

**NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING**

9:00 A.M. Thursday February 12, 2026  
North Plains Water Conservation Center  
6045 County Road E., Dumas, Texas

A meeting of the board of directors of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District (“District”) will be held on February 12, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the North Plains Water Conservation Center, 6045 County Road E., Dumas, Texas 79029. The presiding officer and a quorum of the board of directors of the District will be physically present at this location. Other board members and employees of the District may participate remotely in the meeting by video conference as permitted by Government Code Section 551.127.

**Call Meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum**

**Opening Prayer**

**Pledge**

- 1) Public Comment:** The public is invited to address the board on any general water issue at the beginning of the meeting. The public is further invited to address the board on a specific agenda item when the board considers that item. The public is encouraged to fill out a public comment form prior to the start of the meeting and submit it to the staff at the front desk.

Public comment may only be offered during this Agenda item and may either be general in nature or may address any specific item on this Agenda. General comments shall be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes, or comments on specific agenda items shall be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per agenda item, not to exceed a total of 9 minutes.

**2) Consent Agenda**

- a. Review and approval of minutes as follows:
  - Regular board meeting held January 28, 2026.
- b. Review and approval of District expenditures for January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026.
- c. Consider approval of payment to Kemp Smith Law for professional services and out-of-pocket expenses from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026.
- d. Consider approval of payment to Underwood Attorneys at Law for professional services and out-of-pocket expenses from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026.

**3) Action Agenda**

- a. Consider resolution regarding optional personal property taxation in 2026 for the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District to property owners in Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore and Hutchinson Counties, Texas.
- b. Consider Homestead Exemptions for 2026.
- c. Receive and consider approval of Alternative Metering Method Request from Blaine Larsen Farms.
- d. Receive and consider information provided by Floyd French

- e. Receive report and consider action as needed regarding public outreach, agriculture water conservation demonstration programs and the North Plains Water Conservation Center including but not limited to report from David Sloane on the 2025 Water Conservation Demonstration.
- f. Consider approval of updates to Master Irrigator and Meter Reimbursement guidelines and Master Irrigator inspection requirements.
- g. Receive report regarding field inspection services completed in January 2026.
- h. Receive report regarding status of 2025 Annual Production Reporting
- i. Receive report and consider action as needed regarding compliance and contested matters before the District.
- j. Discuss *BLF Land, LLC et al. v Allen Frerich, et al.*, No. 2:23-CV-133Z (N.D. Tex. Aug 8, 2023).
- k. Closed Session: The board of directors of the District may go into a closed session under the authority of the Government Code, Chapter 551, Texas Open Meetings Act, to discuss:
  - Consultation with counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation; or a settlement offer; or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Exempt from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to §551.071 of the Government Code.
  - Consultation with general counsel regarding pending compliance matters or contemplated litigation before the District exempt from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to §551.071 of the Government Code.
- l. Consider recommendation(s) and possible action regarding matters discussed in closed session.

#### **4) Discussion Agenda**

- a. District Director Reports regarding meetings and/or seminars attended, weather conditions, and economic development in each director's precinct.
- b. Committee reports
- c. General Manager's report including without limitation:
  - i) Upcoming meetings and conferences
  - ii) General Manager's activity summary

#### **Discuss items for future board meeting agendas and set next meeting date and time**

#### **Adjournment**

*At any time during the meeting and in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Board may meet in executive session for consultation concerning attorney-client matters (§551.071). Any subject discussed in executive session may be subject to action during an open meeting.*



ITEM 1      PUBLIC COMMENT

SUMMARY:

The public is invited to address the board on any general water issue at the beginning of the meeting. The public is further invited to address the board on a specific agenda item when the board considers that item. The public is encouraged to fill out a public comment form prior to the start of the meeting and submit it to the staff at the front desk.

Public comment may only be offered during this agenda item and may either be general in nature or may address any specific item on this agenda. General comments shall be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes, or comments on specific agenda items shall be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per agenda item, not to exceed a total of 9 minutes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

PROPOSED MOTION:

No proposed action. This item is for informational purposes only.

ITEM 2A

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD  
MEETING HELD JANUARY 28, 2026

SUMMARY:

Review and approval of minutes as follows:

- Regular board meeting held January 28, 2026

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move the board to approve the attached minutes of the meetings as follows:

- Regular board meeting held January 28, 2026

ITEM 2B      REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DISTRICT EXPENDITURES FOR  
JANUARY 1, 2026, THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2026

SUMMARY:

Attached is the summary and detail of the un-audited District expenses from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, including the general manager's expense and activity reports, fund balances, cash and certificates of deposit, and the amount of funds owed by the tax collection entities.

During the month of January 2026, the following items have an influence upon the finances of the district:

- Reimbursement of \$10,150.00 to those who filed their 2024 Annual Production reports late but filed their 2025 Annual Production reports on or before January 15, 2026.
- First State Bank of Spearman CD 45152, which earned 4.00% interest that matured on January 23, 2026, was reinvested in First State Bank of Spearman for one year with a new interest rate of 3.25%.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funding is included in the 2025-2026 budget for this item.

