

UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
December 8, 2016

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2016, at the Westside Event Center, 2472 CR 62 Alliance, 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 December 7th and Alliance Times Herald on December 3rd, 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 3:05 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	John Burke
Mike Strasburger	Al Rasmussen
Tod Dorshorst	Dave Carlson
Nancy Fisher	Steve Sandberg
Rich Zochol	Dave Kadlecek

Absent: Kevin Oligmueller

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager
Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.	Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Seth Petersen, NFS	Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist
Kristy Dietrich, Dietrich & Sautter CPA, PC	Gary Fisher

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Audit
Kristy Dietrich

Kristy discussed the FY 15-16 Audit conducted by Dietrich and Sautter CPA, PC. Kristy noted that the audit was clean other than a small issue with the Dawes Country Property Tax Collections. All collections were correct but were reported incorrectly in later reports.

Kristy concluded her report by answering questions from the Directors.

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the FY 2015-2016 Audit as presented by Kristy Dietrich and submit said audit to the State of Nebraska Auditor, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin provided an update on the CRP work that NRCS staff has been busy with. Robin also discussed some of the practices that can help with the CRP ranking procedure in order for approval.

Robin mentioned the Federal hiring practices, noting that hiring is 88% complete in Nebraska.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Seth Peterson**

Seth provided the Directors with an update on the 2016 SEAT plane operations. It was used on 10 fires this year and utilized retardant over 8 miles of fire line. The SEAT plane was used in the North Platte Valley, Pine Ridge and South Dakota.

Seth also discussed the Forest Service's work to create booklets to show sites where fuels reduction projects have been completed as well as Latitude and Longitude maps to help call in fires in the future. This project will be particularly beneficial to volunteer fire departments in the area.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- NDEQ has requested an extension on their office rental in the UNWNRD basement. There were no objections from the Board so Pat will move forward with the extension.
- Pat discussed updating the Office Inventory List as it is out of date. Some items may need to be surplus.
- The Annual Report will be presented at the February Board Meeting.
- Glenda Cushing, the Rushville NRCS Field Office Secretary, will be moving to part time in January. She intends to work Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- Pat and Lynn discussed their meeting with Director Fassett regarding the District's status of fully appropriated and the rules and methodologies used to make the determinations. They will also be meeting with other basin NRD managers and staff to discuss this as well.
- Dan Steinkruger, FSA State Director will be resigning effective January 3, 2017.
- Any Director wishing to go to the National Association of Conservation District annual meeting in Denver should let Pat or Kylene know.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Static Water Levels measurements are complete. Hydrographs will be completed soon.
- Kylie Knigge, the NRD student worker, has been working to synchronize Certified Irrigated Acres with the Assessor's record of Irrigated Acres.
- Lynn also discussed the reporting of water use for road construction on the Heartland Expressway. Two high capacity wells will be used and they will need approximately 10 to 25 acre feet per segment.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri was not present but provided a written report.

**Office Manager
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylen discussed the upcoming Legislating Conference in Lincoln and Expense Reports.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley had nothing to add to her written report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig did not provide a report.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- The Range Day will be January 12th, 2017 at the CSC ballroom. Nevin is working with Sponsors and Speakers to get everything ready.
- There is one test plot left to be sprayed with the MB 906 Soil inoculant. Other spraying efforts have gone well.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Voting Delegates for the 2017 Legislative Conference will need to be selected. Director Dorshorst volunteered to be the UNWNRD representative, and Director Berndt volunteered to be the Alternant.

Dave Carlson moved to appoint Tod Dorshorst as the NARD Legislative Conference voting delegate and Scott Berndt as the Alternant, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) anys. Absent: KO.

- Pat discussed the NARD Washington DC meeting in March. He encouraged the Directors to attend.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The next meeting will be December 12th. They will then review the applications for the Water Sustainability Fund.
- The Caucus for new NRC representatives will be January 9th at the Middle Niobrara NRD office. We will need at least two directors to attend.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- The water committee is currently discussing the requests from the Citizens Advisory Committee regarding water modeling efforts. There were several requests made and the Board will need to decide which modeling scenarios are most beneficial to run and which ones the District can financially afford to conduct.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the request for funding from Keep Chadron Beautiful. There was some discussion between the Directors as to whether or not this was an organization they wanted to fund. Pat recommended a donation of \$250 and that KCB comes to the office to help collect recyclable material a few times per month as well as taking the large quantity of paper that was recently shredded.

Al Rasmussen moved to approve the donation of \$250 to Keep Chadron Beautiful, Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll Call: (6) ayes, (4) nays; Nancy Fisher, Steve Sandberg, Mike Strasburger, Tod Dorshorst. Absent: KO. Motion Carries.

Old or New Business

None.

Excused Absences

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

Public Comment

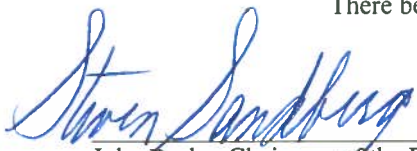
None

Executive Session

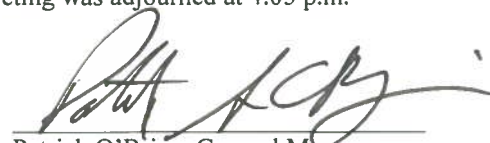
None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.


John Burke, Chairman of the Board

Vice Chairman


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 1-19-17