MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 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 April 14, 2026, at 9:09 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 9:09 a.m.:

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

Staff present during part or all the meeting:

Janet Guthrie, General Manager,
Kristen Blackwell, Administration Manager,
Odell Ward, Aquifer Science Manager,
Jessica Fobbs, Administrative Assistant,
Jacob Fernandez, Natural Resource Specialist,
Curtis Schwertner, Natural Resource Specialist, and
Baylee Barnes, Conservation Outreach Coordinator

Others present during part or all the meeting:

Dusty McWilliams,
David Sloane, Irrigronomy, LLC., and
Lynn Tate, Esq.

President Krienke declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Mark Howard gave the invocation and led the pledge.

The regular Board meeting was recessed at 9:10 a.m. for the public hearing regarding the District's proposed DFCs.

President Krienke closed the public hearing at 9:33 a.m.

The regular Board meeting was reconvened at 9:33 a.m.

1. - Public Comment

None.

2. - Consent Agenda

Mark Howard moved to approve the regular board meeting minutes from March 24, 2026; approval of District expenditures from March 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026, including the general manager's expense and activity report; approval of payment to Underwood Attorney's at Law for professional services and out of pocket expense from March 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026; approval of payment to Kemp Smith Law for professional services and out of pocket expense from March 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026.

Clinton Born seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Bob Zimmer departed the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Action Agenda 3.a. - Discuss and consider action on proposed Groundwater Management Area 1 Desired Future Conditions.

The District conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed desired future conditions as required under §36.108, Texas Water Code. Janet Guthrie reported on the GMA1 joint planning and the proposed DFCs. The District is currently receiving public comments for the 90-day period beginning February 24, 2026, and ending May 25, 2026, on the proposed DFCs. At the end of the 90-day period, the District will prepare and submit a summary based on the results from public comments to the Groundwater Management Area 1 Joint Planning Committee for consideration in the area adopting DFCs. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

No motion was made by the board.

Action Agenda 3.b. - Receive investment report for January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026

Janet Guthrie presented the quarterly investment report to the board in compliance with the District's investment policy and relevant provisions of the Public Funds Investment Act, Chapter 2256, Texas Government Code (the 'Act").

This item was for reporting purposes; therefore, no motion was made by the board.

Action Agenda 3.c. - Consider final compliance approval of water well permits as active and complete wells, review permits issued and permitting graphs from March 2026.

Non-Exempt Well Permits issued since January 1, 2026, ***69***

Exempt Wells Registered Since January 1, 2026, ***29***

Non-Exempt Well Permits board approved since January 1, 2026, ***88***

PLE – Property Line Easement Received R – Replacement Well

	Well #	Class	Qrt	Section	N S	E W
	DA-13671	C	SE	8, 7-T, T&NO	438 S	464 E
	DA-14076	C	NE	16, 1, CSS	812 N	149 E
	DA-14077	B	NE	9, 2, B&B	215 N	118 E
	HA-13849	B	SW	127, 48, H&TC	763 S	651 W
	HN-14060	B	NE	8, 3, SA&MG	184 N	123 E
PLE	HN-14122	C	SW	111, 45, H&TC	781 S	66 W
	HU-14031	D	NE	0, 6, WM HEATH	2000 N	664 E
	HU-14058	C	SW	83, 5-T, T&NO	516 S	107 N
PLE	LI-12822	C	SW	1046, 43, H&TC	30 S	591 W
	LI-14037	D	SE	1137, 43, H&TC	157 S	687 E
	MO-13992	B	SW	371, 44, H&TC	478 S	912 W
	MO-14042	B	SE	30, 2-T, T&NO	628 S	711 E
	MO-14063	B	SW	345, 44, H&TC	485 S	873 W
	OC-0312	A	NW	14, R, B&B	843 N	10 W
	SH-13275	C	NE	54, 1-C, GH&H	826 N	646 E
R	SH-13384	D	SE	60, 1-C, GH&H	803 S	806 E
	SH-13892	B	NE	346, 1-T, T&NO	883 N	283 E
	SH-13893	B	NW	346, 1-T, T&NO	841 N	400 W
	SH-13913	B	NE	126, 1-T, T&NO	360 N	336 E
	SH-14012	B	SW	307, 1-T, T&NO	273 S	138 W
	SH-14013	C	NW	307, 1-T, T&NO	240 N	118 W
	SH-14014	B	NW	307, 1-T, T&NO	625 N	175 W
	SH-14020	B	SW	46, 2-B, GH&H	760 S	298 W
	SH-14021	B	SW	46, 2-B, GH&H	453 S	448 W
	SH-14022	B	SW	46, 2-B, GH&H	110 S	627 W
	SH-14052	B	SW	38, 1-C, GH&H	108 S	893 E
	SH-14055	B	SW	9, 1-C, GH&H	849 S	260 W
	SH-14078	B	SE	174, 1-T, T&NO	439 S	454 E
	SH-14095	C	SW	5, 3-T, T&NO	845 N	885 E
	SH-14132	B	SW	307, 1-T, T&NO	104 S	813 W

