



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
August 13, 2015**

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 13th, 2015, at the Upper Niobrara White NRD Office in Chadron, NE. An agenda for this meeting to be considered at such date, time and place was kept continually current and was available in the NRD office. Seven days prior to the meeting, the agenda was mailed to each member of the Board of Directors and other interested and affected persons. Notice of the meeting was given to the public by publishing a legal notice on the UNWNRD website and The Chadron Record on August 5th, 2015.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Richard Zochol pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was displayed at the entrance of the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Zochol called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	David Carlson
Dave Kadlecek	Rich Zochol
Mike Strasburger	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Allen Rasmussen
Kevin Oligmueller	Steve Sandberg

Absent: John Burke

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manger	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coordinator	Kylen Weingart, NRD Office Manager
Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist	Mary Sackinger, Watershed Projects Coord.
Doak Nickerson, NFS District Forester	Fred McCartney, NFS District Forester
Glenda Cushing, NRCS Secretary	Andy Curd

Emergency Agenda Additions

None.

NRCS Robin Foulk

Robin discussed the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), noting some of the work that had been completed with the 20 applications they have received so far.

Robin also mentioned the application for funding for the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative that she has been working on with Pat.

There will be a soil investigation/soil moisture demonstration at Jim Irwin's farm that will be open to the public on August 18th-20th. The Range Day is scheduled for August 27th from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Box Butte County.

The Director's asked for an update on the EQIP planting that was improperly flagged/installed. The meeting scheduled to discuss the issue was postponed so Robin did not have any new information to give the Board.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred discussed the Forestry Field Day that is coming up on August 20th. Fred noted some of the speakers and demonstrations that will be at the field day and distributed the final agenda/flyer.

Fred also noted that the wood chipping at SWANN had finally started and the mulch product was available to SWANN customers.

NRD Service Awards

Glenda Cushing, the Rushville NRCS Secretary, has been employed by the district for 40 years. Director Steve Sandberg has been a member of the UNWNRD Board of Directors for 25 years. Both were presented plaques in recognition of their years of service.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- There will be two Natural Resources Committee hearings on the interim studies being conducted in North Platte on September 21st for LR323 to examine the N-CORPE Project, and in Sidney on September 22nd to discuss LR154 and LR 247 which relate to the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. On September 23rd the committee will be in Valentine to discuss Niobrara Scenic River Boundary Issues.
- There is also a Meet and Greet on September 22nd in Lincoln with the new Department of Natural Resources Director Jeff Fassett.
- The NRD Manager's Retreat will be held August 24th-26th hosted by the UNWNRD.
- Katy Kuhnel of RMBO has taken a job at Chadron State College. RMBO will plan to fill her position and retain the office rental from the NRD.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn provided the Directors with a brief update on the Hazard Mitigation for Region 23 as well as the Resolution pertaining to it.
- Lynn and Haley have been working to correct some well issues within the district that will be discussed further in the Water Committee report.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The conservation awards will be given out at the Forestry Field Day on August 20th.
- The next Boy Scout tree planting will be on October 10th in Chadron State Park.

**Office Manager
Kylan Weingart**

Kylan gave a verbal report on the following:

- The UNWNRD still has about \$40,000 in outstanding invoices. \$35,000 is still owed from FSA for CRP Assignments of Payment.
- The District is working to accept credit cards for the coming year.
- Kylan also passed around a sign-up sheet for the Directors to fill in for Fall Conference hotel reservations and tours.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley was not present at the meeting but provided a written report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig was not present at the meeting but provided a written report.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin was not present at the meeting but provided a written report.

**Watershed Projects Coordinator
Mary Sackinger**

Mary added the following to her written report:

- Mary gave a brief introduction of herself and her work history.
- The 319 Contract has been approved. Mary discussed some of her work on the Watershed Management Plan.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- The Board discussed the voting delegates for the upcoming Annual Conference. Director Berndt Volunteered to be the alternate to Director Dorshorst as the voting delegate.

Tod Dorshorst moved to appoint himself as the Voting Delegate for Annual Conference and Scott Berndt as the alternate voting delegate, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

- Director Dorshorst also discussed the NET video investment stating that it will cost each District \$3,710, instead of the \$3,900 originally quoted.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The final Hearing for the Water Sustainability Fund Rules and Regulations will be held on September 1st. Director Kadlecek and Lynn will plan to attend.

- Pat discussed the Federal Mandates that may affect some of the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the Water Sustainability Fund.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported on the following:

- Director Carlson and Pat discussed the agreement between the NRBA and NPPD regarding the Niobrara River.
- The National Park Service would like to buy Rocky Ford; the NRBA is opposed to this. The Directors discussed this further.
- There will be a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission meeting that Director Carlson would like Pat to attend to ensure the full story is being relayed to the Commission.

Dave Carlson moved to allow Pat to attend the NGPC meeting, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

**Water Committee Report
Tod Dorshorst**

Lynn discussed a late well permit for a new well for Rolling Meadows Ranch and the efforts being made to make sure the compliance issues are taken care of. Rolling Meadows Ranch was permitted to replace an irrigation well in Sheridan County. There were multiple contractors involved in the project and in the end, the replacement well was drilled but the “old” well was not decommissioned or converted to a livestock well within 180 days; making the “new” well illegal and unable to be registered. The new well permit, if approved, would be approved with the requirement that the old well would be decommissioned.

Mike Strasburger moved to approve the late well permit for Rolling Meadows Ranch, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

**Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek Reported on the following:

- A new copy of the Long Range Management Plan has been given to the Directors to review for the next meeting.
- Lynn discussed the proposed NSWCP allocations for each practice. There were a few application submitted for Rangeland Seeding so some of the funding need to be allocated from this year’s allocation in order to cover these applications that fall in the NC-Other category.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the proposed NSWCP allocation, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

- Lynn discussed the Hazard Mitigation Resolution.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Hazard Mitigation Resolution, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

**Budget Committee
Steve Sandberg**

Director Sandberg reported on the following:

- The Directors discussed the budget and levy. Pat is still waiting for half of the county property valuation to come in, in order to set the levy.

Steve Sandberg moved to send the budget and levy to Hearing on September 10th at the next Board Meeting, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

Old or New Business

Director Dorshorst suggested that we have the Christmas Party at the Legion in Hay Springs this year. He will check into cost.

Director Fisher noted that there will be Federal Meeting for the Nuclear Regulatory Committee at the Crow Butte Uranium Mine.

Lynn was asked for an update on the water impoundment issue discussed at the last meeting. Lynn did not have any new information on the issue.

Governor Ricketts will be at the Bean Broker on August 13th at 12:30. Pat and Lynn plan to attend.

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse John Burke from the meeting, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

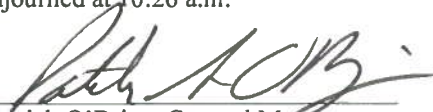
Kevin Oligmueller moved to enter executive session at 10:10a.m., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

Kevin Oligmueller moved to exit executive session at 10:25 a.m., Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.


Rich Zochol, Chairman of the Board


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 9-10-15