



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
August 8, 2013**

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, 8 2013, 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 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, July 31, 2013.

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:

Scott Berndt 9:03 a.m.
Larry Teahon
Tod Dorshorst
Jim Irwin
Dave Kadlecek
Jim Lees

Curt Roth
Steve Sandberg
Dave Carlson
Rich Zochol
Absent:
John Burke

Others present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manger
Kody Schwager, NRD Resources Technician
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Coordinator
Jessyca Hovendick, NRD Summer Technician
Don Grein
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager
Rachael Downs, NRD Office Manager
Shar Sapp, NDEQ
J.J. Hiliker, Sophomore at Gordon High School

Emergency Agenda Additions

Hearing none, Chairman Lees continued with the meeting.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin handed out and discussed her written report and added that haying or grazing is now allowed in CP23 and CP25.

**Range Camp Scholarship Recipient
J.J. Hiliker**

J.J. passed out a thank you letter from himself, Wade Bergman and Matthew Colwell. It included an official thank you with pictures from Nebraska Youth Range Camp.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

No Report

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to the written:

- Upper Elkhorn pursuing with the litigations for the bad fabric.
- The future of Spencer Dam is still undecided. NPPD in the past indicated it would cost more money to decommission the dam than for annual maintenance.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- IMP meeting went well. Still need to follow up with municipalities to have final report done within a month's time.
- DNR is still calibrating the conjunctive use model for the upper Niobrara basin. The Flatwater Group is finalizing the model documentation from their work for the modeling effort.
- The District needs to be thinking of specific questions or scenarios that the District would like to see run through the model.

**Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Staff has been busy with chemigation inspections and water sampling. Sheri's water sample count had increased by 87 samples since she initially wrote her report one week prior.
- Sheri reminded everyone to let friends and family know the NRD does free domestic water sampling.

**Resources Coordinator
Travis Nitsch**

Travis added the following to his written report:

- Speculated many land owners may be waiting to see if trees will come back due to the amount of rain this summer.
- Jim Lees (and Fred McCartney) suggested setting up a fall tour (October/November) of the damaged fire area may be beneficial.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley was not present; however she did include a written report.

**Resources Technician
Kody Schwager**

Kody added the following to his written report:

- Spending time on chemigation inspections and water sampling activities.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources District
Curtis Roth**

Director Roth reported the following:

- Reminder of annual meeting in September. Deadline of attendance is September 6th.
- Curt and Sandi will be attending Sunday and Monday.
- Discussed golf/shooting activities on Sunday.
- Pat suggested a canal tour with Lyndon Vogt on Saturday evening in Gothenburg area.
- Resolution deadline is September 16th.

Curtis Roth moved to be the voting delegate with Tod Dorshorst as an alternate; Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported the following:

- Commented on LB 517 task force elections.
- Task force has a deadline for framework of projects in the middle of December. Dave has 20 or more meetings for the task force between now and the middle of December.
- Recommends scheduling a committee meeting concerning the Alliance meeting October 10 & 11.

Water Committee Report Tod Dorshorst

Tod reported on the following:

- A well went bad on Cullan Farms and will need to be repaired or replaced. To save the beet crop, Cullan Farms proposes a request to be allowed to temporarily transfer water from the adjacent ¼ section with above ground pipe for the remainder of the growing season.
- Proposes consideration of implementing a district wide ‘stair stepping’ allocation.
- Proposes use of citizen’s Advisory Committee again, would like to have a mock up of the ‘stair step’ allocation before meeting with the advisory committee.
- Need to consider resizing subarea 2 due to its larger size in comparison to other subareas.
- Would like to consider helping the Mirage Flats study. Pat and Lynn plan to attend the Mirage Flat meeting on August 13.
- On August 20, Irrigation State Engineer (Jake Robinson) meeting with NRCS at 1:30 to discuss assistance for Mirage Flats. Robin recommended Jake meets with NRD.
- February is the planned time line for the public hearing for water allocations.

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the Cullan Transfer; Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

Operations Committee

Committee reviewed the Long Range Plan and recommended the modified plan for Board Consideration.

Dave Kadlecsek moved to approve the changes to the Long Range Plan; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

NSWCP Allocation

Dave Kadlecsek moved to approve the \$122,000 in allocations for the NSWCP; Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

Old or New Business

Pat recommended to set the Budget Hearing Date for September 12th at 9:30 a.m. during the next scheduled board meeting.

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the September 12th Budget Hearing at 9:30 a.m.; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

Pat pointed out the October, November and December board meetings are scheduled on the same days as 517 meetings. Suggested to reschedule next month’s board meeting date to Tuesday October 15th at 9 a.m.

Rich Zochol moved to schedule future board meeting to October 15th at 9 a.m.; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

Excused Absences

Rich Zochol moved to excuse John Burke; Dave Kadlecsek seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____