Mark Howard moved to approve the well permits represented in the table above excluding MO-13992 and MO-14063 as active and complete wells because the wells are properly equipped and otherwise comply with District rules.

Harold Grall seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Clinton Born moved to approve the well permits MO-13992 and MO-14063 represented in the table above as active and complete wells because the wells are properly equipped and otherwise comply with District rules.

Mark Howard seconded the motion, Harold Grall abstained, and the wells were approved by the remaining members of the board.

Action Agenda 3.d. - ***Receive report and consider action as needed regarding agriculture water conservation demonstration programs and the North Plains Water Conservation Center including but not limited to a final report from David Sloane for the 2025 demonstration.***

David Sloane has not yet completed the final report for the 2025 demonstration year but instead presented the board with the 2026 plan. The plan is attached to these minutes as Exhibit B.

Baylee Barnes presented the following information.
WCC

0.00" of rain at the WCC since the last board meeting on March 3, 2026.

Prewatering has been completed on both circles, with one inch applied to each, wrapping up the evening of April 1. The target planting date for early corn silage is April 15, pending weather conditions. Dusty and David are also considering running water through the drip system to ensure everything is functioning properly.
David contacted Rex Brandon at Pioneer, who confirmed the following hybrids for the demonstration plots:

- P12517V (same as west pivot, west half)
- P13777V (same as east pivot, south half)
- P14270V
- P15517V

These selections will allow for comparisons across sprinkler, mobile drip, and SDI systems. The remaining consideration is whether to use the same hybrid on both circles to effectively compare Upterra versus non-Upterra treatments.

Outreach Activities

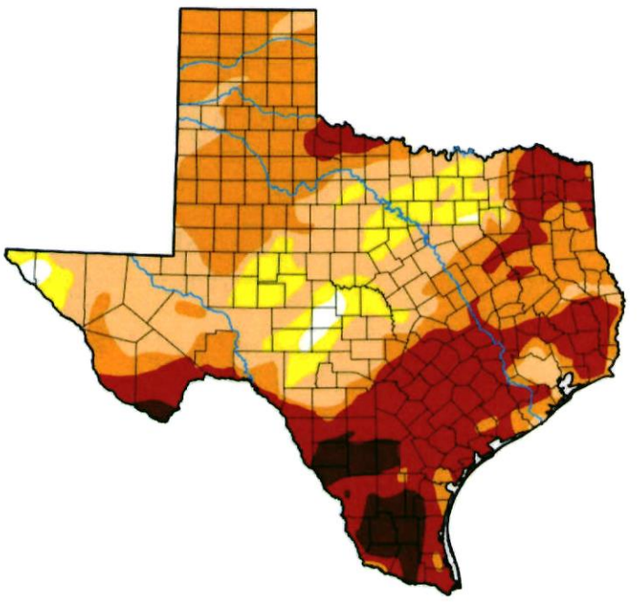
Over the past month, Paige and Baylee have been busy preparing for the annual 4th Grade Water Festival, scheduled for the first week of May. Their work has included coordinating with schools to confirm attendance and T-shirt details, finalizing locations, gathering food cost estimates, preparing activities, and designing student giveaways. This year's event has received sponsorship support of $1,500 from Valero and $500 from Brett Stegall.
Curtis has also been working with Dusty and David to prepare the WCC for the upcoming season. Since the last board meeting, $29,800.57 has been distributed through the Master Irrigator cost-share program, with inspections still ongoing.

