



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
April 14, 2016

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at the Upper Niobrara White NRD Office, 430 East 2nd Street, 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 and Alliance Times Herald on April 6, 2016.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman John Burke pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Burke called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Absent: Dave Carlson

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager	Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager
Craig Eddie, NRD Resources Coordinator	Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coord.	Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist
Fred McCartney, NFS	Seth Peterson, NFS
Erin Divine, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	Shelley Steffl, NGPC
Andy Curd	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Dawna Casselman retired from her position at NRCS effective March 31st, 2016. Robin discussed some of the other position changes that have taken place at the NRCS within the Panhandle.

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Robin also discussed LiDar, the newest surveying technology that uses light detection and ranging to accurately map out areas without the need to go into the field.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Seth Peterson**

Seth discussed the Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy that he organized April 2nd -11th at Fort Robinson State Park. There were about 150 people in attendance which helped to bring in business to a lot of the local businesses in Crawford.

**Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Erin Divine**

Erin has taken Katy Kuhnel's position and is working as a Coordinating Wildlife Biologist. Erin gave a brief introduction of herself and the projects she has been working on with Shelley Steffl of NGPC.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- LB 1038 passed pending the Governor's signature and will take effect 90 days after being signed.
- Pat provided information on other legislative issues including interim studies that were introduced. The 2016 Legislative session will be ending on April 20th.
- The NET video on the Nebraska NRD system will be shown after the meeting.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- UNWNRD is awaiting bids from drilling companies in the area for new monitoring wells.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added to following to her written report:

- NARD is looking for award nominations in several conservation categories. If there are any suggestions please direct them to Sheri.

**Office Manager
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene provided a verbal report on the following:

- UNWNRD received a large payment from Box Butte County FSA on an Assignment of Payment from 2015 that has been outstanding for almost a year.
- There were some collection letters sent to other outstanding accounts and a few of them have been paid as well.
- Craig and Kylene have a new system for tree order pick up that will hopefully alleviate some of the work to collect on outstanding balances after the fact.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley had nothing to add to her written report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- Currently 90,000 trees are sold.
- Hand Plant Days are scheduled for April 20th in Rushville, 21st in Alliance, and 22nd in Chadron.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Static Water Level reports have been completed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst had nothing to report.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported the Commission will be meeting on April 19th to review and take action on the Water Sustainability fund applications.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson was absent from the meeting and had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn discussed the results of the 2016 spring Static Water Level reports for each sub area.
- Lynn discussed the transfer request for Jim Jelinek: As indicated in the application, Jim Jelinek is proposing to modify field boundaries for a pivot in the SE ¼ of 34-25-48. The highway expansion project is extending west where the current pivot is located. The pivot will be moved approximately 1285 feet to the west. There will be no change in irrigated acres.

Rich Zochol moved to approve the transfer request for Jim Jelinek, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

- Transfer of certified acres impacted by a public project: The UNWNRD will work with the landowner and others as needed to determine the amount of certified acres impacted and determine if there is an opportunity to modify or transfer acres, to the landowner(s), within the District's rules and regulations. The UNWNRD will bank any acres that have not been transferred and allow the landowner to maintain the original certified acres and, if allocated, the allocation for the remainder of the current allocation period. The landowner shall have to the end of the allocation period in which the public project impacted the acres to work with the District to determine if there is an option under existing rules to modify or transfer the acres to the landowner(s). If it is determined that there is not an option to complete a transfer, then the

acres will remain in the District's bank for potential future offsets levied against the district. The landowners certified acres will be reduced by the amount of acres impacted and if allocated, the allocation will be adjusted accordingly. Land acquired by acquisition will not be allowed to be transferred to anyone else but the same landowner.

Rich Zochol moved to adopt the new policy pertaining to the transfer of irrigated acres impacted by a public project, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

- Director Zochol discussed options for how the UNWNRD modeling efforts will be used in the future and what the goals and objectives should be. The Directors discussed this topic further and indicated the Citizen's Advisory Committee would be reconvened and utilized to gather additional information on the needs and desires of the constituents.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The OPP Committee met to discuss the Upper Big Blue NRD's request for cost share through NSWCP on variable rate irrigation systems. The Directors discussed the cost of the systems as well as the need for cost share on them. UBBNRD requested a letter of support to add this to the NSWCP list of Eligible Nebraska Conservation Practices and docket but each NRD would then get to decide whether or not to cost share on this practice and how much to allocate for it, if they chose to do so.

Dave Kadlecek moved to send a letter of support to the Natural Resources Commission to add variable rate irrigation systems to the NSWCP list of Eligible Nebraska Conservation Practices and docket, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

Rich Zochol moved to excuse Dave Carlson from the meeting, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

Public Comment

Shelley Steffl of NGPC handed out a flyer on the Open Fields and Waters Program for wheat stubble. She noted that wheat stubble left at least 14 inches tall after harvest and allowing walk-in hunting access could earn the land owner up to \$3.00 per acre.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 5/12/16

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