

CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

HOLDREGE, NEBRASKA

JANUARY 5, 2026 – 9:00 A.M.

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MINUTES OF WORKING MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT
HOLDREGE, NEBRASKA
DECEMBER 19, 2025 – 9:00 A.M

This meeting was publicly advertised in accordance with Section 84-1411 of the Nebraska Statutes by notices aired on KRVN (Lexington) and KUVR (Holdrege) radio stations on December 15, 2025, and through legal publication in the Holdrege Daily Citizen on December 11, 2025, and the Kearney Hub, North Platte Telegraph, and Lexington Clipper-Herald on December 13, 2025 giving the time, date, and place of the meeting and the information that the Agenda was available in advance at the Office of the Assistant Secretary.

A notice giving the time, date, and place of this meeting was mailed to each Director on December 4, 2025.

The following Directors were present:

Kyle Shepherd, President	Geoffrey K. Bogle	Roger D. Olson
Brent Soneson, Vice President	Tom Jasnoch	Gary Robison
Tim Boyle, Secretary	Bryant Knoerzer	David L. Rowe
	David G. Nelson	Matt Wells

The following Director was absent: Dudley L. Nelson

Also present were the following:

Devin M. Brundage, General Manager	Alex Linden, Gov't and Public Relations Mgr.
Rochelle A. Jurgens, Controller	Anton Hassebrook, Hydroelectric Ops Super.
Scott Dicke, Irrigation & Water Services Mgr.	Haley Magnuson, Purchasing Agent
Cory A. Steinke, Hydraulic Project Ops Mgr.	Dusty Way, Irrigation Ops Super.
Michael A. Drain, Nat Res and Compliance Mgr.	Steve Osterbuhr, Irrigation Super.
Eric R. Hixson, Electrical Project Ops. Mgr.	Charles Brewster, Legal Counsel
Tyler Thulin, Civil Engineer	Emily J. Anderson, Assistant Secretary

Others:

Nolan Little, Tri-Basin NRD	Nancy Garrelts
Carson Messersmith	

* * * * *

Board President Shepherd announced that information for the public concerning the Open Meetings Act was available for interested parties to view.

At 9:00 a.m. the Board President announced that the meeting was open for business and proceeded with roll call.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY: None.

PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT SUMMARY: The following Permits to Construct were approved in December, 2025:

Permits to Construct Approved by General Manager or Designee 12/19/2025				
<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Permit & Purpose</u>	<u>Date Approved & Fee</u>
1.	ATC Communications	SW1/4 28-7-19 SW1/4 13-7-19 NE1/4 10-6-20	Installation of telecommunication cables and associated appurtenant equipment.	12/01/2025 \$2,100.00
Permits to Construct Approved by Land Administration Department 12/19/2025 – Johnson Lake				
<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Permit & Purpose</u>	<u>Date Approved & Fee</u>
2.	Gregg, Tony & Jill	23 North Shore Dr. 8	DWEL - Construct new 2 story addition	11/25/2025
3.	Steven R. Schultz Trust	39 Bass Bay Dr. 16	DWEL - Construct new storage building	11/25/2025
4.	Divis, Brian & Marie	42 Mallard Cove Dr. 19B	DWEL - Remove an existing fence and replace with chain link fence	12/03/2025
Permits to Construct Approved by Land Administration Department 12/19/2025 – Lake McConaughy				
<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Permit & Purpose</u>	<u>Date Approved & Fee</u>
5.	Hoffman, Jerry	12 K-3 Rd	DWEL - Remove existing overhead electrical line and replace with buried electrical service	11/12/2025

WATER SERVICE AGREEMENTS: None.

2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT: Eric Hixson presented Revision #1 to the 2026 Budget as follows:

	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>HYDRO DIVISION</u>			
Battery Testing Banks	\$14,000	\$15,800	\$1,800

WORK ORDER/PURCHASE REQUISITION SUMMARY: The following was presented:

- a. Work Order No. 107527 – Load Banks for Battery Testing (\$15,818.00)
- b. Work Order No. 186464 – Wheeled Excavator (\$392,430.00)
- c. Work Order No. 186465 – Semi-Tractor Day Cab (\$226,600.00)
- d. Work Order No. 186466 – John Deere Tractor (\$221,450.00)
- e. Work Order No. 186467 – 55 Ton Lowboy Trailer (\$128,750.00)
- f. Work Order No. 186468 – Mini Excavator (\$82,400.00)
- g. Work Order No. 186469 – Tree Cutter for Excavator w/ Grapple (\$78,280.00)
- h. Work Order No. 186474 – A38.6-5.0 Pipeline Replacement (\$142,061.00)
- i. Work Order No. 186475 – E65-23.7-8.0 Pipeline Replacement (\$128,838.00)
- j. Work Order No. 186476 – E65-23.7-9.8-2.7 Pipeline Replacement (\$65,408.00)
- k. Work Order No. 107528-2026 – Gothenburg Pickups (\$358,183.00)
- l. Work Order No. 107529-2026 – Land Team SUV (\$52,901.00)
- m. Work Order No. 186480-2026 – Irrigation Pickups (\$309,000.00)
- n. Purchase Requisition No. 36177 – Ace Irrigation & Mfg Co. for E65-13.8 Underdrain Pipe (\$49,989.32)
- o. Purchase Requisition No. 36209 – VMI Inc. for J30 Pump for Spare Dredge (\$98,158.30)
- p. Purchase Requisition No. 36223 – Van Diest Supply for Proactive Aquatic Weed Control Agreement for 2026 (\$54,028.79)
- q. Purchase Requisition No. 36224 – Van Diest Supply for Early Chemical Order Program for 2026 (\$106,056.50)

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF 12/1/2025: The minutes of the meeting were presented for review and discussion. Alex Linden arranged a meeting with the director of the Nebraska Prairie Museum following the January 5, 2026 Regular Business Meeting to discuss ways the District may contribute to their “Project Prairie Power” exhibit.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 12/1/2025: The minutes of the meeting were presented for review and discussion. The committee voted at that meeting to recommend Board approval of the following policies:

- ADM-07 – Access to Credit Markets
- ADM-10 – Retirement & OPEB Plan Funding
- ADM-13 – Investment Policy
- MGT-12 – Delegation to the General Manager for Grants
- MGT-14 – Delegation to the General Manager for Funding and Investments

A break was taken at 10:26 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:38 a.m.

REVIEW OF CONTRACTUAL RATES FOR 2026 INSURANCE (PROPERTY, GENERAL LIABILITY, CRIME LEVEL, ETC.): Haley Magnuson presented the historical rates of insurance premiums for the District’s property and casualty products. The 2026 premium will be \$684,484 which is a 0.92% increase over the 2025 rates.

CONTRACT WITH CHARLES RIVER ASSOCIATES (CRA) FOR FERC TRANSMISSION RATE STUDY AND REGULATORY SUPPORT: Eric Hixson presented a contract with Charles River Associates to conduct and update the transmission revenue requirement for the open access transmission tariff with the Southwest Power Pool. The study will be completed and filed with FERC in June of 2026, and the updated rate will take effect in January of 2027.

2026 LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH KLEIN, BREWSTER, BRANDT, & MESSERSMITH: Devin Brundage noted the only change to the legal services agreement is an increase in the amount the District agrees to reimburse Klein, Brewster, Brandt, and Messersmith for the upkeep of its in-house legal library and Westlaw subscription from \$250.00/mo. to \$400.00/mo.

E-65 SIPHON PROJECT: Scott Dicke reported the scoring committee consisting of Tom Jasnoch, Bryant Knoerzer, a representative from JEO, a representative from HDR, Tyler Thulin, Tom Swartz, and he have completed scoring of the proposals and will schedule a time to interview the finalists regarding their CMAR proposals. The committee will meet again in January, 2026 to rank the top contractors and make a recommendation to the Board for selection in February, 2026.

KINGSLEY DAM REFACING PROJECT: Mike Drain stated the data collection buoys were removed from Lake McConaughy a couple weeks ago. Yesterday, Lake McConaughy received sustained winds of 45 mph, and he presented a photo of the dam showing the wave height from that weather event. He continues working to finalize contracts with the individuals selected for the Board of Consultants.

SUPPLY CANAL BRIDGES: Cory Steinke had nothing new to report.

PERKINS COUNTY CANAL UPDATE: Devin Brundage and Alex Linden continue their outreach and education efforts with senators and others. He presented with Matt Manning, Civil Engineer from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy & Environment, about the project as well as the Kingsley Dam refacing project and the importance of water to energy utilities at the NREA annual meeting on December 4, 2025 in Kearney.

LEGISLATION: Alex Linden reported the 60-day session begins on January 7, 2026. There are 431 carryover bills from the last session, and he expects several hundred new bills to be introduced this session. Congressman Bacon signed on to support H.R.2160, The Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity and River Restoration Act.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS: Director Dave Nelson complimented the District's Christmas party held on December 5, 2025. Director Robison received a notice that NPPD increased their water service rates.