Upcoming Outreach Events

Outreach staff will be attending these upcoming events:

- April 15th -16th - I|E TAGD Committee Training
- May 4th – Water Festival Perryton
- May 5th – Water Festival Dumas
- May 6th – Water Festival Dumas
- May 7th – Water Festival Dalhart

Drought Map



Map released: Thurs. April 2, 2026

Data valid: March 31, 2026 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Richard Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Action Agenda 3.e. - Receive report regarding field inspection services completed in February 2026.

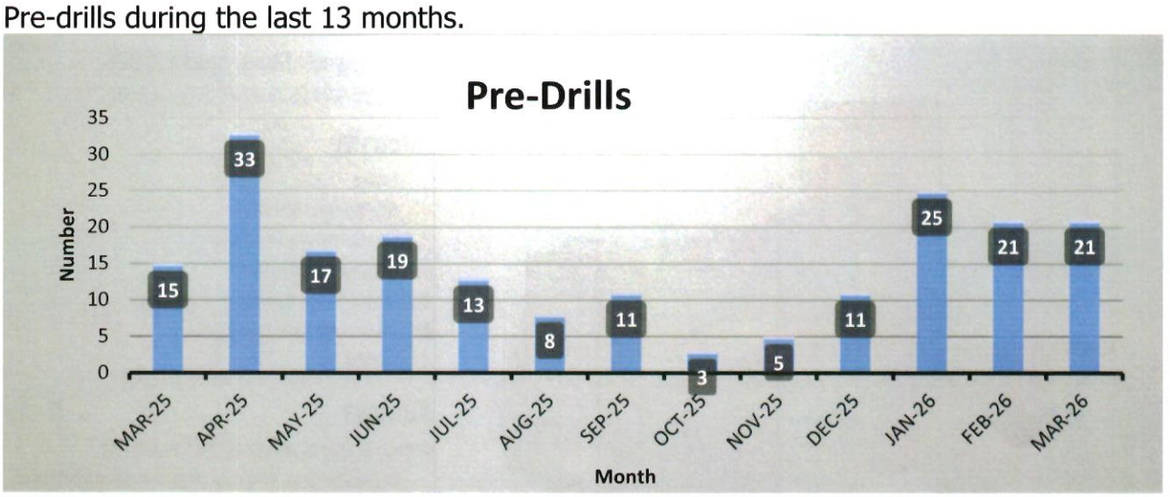
Odell Ward presented the following information to the board regarding field inspections completed in March 2026.

Field Team County Assignments
Braden Cadenhead- MO, LI
Angel Quiroz- HA, OC
Jacob Fernandez- DA, HN
Tackle Guile- SH, HU

Well, inspections by type were completed in March 2026.

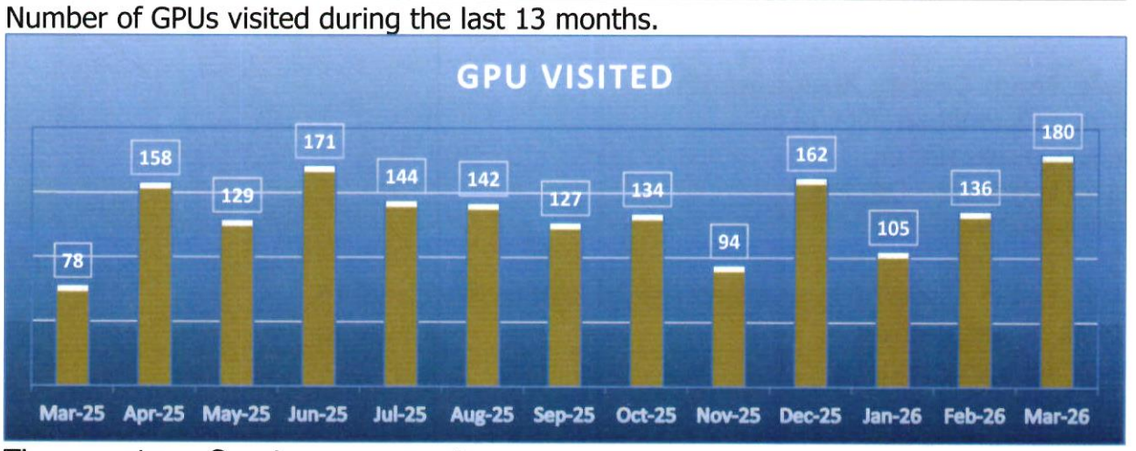
Type of Inspection	**Number**
Pre-Drill Inspection	21
Post Drill Inspection	3
General Well Inspections	956
Winter Water Level Measurements	0
Total Wells Inspected	980

Pre-drills during the last 13 months.

