

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2026
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF
NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District met in regular session on February 12, 2026, at 9:03 a.m. in the Conference Room in the Richard S. Bowers Water Conservation Learning Center Building at the North Plains Water Conservation Center, 6045 West County Road E., Dumas, Texas 79029-7201. The following people were present:

Members Present at 9:03 a.m.:

Daniel L. Krienke, President,
Bob Zimmer, Vice President,
Harold Grall, Secretary,
Clinton Born, Director
Justin Crownover, Director, and
Allan Frerich, Director.

Staff present during part or all the meeting:

Janet Guthrie, General Manager,
Kristen Blackwell, Administration Manager,
Dusty Holt, Permitting Specialist,
Jessica Fobbs, Administrative Assistant
Braden Cadenhead, Field Coordinator
Casey Tice, Production Coordinator
Curtis Schwertner, Natural Resource Specialist, and
Baylee Barnes, Conservation Outreach Coordinator

Others present during part or all the meeting:

Lynn Tate, Esq.,
Floyd French,
Erik Carlos, Blaine Larsen Farms,
Alan Ortega, Blaine Larsen Farms, and
Antonio Huaracha, Blaine Larsen Farms.

President Krienke declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Bob Zimmer gave the invocation and led the pledge.

1. - Public Comment

Floyd French addressed the board and stated he had been trying for three years to receive his annual production report via USPS and that he had been unsuccessful with the staff. He stated he was concerned should he pass that his beneficiaries would be unable to access his email and would be penalized for not filing the report timely.

2. - Consent Agenda

Clinton Born moved to approve the regular board meeting minutes from January 28, 2026; approval of District expenditures from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026, including the general manager's expense and activity report; approval of payment to Kemp Smith Law for professional services and out of pocket expense from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026; and approval of payment to Underwood Attorneys at Law for professional services and out of office pocket expense from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2026.

Justin Crownover seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.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.

The general manager recommended 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 motion for this item was incorporated with Action Agenda Item 3.b.

Action Agenda 3.b. - Consider homestead exemptions for 2026.

Bob Zimmer moved the board to adopt the resolution not to collect optional personal property taxes for 2026 in Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore and Hutchinson Counties, Texas and moved the board approve the homestead exemptions for 2026 as follows:

- 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

Clinton Born seconded the motions, and they were unanimously approved by the Board.

Action Agenda 3.c. - Receive and consider approval of alternative metering method request from Blaine Larsen Farms.

Three representatives from Blaine Larsen Farms, Antonio Huaracha, Erik Carlos and Alan Ortega provided the board documentation about using their natural gas, electric bills and Ag Sense monitoring system to report 2025 production on the various wells that had meters which failed during the production year.

This item was discussed under Item 3L of these minutes.

Action Agenda 3.d - Receive and consider information provided by Floyd French

Mr. French chose to speak during the public comment period of the meeting.

Action Agenda 3.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.

Conservation Outreach Coordinator, Baylee Barnes presented this item to the Board for reporting purposes. David Sloane was unable to attend the meeting.

No motion was made by the Board.

Action Agenda 3.f - Consider approval of updates to the Master Irrigator and Meter Reimbursement guidelines and Master Irrigator inspection requirements.

By consensus the board agreed:

1. to allow multiple attendees to participate in the same project not to exceed 50% of the cost of the project.
2. to return sprinklers to the list of approved eligible equipment.

Action Agenda 3.g - Receive report regarding field inspection services during January 2026.

Braden Cadenhead, Field Coordinator, presented this item to the Board for reporting purposes.

No motion was made by the Board.

Action Agenda 3.h. - Receive report regarding the status of 2025 annual production reporting

Kristen Blackwell, Administration Manager, provided the board with an update on 2025 annual production reporting.

This item was presented to the board for reporting purposes.

No motion was made by the Board.

Action Agenda 3.i. - Receive report and consider action regarding compliance and contested matters before the District.

Kristen Blackwell Administration Manager presented the following report to the Board.