LEGAL UPDATE: Charles Brewster is working with Scott Dicke on a fencing dispute between the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and a landowner at Elwood Reservoir. Devin Brundage presented an engagement letter with Rembolt Lutke to conduct legal services related to potential District revenue sources.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS: The following reports were provided:

- a. Tyler Thulin reported Lake McConaughy is at elevation 3,227.9, 831,000-acre feet and 47.9% capacity. The inflows to Lake McConaughy are approximately 1,150 cfs and outflows are 215 cfs to meet the FERC minimum diversion requirements.
- b. Cory Steinke displayed a video of high waves in a section of the Supply Canal yesterday during the wind event. Following a review of quotes from engineering firms to redesign supply canal gates, he is working directly with Eilers Machine & Welding from Lexington on an alternative option.
- c. Mike Drain reported that Richard Borman sold his house at Lake McConaughy. He has been busy with year-end FERC filings.
- d. Scott Dicke stated the irrigation department will have job openings for an Irrigation Service Specialist and Equipment Operator in the coming weeks.
- e. Dusty Way will have a few water service agreements to present at the January 23, 2026 Working Meeting.
- f. Rochelle Jurgens is communicating with FORVIS about the 2025 audit, making year-end preparations, and closing out work orders.
- g. Alex Linden reported the Eagle Viewing facilities at J-2 and Kingsley will be open on December 27, 2025 and be open every Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm through February 22, 2026.
- h. Eric Hixson has been occupied with FERC and NERC compliance and security reports.
- i. Anton Hassebrook presented photos of the J-2 Hydro underdrain valve replacement. An RTU at the Diversion Dam was replaced. He has scheduled several outages next year, one of which will take Kingsley Hydro out of production for around two months while NPPD makes a necessary upgrade to the Keystone 115KV breaker to Kingsley.
- j. Devin Brundage recently met with representatives from Phelps County Development and DG Fuels and attended the NPA Energy Summit. He presented a progress update of the Governor's Water Quality and Quantity Task Force that he is a member of. He announced that Mike Drain was elected as a member of the National Hydro Association's board of directors.

PERSONNEL: A draft of an employment agreement with Don Kraus for 2026 was presented to the directors.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL: The general manager approved the following list of travel for January, 2026:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Kyle Shepherd	Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting	Northglenn, CO	January 13-16, 2026
Tim Boyle	Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting	Northglenn, CO	January 13-16, 2026
Dave Nelson	Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting	Northglenn, CO	January 13-16, 2026
Scott Dicke	Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting	Northglenn, CO	January 13-16, 2026
Dusty Way	Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting	Northglenn, CO	January 13-16, 2026
Steve Osterbuhr	Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting	Northglenn, CO	January 13-16, 2026
McKinley Harm	LEAD Program	International Travel	January 6-20, 2026
Mike Drain	FERC Project Comprehensive Assessment L2RA Session for Observers	Mauston, WI	January 26-27, 2026

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES:

- a. Four States Irrigation Council – January 14-15, 2026, Northglenn, CO

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

- a. Land & Recreation Committee Meeting – January 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., Holdrege, NE
- b. Water Services Committee Meeting – February 2, 2026 at 10:30 a.m., Holdrege, NE
- c. Legislative Reception – February 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., Lincoln, NE

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT
HOLDREGE, NE
JANUARY 5, 2026 – 9:00 A.M.

This meeting was publicly advertised in accordance with Section 84-1411 of the Nebraska Statutes by notices aired on KRVN (Lexington) and KUVR (Holdrege) radio stations on December 29, 2025, and through legal publication in the Holdrege Daily Citizen on December 29, 2025, and the Kearney Hub, North Platte Telegraph, and Lexington Clipper-Herald on December 30, 2025, giving the time, date, and place of the meeting and the information that the Agenda was available in advance at the Office of the Assistant Secretary.

A postcard was mailed to each Director on December 4, 2025 giving the time, date, and place of this meeting.

