



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
December 12, 2013**

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday December 12, 2013, at the Old West Trail Rodeo Building in Crawford, 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, December 4, 2013.

Open Meeting Law Act

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

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Lees called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Scott Berndt
John Burke
Larry Teahon
Curtis Roth
Rich Zochol

Jim Lees
Dave Carlson
Tod Dorshorst
Steve Sandberg
Dave Kadlecek

Others present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manger
Kody Schwager, NRD Resources Technician
Haley Anders, NRD Resources Technician
Jessyca Hovendick, NRD Resource Technician
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Coordinator
Jim Irwin, Retired Board Member
Kristy Dietrich, CPA Dietrich & Sautter

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager
Rachael Downs, NRD Office Manager
Dixie Lees
Mike Doherty, Fire Specialist NFS
Fred McCartney, NFS
Laura Hamilton

Emergency Agenda Additions

Pat requested to add the January board meeting and Panhandle No-Till Scholarship to Old or New Business.

NRCS
Robin Foulk

The NRCS office has been busy ranking new 2014 EQIP applications. Currently there are 96 applications to review by December 20th. Because of the October shutdown they are continuing to working on making payments on deferred grazing due to the fires last year as well as working on conservation stewardship contracts.

Robin announced that Ann Cotton, who served as the NRCS secretary, will be leaving the NRD sometime in May.

Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney and Michael Doherty

Fred shared that the small boiler at Chadron State College is being repaired and hope to have it operating by the first of the year. The burn sites are currently being worked on with an onsite wood chipper.

Michael Doherty introduced himself as the new fire specialist. He has seven years experience as an engine captain. In his current position he will be managing the single engine air tanker (SEAT) used for fire needs as well as the facilities connected with the aircraft (water/retardant tanks). Michael will be working out of the NRD office.

The Board requested a tour of the aircraft facility to gain a better understanding of how the water is transported and how the retardant is mixed.

Audit Report FY 2012-2013
Kristy Dietrich

Kristy presented the completed 2012-2013 audit and explained that she found a clean audit, with no problems.

Following questions and discussion, Dave Kadlecsek moved to approve the audit report; Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays.

General Manager
Pat O'Brien

Pat added the following to his written report:

- In January the City of Chadron would like to meet with the board about the storm water project.
- The weed barrier complaint was filed in federal court.
- Mileage rates will drop to .56 starting January 1, 2014.

Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn provided a copy of the 2013 Inventory.
- Lynn reminded everyone of the Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting December 18th 7:00 p.m. at Country Kitchen in Chadron.
- Meter readings are almost completed.

**Meter Report
Haley Anders**

Haley's presentation included:

- Meter failure report

**Crop Water Use
Kody Schwager**

Kody's presentation included:

- ET Gages
- Crop Water Use Report

**Tree Program
Travis Nitsch**

Travis' presentation included:

- The 2013 tree program
- The cumulative tree and fabric numbers
- What to expect for the upcoming tree season
- Reforestation Assistance
- WILD Nebraska update

**Office Manager
Rachael Downs**

Rachael reviewed the following information for the 2012-2013 fiscal year:

- The NSWCP program
- The expenses and income for our no-till drill rental
- The well decommissioning fund
- The UNWNRD water cost-share program
- The UNWNRD tree cost-share program
- The CRP Boundary Fence Grant
- Corners for Wildlife
- The UNWNRD Wellness Program

**Chemigation Report
Jessyca Hovendick**

Jessyca's presentation included:

- 2013 Chemigation Program Summary
- The number of well permits that have been issued, along with the number of wells drilled in our district.

Water Use, Ground Water & Integrated Water Management
Lynn Webster

Lynn's presentation included:

- Water use Averages by Sub-area
- Transfers/Modifications/Variations
- Sub-area Static Water Level Overview
- The Groundwater-level changes in Nebraska from Spring 2011 to Spring 2012 and from Predevelopment to Spring 2012

Ground Water Quality
Sheri Daniels

Sheri's Ground Water Quality presentation included:

- Sheri evaluated the information the NRD Water Department has gathered through water sampling in 2013 for both bacteria and nitrate testing.

Information & Education
Sheri Daniels

Sheri's Information and Education presentation included:

- Annual Water Issues Meeting
- Annual Northwest Nebraska Conservation Festival
- Nebraska Envirothon
- Conservation Education
- The NRD sponsored 4 ACE Campers
- Awards
- UNW Board Tour
- No-Till Education
- Participated in the NACD Poster Contest titled, *Where does your Water Shed?*
- NeRAIN

Approval of Consent Agenda

John Burke moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays.

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources District
Curtis Roth

Director Roth reported the following:

- Reservations are in the works for the NARD Legislative conference.

Steve Sandberg moved to nominate Curtis Roth as the voting delegate and Tod Dorshorst the alternate for 2014 NARD Legislative Conference; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays.

Pat noted the Washington DC conference is March 23rd-26th.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
December 12, 2013

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Director Kadlecek went over the executive summary for the task force. He pointed out the recommendations for funding options that will be presented to legislature. Many ideas for funding options involve tax.
- Director Kadlecek would like to see a revolving fund created for water sustainability projects.
- The task force is looking at creating an expanded NRC.
- There are several statutory changes:
 - There will be 13 elected and 14 appointed commission members
 - Elected members will not be elected on a ballot in a general election, but will continue to be appointed as was done in the past

Pat called attention to Director Kadlecek's noteworthy efforts in keeping the commission from separating and his commitment to the task force.

Water Committee Report
Tod Dorshorst

Director Dorshorst had nothing to report.

Operating/Personnel/Policy

The O/P/P committee interviewed Norm Nuss and Kevin Oligmueller. The board recommends Kevin Oligmueller to be appointed as Sub-District 1 Director.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the appointment Kevin Oligmueller as Sub-District 1 Director; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion: (10) ayes, (0) nays.

Walgren Lake currently needs a political entity to deem ownership as well as absorb maintenance responsibilities. Pat recommends legislative research should be done before pursuing taking ownership. Director Sandberg would like to review contracts of other NRD's who have taken ownership of a lake.

Pat would like to do more research and have an Operating/Personnel/Policy meeting before the next board meeting concerning Walgren Lake.

Pat provided a summary of amended policies and procedures for the Upper Niobrara White NRD office. He will go over them fully with the O/P/P committee and approve them at the next board meeting.

Old or New Business

Because of tentative water meetings and the legislative schedule, Pat recommends moving the January board meeting to January 23rd at 2:00 p.m.

Rich Zochol moved to approve rescheduling the January board meeting to January 23rd; John Burke seconded the motion. (10) ayes, (0) nays.

Director Roth would like to utilize the panhandle no-till partnership scholarship funds to cover registration for the no-till conference. Because the funds are already a line item in the budget there was no need for a motion.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed_____