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move the board to approve the attached summary and detail of the un-audited District expenses from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, including the general manager's expense and activity report.

ITEM 2C      CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO KEMP SMITH LAW FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES FROM JANUARY 1, 2026, THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2026.

SUMMARY:

Kemp Smith Law submitted an invoice for legal services from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, totaling \$8,779.93. The general manager has reviewed this invoice for legal services and has determined that the invoice is consistent with the services Kemp Smith Law have performed for the District during the billing period. Since this invoice may reflect attorney-client privileged information, in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors may wish to meet in executive session for consultation concerning attorney-client matters (§551.071). Any subject discussed in the executive session may be subject to action during an open meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funding is included in the 2025-2026 budget for this item.

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move the board to approve payment to Kemp Smith Law in the amount of \$8,779.93 for legal services January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026.

ITEM 2D      CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO UNDERWOOD ATTORNEYS AT LAW FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES FROM JANUARY 1, 2026, THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2026.

SUMMARY:

Underwood Attorneys at Law has submitted invoices for legal services from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, totaling \$8,857.17. The general manager has reviewed these invoices for legal services and has determined that they are consistent with the services Underwood Attorneys at Law performed for the District during the billing period. Since these invoices may reflect attorney-client privileged information, in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors may wish to meet in executive session for consultation concerning attorney-client matters (§551.071). Any subject discussed in the executive session may be subject to action during an open meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funding is included in the 2025-2026 budget for this item.

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move the board to approve payment to Underwood Attorneys at Law in the amount of \$8,857.17 for legal services January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026.

ITEM 3A      CONSIDER RESOLUTION REGARDING OPTIONAL PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXATION IN 2026 FOR THE NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO PROPERTY OWNERS IN DALLAM, SHERMAN, HANSFORD, OCHILTREE, LIPSCOMB, HARTLEY, MOORE AND HUTCHINSON COUNTIES, TEXAS.

Annually, the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District determines whether it will tax optional personal property including:

- Personal Boats;
- Personal Vehicles;
- Airplanes;
- Motor homes; and
- Trailers

If an entity decides to tax any of the above listed property, the entity must tax all of the above. Historically, the Board has chosen not to tax optional personal property.

The general manager recommends the board take action to exempt from collection of taxes on the above-mentioned optional personal property taxes for 2026 in Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore and Hutchinson Counties, Texas.

The resolution is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Collection of the optional personal property tax was not anticipated for the 2025-2026 Budget.

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move the board adopts the resolution not to collect the above-mentioned optional personal property taxes for 2026 in Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore and Hutchinson Counties, Texas.

ITEM 3B      CONSIDER HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS FOR 2026.

SUMMARY:

Historically, the District has adopted the listed exemptions. The general manager recommends the board approve these exemptions for 2026.

- The greater of 10 % of the taxable value or \$10,000 for a Homestead;
- \$100,000 – for persons over 65
- \$100,000 - Disability SS
- The maximum percentage for Disabled Veterans

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item will not affect the 2026 tax rate for funds used in the fiscal year 2026-2027.

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move the board approve the homestead exemptions for 2026.

- The greater of 10 % of the taxable value or \$10,000 for a Homestead;
- \$100,000 – for persons over 65
- \$100,000 - Disability SS
- The maximum percentage for Disabled Veterans

ITEM 3C      RECEIVE AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE METERING METHOD REQUEST FROM BLAINE LARSEN FARMS

SUMMARY:

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors, representatives from Blaine Larsen Farms presented data from GPU 3366 and GPU 5248. Legal counsel thanked Antonio Huaracha for coming to the meeting and advised him the board was very interested in the data available through AgSense as a proposed alternative metering system for BLF Land, LLC and Larsen Farms, Inc (“BLF”). The data, as provided by BLF, appears insufficient to capture all the groundwater produced within each GPU.

Mr. Huaracha was informed of the next board meeting date and invited him to present additional detailed information regarding AgSense or any other method as a proposed alternative metering system. Mr. Huaracha confirmed to the positive he would like to show the board additional information regarding AgSense monitoring app.

Mr. Tate advised Antonio to please review Chapter 5 of the District Rules for guidance on water flow meters, alternative measuring methods, and alternative metering systems and to contact him if he has any questions.

If available, information will be supplemented to the packet.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

PROPOSED MOTION:

The board may make a motion

ITEM 3D      RECEIVE AND CONSIDER INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FLOYD FRENCH

SUMMARY:

Mr. French has requested to speak directly to the board regarding his concerns for future production reporting. Mr. French would like the opportunity to explain his situation regarding current use of the wells and his desire for their future use.

Staff would like to offer their assurance to the board and Mr. French that his concerns, as we understand them regarding who will file future production reports, can be resolved with the designation of an agent in the event we are not able to reach Mr. French. The staff takes multiple measures to assist producers so that they are not late filing their reports.

