



## UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting  
August 23, 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, August 23, 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, August 15, 2012.

### Open Meeting Law Act

Secretary/Treasurer Burke pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that is displayed on the wall.

### Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Secretary/Treasurer, John Burke, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Dale Anderson, 9:35 a.m.  
Dale Berndt  
John Burke  
Tod Dorshorst  
Jim Irwin  
Dave Kadlecek

Jim Lees, 9:07 a.m.  
Curt Roth  
Larry Teahon  
Absent:  
Steve Sandberg  
Rich Zochol

Others present:

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

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager  
Shar Sapp, NRD Resources Manager  
Katie Harris, NRD Administrative Assistant  
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC  
James Gilbert, DNR  
Doak Nickerson, NFS  
Dave Carlson

### Emergency Agenda Additions

Executive Session to discuss Personnel was added after Public Comment.

### NRCS Robin Foulk

Robin asked everyone to please fill out their survey for NRCS and give them to her before they left today. Nebraska NRCS received \$490,000 for EQIP and WHIP for drought aid. Only certain practices are eligible for these funds including re-seeding a field damaged by drought or fire. There are also practices available to help livestock. NRCS had received approximately \$3.5 million in requests and only \$490,000 will be funded with this drought aid fund.

Lyndon added that NRCS will have \$5 million grant dollars available nationwide to help farmers with drought. The deadline for applications is October 15, 2012. If there is interest in sub-surface drip systems and they qualify for drought assistance cost-share we will submit an application to help landowners with cost-share to install the new system.

Chairman Lees entered the meeting at 9:07 a.m. and chaired the meeting from that point forward.

### **DNR – Groundwater Modeling Update**

James Gilbert, Department of Natural Resources, gave a presentation on the progress that has been made with the modeling efforts on the Niobrara River.

### **Nebraska Forest Service Doak Nickerson**

Doak handed out a brochure on the ReTree Nebraska program funded through the Environmental Trust. By 2017, the goal is to have one million trees planted in our communities. Through ReTree Nebraska, communities can be reimbursed for up to 10 trees at a cost of \$150 each.

There is a rebate program available to Chadron residents to plant a tree with a value up to \$100. The residents purchase a tree, plant it and request the rebate from the First National Bank of Chadron.

### **General Manager's Report Lyndon Vogt**

Lyndon added the following to his written report:

- We ordered one container of fabric coming from NYP Corp. early this fall. We are still trying to resolve the bad fabric issue with the South Korean company.

### **Assistant Manager Lynn Webster**

Lynn had nothing to add to his written report.

### **Water Resources Manager Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The chemigation season is coming to a close with UNWNRD staff completing 681 inspections with only 2 re-inspections left. We also collected 955 water samples this year to date.
- We will present Jean Parker with her Conservation Award at our October board meeting.
- Sheri will be attending the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Central Water and Crops field day in North Platte on September 13.
- UNWNRD and many partners are putting on a two-day workshop for the schools in our District. The workshop is to educate the educators on all the natural resource opportunities and careers in the area.

### **Resources Manager Shar Sapp**

Shar thanked everyone for her time working with UNWNRD. She will begin her new job with NDEQ on Monday, August 27.

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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; Jim Irwin seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.

**Agency Reports**

**Nebraska Association of Resources District  
Curtis Roth**

The NARD Committee will meet during the NARD Fall Conference in Kearney on September 24-25.

- Lyndon distributed a resolution on increasing chemigation permit fees. On average, it costs UNWNRD \$45 for each chemigation permit. The NRD's would like to get the program to be self sufficient. Tod Dorshorst moved to introduce the "Increase in Fees Collected for Chemigation Permits" resolution; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.
- John Burke moved to appoint Curt Roth as the NARD voting representative at Fall Conference and to appoint Tod Dorshorst as the NARD voting alternate; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.
- Larry Teahon moved to approve the tree program interlocal agreement with NARD; Jim Irwin seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.
- Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the necessary changes to the 414(h) and 457 retirement plans; Dale Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.

**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources  
Dave Kadlecek**

The Commission will meet on September 25 at the NARD Fall Conference in Kearney.

**Groundwater Management Act Coalition**

There was nothing to report.

**Budget Committee Report**

John Burke moved to adopt the budget as presented and set the Budget Hearing for September 13, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. and to set the Final Tax Request Hearing for September 13, 2012, at 9:40 a.m.; Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.

**Water Committee Report  
Curt Roth**

The Water Committee reported the following:

- Jelinek Transfer: Brian Jelinek irrigates 137 certified acres with irrigation well number G-050427 in SW1/4 13-25-49. On the east half of section 13 there are 268 certified acres irrigated, 134 acres in NE1/4 13-25-49 and 134 acres in SE1/4 13-25-49 with irrigation well number G-031548, which is located in the SE1/4. Brian would like to physically transfer 411 acre inches or approximately 3 inches per acre by over ground pipe from the well in the SW1/4 to the land in the SE1/4. All water use is metered at the pivot point. John Burke moved to approve the Jelinek transfer; Jim Irwin seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.
- Schledewitz Transfer: Roger Schledewitz irrigates 180.2 certified acres with irrigation well number G-062225 in section 11-26-49; currently a 100 acre pivot is irrigated along with 80.2 acres of gravity ground. Roger would like to transfer the 80.2 gravity irrigated acres to the adjacent section to the north (SE1/4 2-26-49). If approved, Roger will install an 80.2 acre pivot and no longer gravity irrigate any land. Roger will continue to use the same well to irrigate all the acres. Tod Dorshorst moved to approve Roger Schledewitz's transfer; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.

**Operations/Personnel/Policy Committee Report  
Dave Kadlecsek**

- Dave Kadlecsek moved to approve the FY2012-2013 Long Range Plan of Operation; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.
- Tod Dorshorst moved to approve raising the price of trees to \$1.00 for each bare root tree and \$2.00 for each potted tree; Dave Kadlecsek seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.
- The City of Chadron would like UNWNRD to cost-share on a pond for storm water runoff. This item was tabled.
- Tod Dorshorst moved to approve paying the Panhandle RC&D Dues at the non-voting member rate of \$150.00; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (1) aye – Curt Roth, (8) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol. Motion failed.
- John Burke moved to not pay the Panhandle RC&D Dues; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.
- To date, we have been unable to sell our old topper from our old sampling pickup. Lyndon is going to check with the other NRD's to see if anyone would like it.

**Old or New Business**

Hearing none, Chairman Lees continued with Excused Absences.

**Excused Absences**

John Burke moved to excuse Steve Sandberg and Rich Zochol; Dale Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.

**Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**Executive Session**

At 10:55 a.m. Dave Kadlecsek moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.

At 11:07 a.m. John Burke moved to come out of Executive Session; Dave Kadlecsek seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Steve Sandberg & Rich Zochol.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

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Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

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Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_