The following Directors were present:

Kyle Shepherd, President	Geoffrey K. Bogle	David G. Nelson
Tim Boyle, Secretary	Tom Jasnoch	Matt Wells
Dudley L. Nelson, Treasurer	Bryant Knoerzer	

The following Directors were absent: Roger D. Olson, Gary Robison, David L. Rowe, and Brent Soneson

Also present were the following:

Devin M. Brundage, General Manager	Eric R. Hixson, Electrical Project Ops. Mgr.
Rochelle A. Jurgens, Controller	Alex Linden, Gov't & Public Relations Mgr.
Cory A. Steinke, Hydraulic Project Ops. Mgr.	Tyler Thulin, Civil Engineer
Scott Dicke, Irrigation Division Manager	Charles Brewster, Legal Counsel
Michael A. Drain, Natural Resource & Compliance Mgr.	Emily J. Anderson, Assistant Secretary

Others:

Don Kraus	Carson Messersmith
John Thorburn, Tri-Basin NRD	

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Board President Shepherd announced that information for the public concerning the Open Meetings Act was available for interested parties to view.

At 9:00 a.m. Board President Shepherd announced the meeting was open for business and proceeded with roll call.

PUBLIC INPUT: John Thorburn reported on the Tri-Basin NRD and Rainwater Basin Joint Venture agricultural symposium being held later this week and the upcoming South Central Water Conference scheduled for February 5, 2026 at the Phelps County Ag Center. The NRD is currently accepting tree and shrub orders.

CONSENT AGENDA: Devin Brundage provided an overview of the items on the Consent Agenda which were presented and discussed during the December 19, 2025 Working Meeting of the Board.

The Board President asked the Directors if there were any items they wished to remove from the Consent Agenda for individual discussion and voting. Hearing none, the following Consent Agenda was presented:

- **Approval of Minutes of Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Directors held December 1, 2025**
- **Approval of Minutes of Working Meeting of the Board of Directors held December 19, 2025**
- **Approval of the January Disbursements:**

Hydro Division:

Check #s 76528 & 76601-VOID; Check #s 76602 through 76797 &	\$1,261,142.63
8901906 through 8901941 (Accounts Payable)	

Payroll	\$960,614.35
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Kingsley Division:

Check #s 3818 through 3821 (Accounts Payable)	\$78,867.26
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Glendo Division:

None	\$0
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- **Approval of Revision #1 to the 2026 Budget as follows:**

	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>HYDRO DIVISION</u>			
Battery Testing Banks	\$14,000	\$15,800	\$1,800

- **Approval of the following District Policies:**

- ADM-07 – Access to Credit Markets
- ADM-10 – Retirement & OPEB Plan Funding
- ADM-13 – Investment Policy
- MGT-12 – Delegation to the General Manager for Grants
- MGT-14 – Delegation to the General Manager for Funding and Investments

- **Approval of the Contractual Rates for the 2026 Insurance (Property General Liability, Crime Level, etc.) in the amount of \$684,484.00**
- **Approval of the Contract with Charles River Associates (CRA) for FERC Transmission Rate Study and Regulatory Support**
- **Approval of the 2026 Legal Services Agreement with Klein, Brewster, Brandt, & Messersmith**
- **Approval of the 2026 Employment Agreement with Don Kraus**

It was moved by Director Dudley Nelson and seconded by Director Jasnoch to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Shepherd, and Wells. Absent were: R. Olson, Robison, Rowe, and Soneson. The motion was declared carried.

WORK ORDER/PURCHASE REQUISITION SUMMARY: The following were presented:

- a. Work Order No. 107527 – Load Banks for Battery Testing (\$15,818.00)
- b. Work Order No. 186464 – Wheeled Excavator (\$392,430.00)
- c. Work Order No. 186465 – Semi-Tractor Day Cab (\$226,600.00)
- d. Work Order No. 186466 – John Deere Tractor (\$221,450.00)
- e. Work Order No. 186467 – 55 Ton Lowboy Trailer (\$128,750.00)
- f. Work Order No. 186468 – Mini Excavator (\$82,400.00)
- g. Work Order No. 186469 – Tree Cutter for Excavator w/ Grapple (\$78,280.00)
- h. Work Order No. 186474 – A38.6-5.0 Pipeline Replacement (\$142,061.00)

- i. Work Order No. 186475 – E65-23.7-8.0 Pipeline Replacement (\$128,838.00)
- j. Work Order No. 186476 – E65-23.7-9.8-2.7 Pipeline Replacement (\$65,408.00)
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- p. Purchase Requisition No. 36223 – Van Diest Supply for Proactive Aquatic Weed Control Agreement for 2026 (\$54,028.79)
- q. Purchase Requisition No. 36224 – Van Diest Supply for Early Chemical Order Program for 2026 (\$106,056.50)

It was moved by Director Jasnoch and seconded by Director Dudley Nelson to approve the Work Order/Purchase Requisition Summary as presented. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Shepherd, and Wells. Absent were: R. Olson, Robison, Rowe, and Soneson. The motion was declared carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-01 – RECOGNITION OF DON KRAUS FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL WATER RESOURCE ASSOCIATION’S (NWRA) LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Devin Brundage read aloud the resolution and presented Don Kraus with the Lifetime Achievement Award from NWRA. Kraus was recognized for his career of exceptional leadership and service in advancing water resources stewardship and policy at state and national levels.

