



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
April 12, 2012

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, April 12, 2012, at the UNWNRD 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 all UNWNRD NRCS field offices and 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 in the Chadron Record and Alliance Times-Herald on Wednesday, April 4, 2012.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Lees pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that is displayed on the wall.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman, Jim Lees, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Dale Anderson
Dale Berdnt
John Burke
Tod Dorshorst
Jim Irwin
Dave Kadlecek

Jim Lees
Curt Roth
Rich Zochol
Absent:
Steve Sandberg
Larry Teahon

Others present:

Lyndon Vogt, NRD General Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Resources Technician
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Technician
Fred McCartney, NFS
Lindsey Phillips, NDEQ
Cash Ostrander

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Shar Sapp, NRD Resources Manager
Katie Harris, NRD Administrative Assistant
Ann Cotton, NRD/NRCS Secretary
Doak Nickerson, NFS
Shelley Steffl, NGPC
Michael Van Buskirk

Cash Ostrander and Michael Van Buskirk were present at the meeting and introduced themselves.

Emergency Agenda Additions

The Cowboy Trail was added under New Business.

NRCS Robin Foulk

Robin was absent from the meeting. Ann Cotton attended the meeting and handed out Robin's written report. Ann added the following:

- Ann discussed PRIDE's 2011 National Forest System Invasive Species Program Award.

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**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak informed everyone that tick season is here and growing season is about two weeks ahead of schedule. He handed out a map on the Monroe Canyon Thinning Projects. Doak is predicting a very large fire year.

**General Manager's Report
Lyndon Vogt**

Lyndon added the following to his written report:

- The Legislative Session has been extended for five days. Lyndon included the latest Legislative report in the board packets.
- The Panhandle No-Till Partnership had a very successful winter no-till conference. They ended up with a net income of \$10,000 from the conference. The Partnership mailed out cd's with the conference material on it to all who attended.
- NWRA is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director to replace Demaris Johnson.
- We installed some fabric last year that is breaking down faster than it should. We initially thought it was about 50 rolls and now it appears to be closer to 400 rolls. The owner of the factory in Korea where this fabric was made will be here next week to discuss our options and to view installation sites.
- The Department of Agriculture has approached the NRD's about a statewide Weed Management Coordinator.
- On April 26, Lyndon will attend Northwest Rural Public Power District's board meeting. They have invited Lyndon to discuss why UNWNRD is not a part of the Nebraska Water Balance Alliance.
- NPPD has applied for another surface water appropriation on the Niobrara River for the Spencer Dam for 425 cfs. Middle Niobrara NRD and Lower Niobrara NRD have both filed objections to this request.
- On April 11, DNR is having a conference call with Wyoming on the compact on the Niobrara River. Lyndon and Lynn are going to sit in on that call.
- Lyndon has been reappointed to the Stop-Loss committee for the NRD's insurance.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn handed out and discussed the static water levels.

**Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The 3rd Annual Adventure Camp about the Environment for 6th, 7th and 8th graders is June 17-20 at Halsey. UNWNRD will pay half of the registration for any campers within our District.
- Sheri played a statewide radio ad promoting the NRD's.
- The Conservation Festival will be April 24 at the Assumption Arena in Chadron.
- The state Envirothon will be May 5 at Halsey.

**Resources Manager
Shar Sapp**

Shar added the following to her written report:

- Travis and Haley will pick up the rest of our trees at Bessey Nursery on April 14.
- Handplant days are April 18 in Rushville, April 19 in Alliance and April 20 in Chadron.

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**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley had nothing to add to her written report.

**Resources Technician
Travis Nitsch**

Travis had nothing to add to his written report.

Approval of Consent Agenda

John Burke moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Dale Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Larry Teahon.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources District
Curtis Roth**

If you plan to go on the NARD basin tour on June 11-12, 2012, with the Papio-Missouri River NRD and Lower Platte South NRD, you need to register with Jeanne by May 7.

**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dave Kadlec**

The next meeting is June 19-20, 2012 in Grand Island.