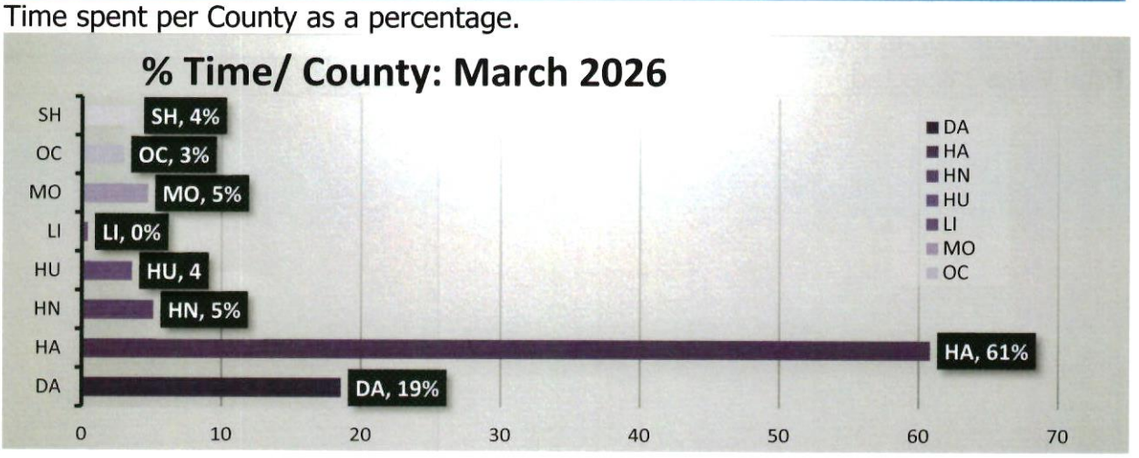


Well inspections the last 13 months.

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 (gal)	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
Feb-26	12,958	938	2,263	0.41
Mar-26	11,780	775	2,272	0.34

The report was for informational purposes; therefore, no motion was considered.

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

Kristen Blackwell presented the board with the following information regarding the status of the annual 2025 production reporting.

2025 Reports	2941
Received via email, mail or in person	654
Received via online portal	2287
Reports not yet filed	0
Reports filed late	44

The board was presented with the list of producers who had reported after the March 1 deadline as well as draft copies of the late filer letter and settlement agreement. There have been no changes made to the documents from the previous year. The letter and settlement agreement offer $50 per day per GPU up to $500. Additionally, if they accept the settlement agreement within 30 days of the date of the letter, they can file 2026 production by January 15, 2027, and be refunded the settlement funds.

Harold Grall moved to approve the late filer and settlement agreement as presented.

Mark Howard seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.g. - Receive report regarding application for financial assistance made by the District and any updates on any funding available to qualifying producers.

Janet Guthrie reported the district has received grant funds from various sources including The Texas Water Development Board, United States Geological Survey, and the Natural Resource Conservation Services.

The primary source of grant revenue has been the Agriculture Water Conservation Fund funded by the Texas Water Development Board. The district has been receiving grants since 2004. To date, the district has received a total of $3,981,859 in ag conservation grants. $960,496 for the Master Irrigator program, $2,785,550 for meter cost share and $235,813 for education and demonstration projects.

The current contracts/grants with TWDB are:

Contract #	Program	TWDB Cost Share	Paid to Date	Available Bal.	Outstanding/Asssigned Payments
2413582894	Meters	$200,000	$75,160.58	$124,839.42	$12,458.48
2013582449	MI	$250,000	$160,024.85	$60,174.58	$60,000.00
2103582576	MI	$250,000	0.00	250,000.00	$245,250
2513582949	MI	$160,496	0.00	160,496.00	$160,496

These funds will be paid out to eligible recipients during the 2026 and 2027 fiscal years.

If all graduates of the 2026 MI class were to submit applications for the full match of $10,000 each, we will be short $9,504.00.