District Rule 5.1 WATER FLOW METERS AND ALTERNATIVE MEASURING METHODS does not distinguish the use of a well as an exception to reporting production. The rule does allow for wells in existence prior to October 14, 2003, or at the time the well was annexed into the District, whichever is later, may elect to use an alternative metering system as authorized by the rules.

Mr. French is eligible to report using an alternative measuring method and has been using the natural gas consumption alternative method as allowed in rule 5.4 Mr. French has been timely and has not overproduced.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are sufficient funds in the 2025-2026 budget.

PROPOSED MOTION:

The board may make a motion

ITEM 3E      RECEIVE REPORT AND CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING PUBLIC OUTREACH, AGRICULTURE WATER CONSERVATION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS AND THE NORTH PLAINS WATER CONSERVATION CENTER INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO REPORT FROM DAVID SLOANE ON THE 2025 WATER CONSERVATION DEMONSTRATION

**WCC Update**

0.03” of rain at the WCC since the last board meeting on January 28, 2026.

**Master Irrigator Update**

Currently we have 9 registrants for the Class of 2026. Registrants outside the district will be accepted if vacant seats are available.

**Class of 2023**

8 out of the 10 applications for the class of 2023 have been fully funded including 3 second round applications. The last 2 outstanding applications received notice to file complete paperwork by February 6<sup>th</sup> or their application would be denied. One sent in his last invoice and the second contacted Baylee but has yet to receive paperwork.

**Class of 2024**

3 out of the 9 applications for the class of 2024 have been fully funded. An email was sent out on January 28<sup>th</sup> to applicants to remind them to get their paperwork in. Inspections are being scheduled for 3 of those applications, 1 in final review. Second round for the class of 2024 closed on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM (as of 1:30PM on 2/06/26 there are 4 applications).

**Class of 2025**

3 out of 11 applications for the class of 2025 have been fully funded, 2 are in final review. Participants have until March 31, 2026 to get final paperwork in, a reminder email went out on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Outreach Activities**

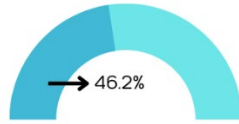
Outreach staff attended/ will be attending and sponsoring several events:

- February 11<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Water Conservation Symposium
- February 12<sup>th</sup>- Northwest Panhandle Crops Conference
- February 17<sup>th</sup>- Northeast Panhandle Drylands Crops Conference
- February 18<sup>th</sup>- Master Irrigator Session I
- February 25<sup>th</sup>- Master Irrigator Session II

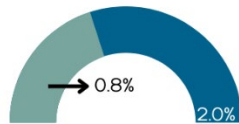
**Social Media**

# January Newsletter Analytics

## North Plains GCD

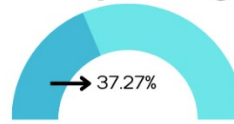


Open Rate

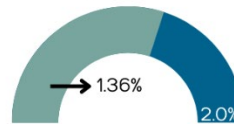


Click Rate

## Industry Average



Open Rate



Click Rate

## Most Clicked Link:

**Annual Winter Water Level Measurements**



The Field Team will be carrying out winter water level measurements across all eight counties within the district.

These measurements serve to determine:

- Decline rates
- Depth to water
- Saturated thickness

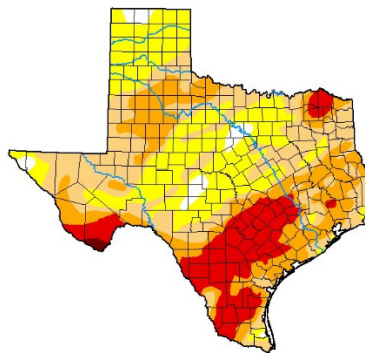
We will be measuring over 400 wells over a three-month period, which started in December and will conclude by March 1st. The data gathered over the years is instrumental in generating hydrographs, which illustrate trend lines based on historical measurements.

Furthermore, trendline analyses are performed and integrated with depletion and decline rate calculations to produce contour maps that highlight variations in water levels across the district. All this information is then put in the District's Annual Hydrology Report.

## Drought Map

### U.S. Drought Monitor Texas



February 3, 2026  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	2.72	97.28	66.68	37.97	15.64	0.36
Last Week 01-27-2026	5.03	94.97	66.68	32.01	15.31	0.36
3 Months Ago 11-04-2025	15.54	83.46	45.37	16.54	4.01	0.15
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	11.66	88.34	57.31	27.77	8.33	0.36
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	37.15	62.85	23.67	13.00	3.33	0.29
One Year Ago 02-04-2025	28.22	71.78	41.26	23.51	15.74	6.30

**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

**Author:**  
Lindsay Johnson  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funding is available in the 2024-2025 budget.

## PROPOSED MOTION:

The report is for information purposes only.

ITEM 3F      CONSIDER APPROVAL OF UPDATES TO MASTER IRRIGATOR AND  
METER REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES AND MASTER IRRIGATOR  
INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

SUMMARY:

The staff presented revisions to the Master Irrigator and Meter Reimbursement Guidelines and the inspection requirements for the Master Irrigator approved projects to the Ag Committee on November 19, 2025. The Ag Committee met and approved updated forms and guidelines for the 2026 class and are being presented for board approval.

