

Staff submitted a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant application on September 4, 2026. The application was for a 50-50 cost-share with a total of $3.1 million ($1,550,000 NET grant and $1,550,000 of NRD funding). Other agencies that have received NET grants suggested applying with a 50-50 cost-share match. It was moved by R. Bohaty and seconded by Nuss that the Upper Big Blue NRD approve a payment of $17,091.52 to EA Engineering for work completed on the Recharge Lake Sediment Retention System Design project from August 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026, as reviewed by the committee. Motion Carried.

AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 24. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Kuehner reported that the Executive Committee met on September 10, 2026, and presented the Committee's recommendations.

ITEM 25. NARD LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS.
The committee was provided with copies of NARD proposed 2027 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS:

a. *NARD Resolution 2026-1 – Administration of the Nebraska Chemigation Program. Submitted by the Upper Niobrara White NRD.*
Nebraska's NRDs, through the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, seek legislation transferring all authorities under Title 195 - Chemigation Act from DWEE to the NRDs, including but not limited to all authorities necessary to document, monitor, regulate, and enforce chemigation practices in Nebraska, and the authority necessary to retain all permitting fees collected for administration of the Act. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Peterson to support NARD Resolution 2026-1 – Administration of the Nebraska Chemigation Program, submitted by the Upper Niobrara White NRD, with 5 – YES and 0 – NO votes at the upcoming NARD business meeting. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

b. *NARD Resolution 2026-2 - Payroll Expenditure and Salary Publication Requirements for Natural Resources Districts. Submitted by: Lower Platte South NRD.*
Seeks that Nebraska Association of Resources Districts supports legislation amending Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-3220 to provide that the aggregate amount of all payroll claims of a natural resources district may be included as one item in the district's monthly publication of expenditures; and that such legislation provide that, between July 15 and August 15 of each year, a natural resources district shall publish employee job titles and the current annual, monthly, or hourly salaries corresponding to such job titles, with each published job title being descriptive and indicative of the duties and functions of the position, consistent with the publication requirements applicable to counties, cities, and villages under Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 23-122 and 19-1102. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Eberspacher to oppose NARD Resolution 2026-2 – Payroll Expenditure and Salary Publication Requirements for Natural Resources Districts, submitted by the Lower Platte South NRD, with 0 – YES and 5 – NO votes at the upcoming NARD business meeting. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

c. *NARD Resolution 2026-3 - Bonding Authority for Flood Control and Water Enhancement Projects. Submitted by Lower Platte South NRD*
Seeks that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts supports legislation authorizing all Nebraska Natural Resources Districts to issue bonds for qualified flood control, water quality, and water enhancement projects, including costs associated with project planning, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction, subject to appropriate limitations, board approval requirements, voter approval requirements, and other safeguards substantially consistent with the framework previously provided in Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 2-3226.10 through 2- 3226.14. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Dickinson to support NARD Resolution 2026-3 – Bonding Authority for Flood Control and Water Enhancement Projects, submitted by the Lower Platte South NRD, with 5 – YES and 0 – NO

votes at the upcoming NARD business meeting.

It was amended by Eberspacher and seconded by Peterson to change 5 – YES, 0 – NO to 2 – YES, 3 – NO. Motion carried.
AYE: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Kuehner, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: Bethune, Dickinson, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Nuss, Stahly, Miller
ABSENT: None

As amended, to oppose NARD Resolution 2026-3 – Bonding Authority for Flood Control and Water Enhancement Projects, submitted by the Lower Platte South NRD, with 2 – YES and 3 – NO votes at the upcoming NARD business meeting. Motion Carried.
AYE: A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Peterson, Siebert, Stahr, Weiss, Yates
NAY: Bethune, Dickinson, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Stahly, Miller
ABSENT: None

ITEM 26. 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION COSTS.
The Butler County Clerk has invoiced the District $100 for 2026 primary election costs. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Siebert to approve payment of $100 to the Butler County Clerk for 2026 primary election costs. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

The Hamilton County Clerk has invoiced the district $100 for 2026 primary election costs. It was moved by Kuehner and seconded by Yates to approve payment of $100 to the Hamilton County Clerk for 2026 primary election costs. Motion Carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 27. FINANCIAL REPORT AND PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR JULY 2026.
Eigenberg reviewed the financial report for the period August 1, 2026, to August 31, 2026, that was distributed. It was moved by Houdersheldt and seconded by Siebert to accept the financial report for August 2026 as presented, and approve payments of the accounts payable and publish the expenditures, with the exception of the University of Nebraska payment for the Vadose Project in 438.06 totaling $22,310.85. Motion carried.
AYE: Bethune, A. Bohaty, R. Bohaty, Dickinson, Eberspacher, Elge, Holmes, Houdersheldt, Kuehner, Nuss, Peterson, Siebert, Stahly, Stahr, Weiss, Yates, Miller
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM 28. MOTION TO ADJOURN.
It was moved by Siebert and seconded by Bethune to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.
I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held September 17, 2026 , that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District

during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

_____
William Stahly, Secretary

pkc