The Master Irrigator Consortium Subcontract with Texas A&M is in the amount of $400,000 and the project is matching funds for the Master Irrigator matching funds. The final details of the timing and availability of the funds have not been clearly established at this time, however conversations are going forward.

The District has applied for the following grants with The Texas Water Development Board

TWDB Fund	Program	Total Project	TWDB Share	Application Date
GCD Science Grant	Aquifer Research	$218,051	$158,051	March 13, 2026
Ag Conservation Fund	Master Irrigator and Education	$515.000	$265,000	March 18, 2026

The report was for informational purposes; therefore, no motion was considered.

Action Agenda 3.h.* - *Receive report and consider action regarding the meter reimbursement program.

Janet Guthrie reported the district has one contract (#2894) with the Texas Water Development Board designated for the purpose of providing reimbursement funds for meters. The TWDB share of the contract is in the amount of $200,000. The project completion date is December 15, 2027.

Contract Number	TWDB Share	Budget FY 25-26	Paid to Date FY 25-26	Outstanding
2413582894	$200,000	$70,000	$68,917.05	$12,458.48

Our annual budget for FY 25-26 is $70,000. With $12,458.48 outstanding applications, we will need an additional $20,000 to finish out this fiscal year. That will leave us with $104,839.42 for fiscal year 2026-2027 under this contract which is a sufficient amount for FY 26-27.

Janet informed the board their other option is to pause the program until the new fiscal year.

Harold Grall moved the board authorize the continuation of the meter reimbursement

program through September 30, 2026, with a maximum budget of $90,000.

Clinton Born seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.i. - ***Consider General Manager's request to amend the 2025-2026 budget.***

- *Please note there was a typo in the April 2026 board packet in the current budget amount and proposed budget amount that is corrected in red below. This created no change in the increase/decrease amount, no change in the total overall 2025-2026 budget and no change in the motion.*

Budget Item Description	Current Budget Amount	Increase or (Decrease)	Proposed Budget Amount	Explanation
8006 Conservation Outreach TWDB Meter Grant	$70,000	$20,000	$90,000	Increase line item to cover outstanding reimbursements
6001 – Per Diem	$35,000	(5,000)	$30,000	Decrease to cover Meter Reimbursements
6002 – Mtgs Conf & Travel	~~$31,500~~ $31,600	(8,000)	~~$23,500~~ $23,600	Decrease to cover Meter Reimbursements
6603 – Conf. Mtgs & Travel	$45,000	(7,000)	$38,000	Decrease to cover Meter Reimbursements
Total overall 2025-2026 budget change	$181,500 $181,600	0.00	$181,500 $181,600	

Harold Grall moved to amend the 2025-2026 budget as follows:

- Decrease - 6001 $5,000; 6002 $8,000 and 6603 $7,000
- Increase - 8006 $20,000

Allan Frerich seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.j. - ***Receive report and consider action regarding compliance and contested matters before the District including but not limited to Chuck Schoonover, Dean Cooke and Greg Slough.***

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

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
Chuck Schoonover	DA-0436 GPU 6433 – pipe diversion bypassing meter	Property was sold to Scott Ball. His manager Kevin Visser assured the district the issue will be corrected.
Chuck Schoonover	GPU 6433 – DA-0435 Flow meter not functioning on operating well. Reading does not change	Property was sold to Scott Ball. His manager Kevin Visser assured the district the issue will be corrected.
Dean Cooke (TCW Supply, Inc.)	GPU 9644 – HU-0609 Flow meter not functioning on operating well. Check valve and LPD buried	Staff are working with Phillips 66 to ascertain who owns the water rights. Staff will report on this at the June meeting.

April 2026 Compliance for Board Consideration

The report was for informational purposes; therefore, no motion was considered.

Action Agenda 3.k. - 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 11:04 a.m. until 11:14 a.m.

Action Agenda 3.j. - Closed Session.

Executive Session - Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.
At 11:15 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 April 14, 2026, commencing at 11:15 a.m. At 11:26 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 closed session constitutes a criminal violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act. This concludes the closed session of the Board of Directors at 11:26 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 April 14, 2026, at 11:26 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.

The board requested management post the May 4, 2026 hearing as a quorum of the board may be present.

No action was taken.

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 June meeting of the board was confirmed for June 16, 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