The primary revision is that the matching funds are only eligible to MI participant projects within the district.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funding is available in the 2025-2026 budget.

PROPOSED MOTION:

Move the board to approve the updated Meter Reimbursement and Master Irrigator guidelines and inspection requirements as presented (or amended by the Board).

ITEM 3G      **RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING FIELD INSPECTION SERVICES COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2025.**

**Aquifer Science Activities – Odell Ward P.G., Braden Cadenhead, Angel Quiroz, Jacob Fernandez, James “Tackle” Guile**

The field staff worked diligently to keep up with pre-drills, post-drills, and compliance-related inspections. With an early start this year on Winter Water Level Measurements, the field staff is projected to finish the measurements by mid-February. As of 1-31-2026, the field staff had visited 298 wells and measured 271 successfully. The field team also completed more than 525 overproduction inspections across the district.

The field staff is working hard to complete calendar tasks for production, meter inspections, and overproduction inspections across the district. This is a very busy time for the district departments, with all working together to complete tasks and keep the process on schedule.

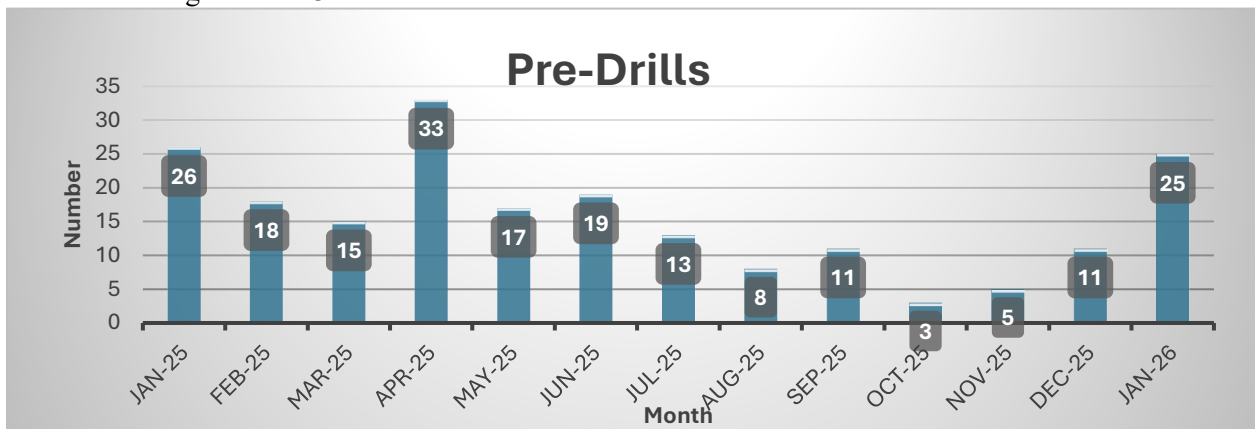
**Field Team County Assignments**

Braden Cadenhead- MO, LI  
 Angel Quiroz- HA, All of BLF, OC  
 Jacob Fernandez – DA, HN,  
 Tackle Guile – SH, HU

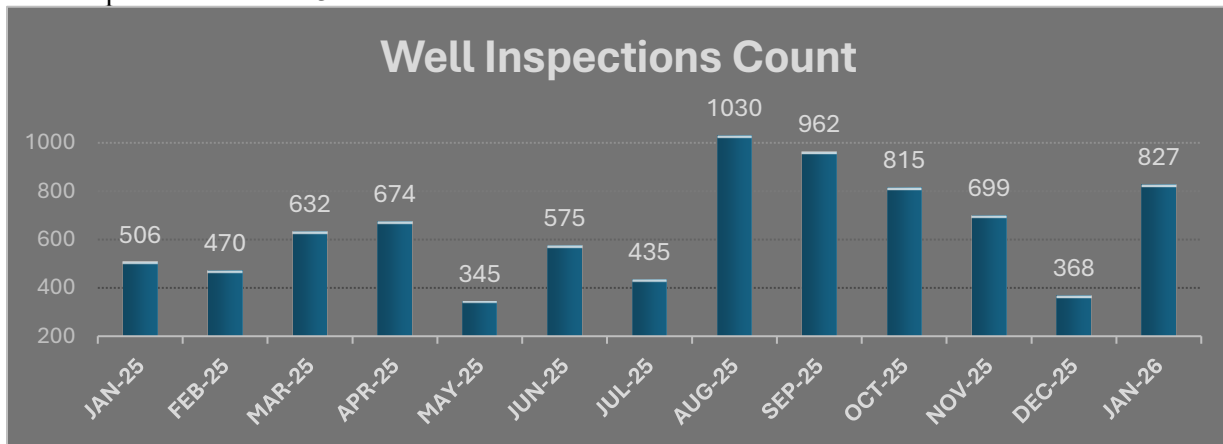
**Well, inspections by type were completed in January 2026.**