Compliance for Board Consideration Update from Previous Meeting(s)

Name	Well Number(s) & GPU	Board	Decision	and
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		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	At the time of the meeting an update had come in to office regarding this issue. Will update in March.
Andy Cover	HA-4783, GPU 3037 Meter non-functional on an operating well. LPD closed off with capped hose.	At the time of the meeting an update had come in to office regarding this issue. Will update in March
George & Shirley Freeman	SH-0941 GPU 9532 – no meter installed on well. Required due to permitting new well SH-13336	New owner working with staff to correct issue. Will update in March.
George & Shirley Freeman	SH-0886 GPU 9532 – well needs meter or to be reclassified as capped	New owner working with staff to correct issue. Will update in March.
Chuck Schoonover	DA-5415 GPU 6433 – pipe diversion bypassing meter	Resolved
Chuck Schoonover	DA-0436 GPU 6433 – pipe diversion bypassing meter	Will report on status at March meeting
Chuck Schoonover	GPU 6433 – DA-0435 Flow meter not functioning on operating well	Will report on status at March meeting
Dean Cooke (TCW Supply, Inc.)	GPU 9644 – HU-0609 Flow meter not functioning on operating well. Check valve	Legal Demand letter due March 6, 2026

	and LPD buried	
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	Resolved

February 2026 Compliance for Board Consideration

Associated files located in Dropbox.com – Board Meeting Compliance

None

The board took no action.

Action Agenda 3.j. - Discuss BLF Land LLC et al v. Allan Frerich, et al., NO. 2:23-CV-133Z (N.D. Tex August 8, 2023).

This item was addressed in the Closed Session.

The board took a brief recess from 10:40 a.m. until 10:48 a.m.

Action Agenda 3.k. - Closed Session.

Executive Session - Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

At 10:48 a.m. President Krienke closed the meeting for consultation with legal counsel as authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, which allows a closed meeting to discuss pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers or matters where the duty of counsel to the District, pursuant to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Under the authority of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the President declared that we will now close this meeting to the public for the purpose of: Consultation with legal counsel as authorized by Sec. 551.071, Government Code, which allows a closed meeting to discuss pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or matters where the duty of counsel to the District, pursuant to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

President Krienke stated that this is a Closed Session of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors on February 12, 2026, commencing at 10:48 a.m. At 11:44 a.m., the board reconvened into regular session.

President Krienke stated that it is my duty to remind you as board members that discussions held in closed session are confidential. In the event of a breach of this confidentiality by an individual director, the disclosure is not to be construed as a waiver of the district’s attorney-client privilege. A known disclosure to a member of the public of a tape recording of a closed session constitutes a criminal violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act. This concludes the closed session of the Board of Directors at 11:43 a.m.

President Krienke stated that the meeting of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors is hereby reopened to the public on February 12, 2026, at 11:44 a.m. No formal action was taken by the Board of Directors during closed session.

Action Agenda 3.n. - Consider recommendations regarding matters discussed in Closed Session.

In the matter of Item 3C of these minutes, receive and consider approval of alternate metering method request from Blaine Larsen Farms, Harold Grall moved the board request Blaine Larsen Farms provide all production reports for 2025 and relevant data supporting the proposed alternative methods of reporting on or before March 1, 2026. Further he stated the district will review the information provided and will notify Blaine Larsen Farms if the information is sufficient to satisfy the annual reporting requirements.

The relevant data supporting the proposed alternative metering methods based on the information provided during Action Agenda Item 3C are:

- 2025 (12 months) of electric bills detailing the KWH's used per well for the alternative method being used
- Ag Sense verified document showing hours ran in 2025 and a photo of the meter of the highest usage GPM per well for the alternative method used
- 2025 (12 months) of natural gas bills detailing the MCF's, a photo of the highest usage GPM per well for the alternative method used and BLF's spreadsheet depicting the number of hours the well ran during 2025; and
- All other documents, photos, and data that support the alternative method.

Justin Crownover seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion Agenda 4.a. - Director Reports regarding meetings and/or seminars attended, weather conditions and economic development in each Director's precinct.

Director reports were presented to the board.

Discussion Agenda 4.b. - Committee Reports.

No Committee reports were presented to the board.

Discussion Agenda 4.c. - General Manager's Report.

The general manager provided her report to the board in the board packet.

Discussion Item 5 - Set Next Meeting Date and Time

The March meeting of the board was confirmed for March 24, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, President Krienke declared the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.



Daniel Krienke, President



Harold Grall, Secretary