The DNR Commission had a special meeting last week regarding the Lake Wanahoo project. The project was going to sell backfill. The Commission has to approve any sales the NRD makes with the project.

Groundwater Management Act Coalition

There was nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Curt Roth**

The Water Committee met prior to the board meeting.

- Mark Vaughn, Modification of Irrigated Acres: Mark Vaughn is proposing a modification of irrigated acres and a transfer of use from well G-002751 to well G-061765. He would like to convert his current full pivot to a half pivot and his current half pivot to a full pivot. He will modify which acres are not irrigated. There will be no change in irrigated acres or additional increases in consumptive use. Curt Roth moved to approve Mark Vaughn's modification of irrigated acres; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg and Larry Teahon.
- Steve Heiting, Modification of Irrigated Acres: Steve Heiting has been approved to install sub-surface drip through the EQIP program, on currently gravity irrigated ground. Steve would like to 'square up' the fields to ease the installation process and take advantage of the majority of his irrigated acres under the drip system. To do this, he will need to add 2.5 acres to the sub-surface drip field and dry up 2.5 acres currently being irrigated. John Burke moved to approve Steve Heiting's modification of irrigated acres; Jim Irwin seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg and Larry Teahon.

- Wayne Peters, Transfer of Allocation: Wayne Peters would like to transfer 1,648.65 acre inches of his ground water allocation for Mirage Flats Irrigation District Unit 98 in Section 9-29-45 to Section 11-29-45. There will be no change in irrigated acres or additional increases in consumptive use. John Burke moved to approve Wayne Peters' transfer of allocation; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg and Larry Teahon.
- Alvern Letcher, Transfer of Irrigation Use: Alvern Letcher and Wayne Peters are installing a pivot on Mirage Flats Irrigation District units 98 and 111 to improve irrigation efficiency. In doing so, they are requesting to transfer partial water use from well G-073024, the part that would go with the 87.7 acres in unit 111, to well G-021566 which supplies water to 92 acres in unit 98 and “tie” the two units together. The underground between well G-012566 and Peters' units 108 and 110 will be disconnected by cutting out a section of the pipe prior to it going underground from the well and welding a cap on the pipe. Units 98 and 111 will be irrigated with surface water and from ground water from well G-012566. In the end there will be three separate unites instead of two. All units will have availability of surface water and each “unit” could be irrigated by a well as follows: Letcher's units 92A and 93 will be irrigated by well G-073024; Peters' units 108 and 110 will be irrigated by well G-021561; and combined units 98 and 111 will be irrigated by well G-012566. Tod Dorshorst moved to approve Alvern Letcher's transfer of irrigation use; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg and Larry Teahon.
- Darby Jespersen, Late Well Permit: Darby Jespersen decommissioned late due to a growing crop that was in place and was not accessible without harming the growing crop. The well has since been decommissioned on May 5, 2011. John Burke moved to approve Darby Jespersen's late well permit; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg and Larry Teahon.

National Forest Service

The Upper Niobrara White NRD successfully received a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, More Kids in the Woods program, “Get Outdoors with Conservation, Climate & Careers!” The grant is for \$49,500 to support immersion outdoor education opportunities for 3,260 students enrolled in K-12 Gordon/Rushville, Alliance and Chadron public schools. Jim Irwin moved to accept the More Kids in the Woods grant; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (3) absent – Curt Roth, Steve Sandberg and Larry Teahon.

Conservation Awards

Shelley Steffl with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission submitted a Conservation Award for Jean Parker for Wildlife Habitat. Dave Kadlecek moved to approve Jean Parker's Conservation Award; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (6) ayes, (1) nay – Dale Berndt, (2) abstain – Dale Anderson and Curt Roth, and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg and Larry Teahon.

Old or New Business

Kris Ferguson sent letters to the full board requesting support to maintain the Cowboy Trail West. They have money to build the rest of the trail but they would need money for maintenance to complete the project. The board decided to table this item.

Excused Absences

Dave Kadlecek moved to excuse Steve Sandberg and Larry Teahon; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (1) nay – Tod Dorshorst and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg and Larry Teahon.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Date Signed _____