Type of Inspection	Number
Pre-Drill Inspection	25
Post Drill Inspection	26
General Well Inspections	776
Winter Water Level Measurements	201
Total Wells Inspected	1028

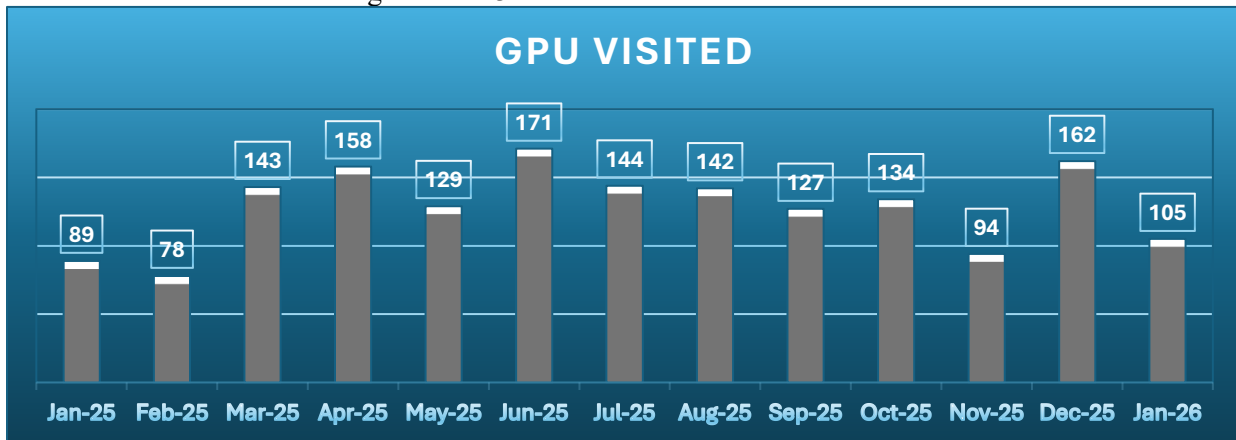
Pre-drills during the last 13 months.



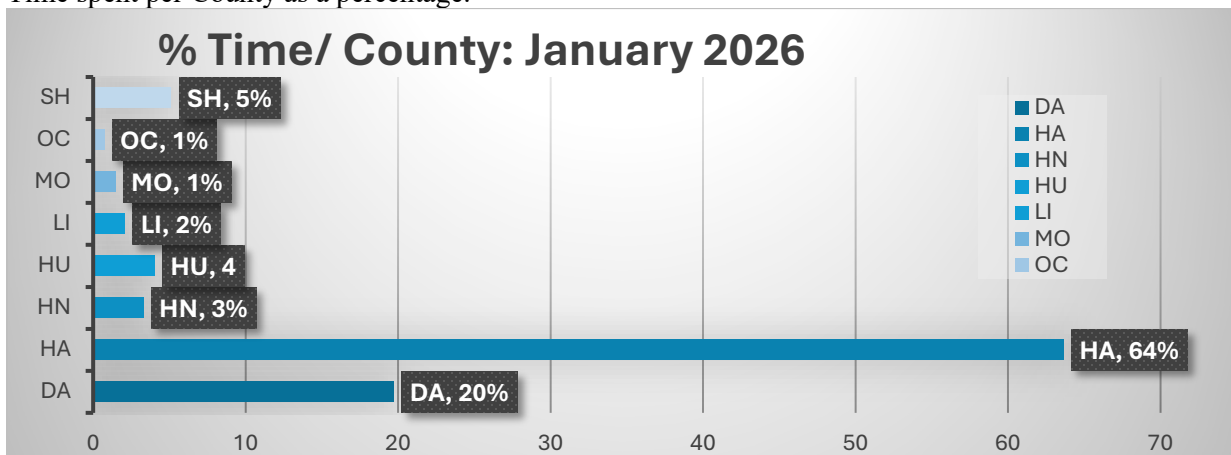
Well inspections the last 13 months.



Number of GPUs visited during the last 13 months.



Time spent per County as a percentage.



Field Truck Mileage and Fuel Summary:

Month	Mileage	Fuel (gals)	Cost	\$/Mi
Sep-25	8,309	802	1,874	0.43
Oct-25	7,317	566	1,421	0.40
Nov-25	8,644	464	1,177	0.39
Dec-25	8,383	729	1,664	0.44
Jan-26	12,884	847	1,924	0.44

Winter Water Levels 2026

WWL_2025	Goal	% Visited	Visited	Measured	Completion
Dallam	68	85%	58	53	91.4%
Hansford	73	75%	55	48	87.3%
Hartley	64	80%	51	44	86.3%
Hutchinson	26	100%	26	22	84.6%
Liscomb	46	0%	0	0	0.0%
Moore	63	83%	52	50	96.2%
Ochiltree	48	29%	14	14	100.0%
Sherman	64	66%	42	40	95.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>90.9%</b>

*Undated 1-31-26*

FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funding is included in the 2025-2026 budget for this item.

PROPOSED MOTION:

This item is for informational purposes only.