It was moved by Director Dudley Nelson and seconded by Director Boyle to approve Resolution No. 26-01 recognizing Don Kraus for receiving the National Water Resource Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Shepherd, and Wells. Absent were: R. Olson, Robison, Rowe, and Soneson. The motion was declared carried.

LEGISLATION: Alex Linden reported the 60-day legislative session begins on January 7, 2026. The first ten days will be for the introduction of bills. He anticipates a resolution to be considered to expel Senator Dan McKeon from the, as it will likely advance out of the executive committee. Security measures at the Capitol building are being increased. The Tyson plant closure could bring about a bill focused on economic development in the Lexington area. He reminded the directors that the District is hosting a luncheon for State Senators at the Governor’s mansion on January 13, 2026 and the Legislative Reception is scheduled for February 10, 2026 in Lincoln.

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES:

- a. Four States Irrigation Council – January 14-15, 2026, Northglenn, CO
- b. South Central Water Conference – February 5, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., Phelps County Ag Center
- c. Water Power Week – March 9-13, 2026, Washington, D.C.

PERSONNEL: None.

DIRECTORS’ ATTENDANCE: It was moved by Director Knoerzer and seconded by Director Bogle to excuse the absences of directors R. Olson, Robison, Rowe, and Soneson from this meeting. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Shepherd, and Wells. The motion was declared carried.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS & COMMENTS: President Shepherd recently took a self-guided tour of the new dredge and sand processing plant at the Diversion Dam. Director David Nelson suggested staff provide photos of old equipment needing to be replaced to help demonstrate the condition of said equipment to the board. Director Wells noted a Town Hall will be held on January 14, 2026 to provide the public with updates about DG Fuel’s aviation fuel project.

LEGAL UPDATE: Charles Brewster had nothing new to report.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS: The following were presented:

- a. Cory Steinke reported the Supply Canal bridge agreement with Gosper County is being reviewed by legal counsel of all parties. He is looking to acquire some clean rock for use around the District.
- b. Tyler Thulin reported Lake McConaughy is at elevation 3,228.9, 854,100 acre-feet and 49% capacity. Inflows to Lake McConaughy are 1,000 cfs and outflows are around 325 cfs to meet the FERC minimum diversion requirements. Snowpack in the upper North Platte basin is currently at 80% of median average, 39% in the lower North Platte basin, and 61% in the South Platte basin.
- c. Mike Drain stated the snowpack numbers are concerning and discussed the conservation efforts being utilized to help ensure irrigation supplies. He will send draft contracts to legal counsel to review with regard to the individuals selected for the Board of Consultants for the Kingsley Dam Refacing Project.
- d. Scott Dicke reported on weed prevention measures being done in the smaller laterals. He is looking at potential canal lining projects, interviewing CMAR contractors later this month for the E-65 Siphon project, and reviewing numerous applications for the Irrigation Service Specialist and Equipment Operator I positions open in Holdrege.
- e. Rochelle Jurgens and the accounting department have been busy processing W2s and 1099s, clearing out work/job orders, and preparing for the audit.
- f. Alex Linden, Director David Nelson, and Devin Brundage will meet with the Nebraska Prairie Museum director and board members to discuss a potential partnership for an interactive exhibit titled "Project Prairie Power."
- g. Devin Brundage was on vacation last week and met with a representative from Rubicon.

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

- a. Land & Recreation Committee Meeting – January 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., Holdrege, NE
- b. Water Services Committee Meeting – February 2, 2026 at 10:30 a.m., Holdrege, NE
- c. Legislative Reception – February 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., Lincoln, NE

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Director David Nelson and seconded by Director Jasnoch to adjourn this meeting at 10:06 a.m. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Shepherd, and Wells. Absent were: R. Olson, Robison, Rowe, and Soneson. The motion was declared carried.

ATTEST:

THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER
AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Tim Boyle, Secretary

By _____
Kyle Shepherd, President