ITEM 3H      RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING STATUS OF 2025 ANNUAL PRODUCTION REPORTING.

On December 1, 2025, approximately (2956) 2025 Annual Production Reports were made available through a personal link, mailed or emailed to recipients, as requested. As of February 6, 2026, One Hundred Seventy-Seven (177) Production Reports have been received by email, mail or in person and Eleven Hundred and Ten (1110) reports have been submitted online of which Two Hundred and Forty-Four (244) were reviewed and approved by admin staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funding is included in the 2025-2026 budget for this item.

PROPOSED MOTION:

This item is for informational purposes only.

ITEM 3I      RECEIVE REPORT AND CONSIDER ACTION AS NEEDED REGARDING COMPLIANCE AND CONTESTED MATTERS BEFORE THE DISTRICT

SUMMARY:

**Compliance for Board Consideration Update from Previous Meeting(s)**

Name	Well Number(s) & GPU	Board Decision and Status Since Last Meeting
BLF	8266, 8263, 8268, 8267 – Exceeded 2023 annual production limitation.	Unresolved.
BLF	HA-5814 GPU 8287 not properly plugged by board due date.	Unresolved
BLF	3354, 3366, 5248, 5256, 5260, 5770, 8239, 8255, 8263, 8267, 8268, 8274, 8281, 8282, 8291, 8297, 8799, 8801, 8802, 8803, 9623 & 9713. Late 2023 Annual Production Report(s)	Unresolved
BLF	GPUs: 8263, 8266, 8268, 9623, 9933, 9935 – Exceeded 2024 annual production limitation.	Unresolved
Andy Cover	HA-0749, GPU 3037 HA-0749, GPU 3037 – LPD closed off making it non-functional	Legal Demand letter due February 9, 2026.
Andy Cover	HA-4783, GPU 3037 Meter non-functional on an operating well. LPD closed off with capped hose.	Legal Demand letter due February 9, 2026. An update will be provided at the meeting.
George & Shirley Freeman	SH-0941 GPU 9532 – no meter installed on well. Required due to permitting new well SH-13336	Legal Demand letter due February 9, 2026. An update will be provided at the meeting.
George & Shirley Freeman	SH-0886 GPU 9532 – well needs meter or to be reclassified as capped	Legal Demand letter due February 9, 2026. An update will be provided at the meeting.
Chuck Schoonover	DA-5415 GPU 6433 – pipe diversion bypassing meter	Legal Demand letter due February 9, 2026. An update will be provided at the meeting.

Chuck Schoonover	DA-0436 GPU 6433 – pipe diversion bypassing meter	Legal Demand letter due February 9, 2026. An update will be provided at the meeting.
Chuck Schoonover	GPU 6433 – DA-0435 Flow meter not functioning on operating well	Legal Demand letter due February 9, 2026. An update will be provided at the meeting.
Dean Cooke (TCW Supply, Inc.)	GPU 9644 – HU-0609 Flow meter not functioning on operating well. Check valve and LPD buried	Legal Demand letter due March 6, 2026
Tim Wilhelm	GPU 3853 – OC-0312 Pipe diversion bypassing meter.	Resolved
Steve & Weylin Wolf (WF Land & Cattle, LLC)	GPU 10244 – SH-13892 and SH-13893 both wells have incorrect check valve and no LPD port	Legal demand letter due March 6, 2026

**February 2026 Compliance for Board Consideration**

**Associated files located in [Dropbox.com](#) – Board Meeting Compliance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Well Number(s) &amp; GPU</b>	<b>Compliance Issue(s)</b>
	None at this time	

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is sufficient funding in the 2025-2026 budget for this item.

PROPOSED MOTION:

The board may act as necessary.

<b>NPGCD 2025 COMPLIANCE TO DATE 1/30/2026 REVIEWED</b>	
<b>CATERGORY</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE TOTALS</b>
CAPPED WELL SECURED/NOT SECURED (CWS/CWNS)	106
METERS	484
LPD'S & CHECK VALVES	185

MISC (DET WELLS, PIPE DIV, RECLASS, PROD RPTS)	78
2025 COMPLIANCE CATERGORY ITEMS OVERALL TOTAL	853
2025 COMPLIANCE WELLS AWAITING CLEARANCE	27
2025 TOTAL WELLS COMPLIANCE CLEARED	777
2025 TOTAL WELL SITES COMPLIANCE REVIEWED	804

<b>NPGCD 2026 COMPLIANCE TO DATE 1/30/2026 REVIEWED</b>	
<b>CATERGORY</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE TOTALS</b>
CAPPED WELL SECURED/NOT SECURED (CWS/CWNS)	5
METERS	36
LPD'S & CHECK VALVES	30
MISC (DET WELLS, PIPE DIV, RECLASS, PROD RPTS)	3
COMPLIANCE CATERGORY ITEMS OVERALL TOTAL	74
COMPLIANCE WELLS AWAITING CLEARANCE	51
TOTAL WELLS COMPLIANCE CLEARED	10
TOTAL WELL SITES COMPLIANCE REVIEWED	61

ITEM 3J      DISCUSS *BLF LAND, LLC ET AL. V ALLEN FRERICH ET AL., NO.2:23-CV-133Z (N.D. TEX. AUG 8, 2023).*

SUMMARY:

This will be a closed session discussion

FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funding is available in the 2025-2026 budget.

PROPOSED MOTION:

The board may act as necessary.

ITEM 3K      CLOSED SESSION

SUMMARY:

The Board of Directors of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District may go into a closed session under the authority of Government Code, Chapter 551, Texas Open Meetings Act, to discuss:

Closed Session: The board of directors of the District may go into a closed session under the authority of the Government Code, Chapter 551, Texas Open Meetings Act, to discuss:

- Consultation with counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation; or a settlement offer; or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Exempt from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to §551.071 of the Government Code.
- Consultation with general counsel regarding pending compliance matters or contemplated litigation before the District exempt from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to §551.071 of the Government Code.
- Deliberation in closed session pursuant to Texas Gov't. Code §551.074 re. the evaluation, duties, and potential discipline or dismissal of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Assistant Manager.

ITEM 3L      CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION(S) REGARDING MATTERS DISCUSSED  
IN CLOSED SESSION

ITEM 4A      DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

ITEM 4B      COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i. Agriculture Committee
- ii. Property Committee
- iii. Executive Committee

ITEM 4C      GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- i. Upcoming meetings and conferences
- ii. General Manager's Activity Summary

**Upcoming Meetings and Conferences**

- February 11-13, 2026, Water in the Desert –Alpine, TX
- February 11 – Water Conservation Symposium Amarillo, TX
- February 18 & 25<sup>th</sup> Master Irrigator
- March 4 & 11 – Master Irrigator
- March 2026 TWA Annual Convention – TBA likely
- March 2-5, 2026, GMDA Winter Conference – Roswell, NM
- June 2-3, 2026, TAGD Spring Business Meeting –San Marcos, TX
- June 2026 TWA Summer Conference – likely
- TBA GMDA Summer Conference – (Texas GCDs may sponsor – North Dakota or South Dakota are possible locations being considered)
- October 2026 TWA Fall Conference – TBA likely
- Water for Texas TWDB – January 25-27, 2027, Austin, Texas



## GENERAL MANAGER ACTIVITY SUMMARY

### JANUARY 2026

January 5, 2026 – Each Monday the full staff will gather in the General Managers office and highlight each department’s anticipated or scheduled activities for the week. The various departments are then aware of the schedule and activities that might affect staff members’ availability that week or in the near future. Vital dates of interest include but are not limited to the board meeting schedules, regional meetings, and state meetings.

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January 5, 2026 – Baylee, Paige, Curtis and Janet all met with Aspen Edgar of News Channel 10 to confirm airtime schedules, content and fees association with launching the media campaign to highlight the Master Irrigator program for year 2026.

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January 6, 2026 – It was with great sadness that numerous staff members attended the funeral services for Lisa Tice. Lisa is the wife of production coordinator and long-time employee Casey Tice. Throughout her sickness, Casey has managed to be by her side and work from ERs, hospital waiting room, hospital rooms and home. The district has provided numerous displays of support including providing food, paper goods, visits to the hospital, many prayers and flowers for the service. Casey has been appreciative of the support he has received during this very difficult time for the family. Director Bob Zimmer and Harold Grall were also in attendance.

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January 8, 2026 – Baylee Barnes and Janet Guthrie participated in a TWDB Ag grant webinar. Adam Foster, Executive Director of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, was able to gather and share with me how the funds for another round of ag grants came to be. There was a concern last year that the grant program could sunset once the remaining balance in the fund was spent, because the Legislature had not provided a new, dedicated General Revenue deposit to the

fund as it had in earlier cycles. SB 1 89<sup>th</sup> Legislature, ultimately provided continued spending authority out of the existing fund, specifically for agricultural water conservation activities. That language appears in the TWDB Article VI riders. Importantly, this is authority to spend from the fund, not a new General Revenue deposit to the fund.

While agricultural conservation projects are eligible under The Texas Water Fund approved by voters known as Prop 4 also makes ag conservation grant funds available through a broader framework. Those dollars are not expected to be available until a year or two and they are subject to TWDB prioritization and Board action. The continuation of the ag conservation grants at this point appears to be tied to remaining fund balances and SB 1 spending authority, not an early allocation of TWF dollars. In short, the program didn't end, but it also wasn't "re-funded" in the same way as in past cycles - at least based on my understanding of how the appropriations language ultimately was written. Legislative communications in Austin did not go unanswered as previously thought.

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January 13, 2026 - Bob Zimmer, Danny Krienke, Kristen Blackwell and myself participated in a Zoom meeting with Intera's modeler to receive an update on their progress to implement current pumping levels into the first decade of the Groundwater Availability Model Run to achieve a Desired Future Condition of having 40% volume in storage remaining in 50 years. The start date will be 2030 to 2080. This planning cycle was a directive from the State mandating the Desired Future Condition must follow the State Water Planning Cycle. This forced planning period is problematic as the water elevations in the Groundwater Availability Model are set at the 2020 water level elevations and were developed and approved by TWDB to be the most recently approved Groundwater Availability Model. What this means is we have to use the 2020 model elevations but reach a Desired Future Condition at the 2080 mark. Initially GMA 1 was proposing and had modeled a planning period starting in 2020 and ending in 2070. We must now model pumping scenarios over a 60 year planning period. To offset the impacts of a longer pumping period and being mandated to reach the same DFC target, Intera has been working with all the member districts to receive their input on how to handle this additional pumping era. It was requested that 2030 have a pumping volume that matches the historical pumping volumes from 2024. It has taken Intera several attempts to get the model to honor these pumping scenarios, but they were able to present a strategy demonstration in which Bob Zimmer discussed at the January meeting. The next meeting of the GMA is scheduled for February 24, 2026. We will have the proposed Managed Available Groundwater numbers a week or so before the meeting for internal review.

The next steps will be:

- for the GMA member districts to approve the proposed DFCs with the draft GAM run values and a draft Explanatory Report. Feb 24, 2026
- Member Districts will receive formal notification of the approval of proposed DFCs
- 90 Comment period begins- most likely March -May
- GCD will hold a public hearing to receive comments – Board meeting in May

- GCD compiles relevant comments received and distributes those to the other member districts and the GMA
- These comments and supporting materials must be posted online for no less than 30 days by each GCD
- GMA 1 will then meet to adopt the DFCs
- GMA will then have 60 days to submit the Explanatory Report and additional documentation to TWDB (Intera does this and it is quite an extensive task)
- TWDB will review the DFC submittal for administrative completeness
- TWDB then sends GMA notice of administrative completeness
- GMA forwards notice to GCDs
- GCDs adopt the DFCs
- Petition to appeal a DFC may be filed with a GCD within 120 days of GCD petition
- During the GCD notice and adoption time period, TWDB will develop MAGs
- TWDB then has 180 days from administrative completeness to provide official MAG reports to GCDs and Regional Water Planning Groups
- Regional Water Planning Groups will use the MAG in the next Regional Water Planning Cycle as an availability value
- GCDs must begin to update their management plans and rules

#### **STATUTORY DEADLINES:**

**May 1, 2026            Propose DFC for adoption**

**January 5, 2027        Adopt DFCs**

*A Desired Future Conditions Flow Chart is provided in your attachments for item 4 c ii*

#### **New Legislative Changes to Management Plan Requirements:**

SB 1583

- ❖ The most recently approved desired future conditions (DFCs) are included in the plan
- ❖ A district shall amend a management plan before the second anniversary of the adoption of DFCs by the GMA
- ❖ A statement of the status of the petition challenging the reasonableness of a DFCs.

HB 2078

- ❖ Provide in plain language explanation of the district is currently monitoring and tracking progress toward the DFCs.
- ❖ Provide a plain language explanation of how the district has performed in achieving the DFCs during the preceding five-year joint planning period.

#### **New GMA Meeting Requirements**

GMA representatives shall:

- ❖ Review groundwater management plans at least once every 5 years
- ❖ Review how each district is achieving the DFCs
  - Management Plan
  - Rules
- ❖ Adopt DFCs for each 50-year planning period identified by the executive administrator for state and regional water plan.
  - 2026 GMA Joint Planning = 2032 SWP 2030-2080
  - 2031 GMA Joint Planning = 2037 SWP 2040-2090
- ❖ **Identify interim values for DFCs in 10-year increments to assist districts monitor progress toward 50- year planning goals**

## **New Explanatory Report Requirements**

GMA Representatives shall:

- ❖ Explain in plain language why a DFC has changed from the previous five-year planning period.
- ❖ Include a summary of each district’s progress toward achieving DFCs.

### ***What constitutes Plain Language?***

TWDB has advised the Groundwater Management Areas to refer to the Texas Administrative Code §2001.023(d) relating to state rules

“A summary is written in plain language if it uses language the general public, including individuals with limited English proficiency, can readily understand because the language is concise and well-organized.”

January 14, 2026

Intera is assisting us with the TWDB grant application to obtain funds for phase II of the hydrology study. I met with Andrew to receive an update on the current project to assign new elevations to the Ogallala and Dockum and to assign well production to the appropriate aquifer. Andrew and I discussed the content of the TWDB grant webinar and he is developing the scope and budget then I will be able to add that to the content of the grant application. I will be following up with him Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

January 30, 2026

Odell Ward and I participated in the Texas Water Development Board webinar info session regarding the Groundwater Science, Research and Data Collection Grants. We both found it very helpful and as we discussed when the phase I study was authorized, we were anticipating

continuing our study would be an eligible project. TWDB added that if you are currently working on a project that meets the criteria you may submit the project and apply any funds spent to date as matching funds. This will be part of the discussion I will be having with Andrew.

ITEM 5      DISCUSS ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETING AGENDAS AND SET  
NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

ITEM 6      ADJOURN