



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
February 14, 2013**

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 14, 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, February 6, 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 2:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Scott Berndt
Dave Carlson
Tod Dorshorst
Jim Irwin
Dave Kadlecek
Jim Lees

Curt Roth
Steve Sandberg
Rich Zochol
Absent:
John Burke

Others present:

Lyndon Vogt, NRD General Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager
Katie Harris, NRD Administrative Assistant
Kody Schwager, NRD Resources Technician
Doak Nickerson, NFS

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Coordinator
Haley Anders, NRD Resources Technician
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Fred McCartney, NFS

Emergency Agenda Additions

Chairman Lees added Executive Session after Public Comment.

NRCS Robin Foulk

Robin showed a video from Nebraska public television and radio on the Conservation Easement Program. Robin also handed out and discussed her written report. The NRCS offices are busy signing landowners up for EQIP. If all contracts are funded, this will likely be their biggest funding year with total dollars at \$1.7 million.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak nominated Dave Kadlec to testify on LB634 that deals with forest fires. This bill seeks \$1.7 million in funding statewide. One key to this bill would be to add a single engine air tanker in Chadron and one in Valentine to fight fires.

**General Manager's Report
Lyndon Vogt**

Lyndon added the following to his written report:

- John Burke will be attending the Central Plains Irrigation Conference and Exposition in Kearney on February 26-27. Please let us know if anyone else would like to attend.
- The National Association of Conservation Districts will hold their Northern Plains Regional Meeting in Chadron on June 12-14, 2013. We will organize that meeting with NARD.
- Our Recharge Committee will have their first meeting in early March.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- We are working on finalizing water use.
- We will have several transfers to review in March.
- Kody and Lynn are going to Kearney on February 25-26 for the NRD technician training and Water Programs Conference.

**Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The Panhandle No-Till Partnership Winter Conference agenda is attached to her report. Please let us know if you would like to be registered. The conference is in Gering on February 20-21.
- Sheri received about 35 surveys from the Water Issues Meeting with many positive comments and suggestions.
- Lynn will be presenting on the drought affect in UNWNRD at the Water Programs Conference in Kearney at the end of February.
- On February 27, UNL Extension and UNWNRD are putting on a Deficit Irrigation Workshop at the Alliance Public Library.
- NARD has added a Natural Resources Hall of Fame award. This award can go to an NRD board member, NRD employee or any other individual outside the NRD system that is involved in conservation.
- We would like the UNWNRD Tree Planter award to be in memory of Charlie Snook.

**Resources Coordinator
Travis Nitsch**

Travis added the following to his written report:

- We have sold about 70,000 trees to date. We hope to sell 100,000 trees this year. We are significantly ahead of SPNRD and NPNRD's tree sales so we are fortunate to have sold this many already with the drought conditions.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley has been finalizing water use.

**Resources Technician
Kody Schwager**

Kody added the following to his written report:

- Kody is helping everyone where needed as he learns the ropes of UNWNRD.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources District
Curtis Roth**

The NARD Board met in Lincoln on January 30. Director Roth reported the following:

- The job description for the vacant position at NARD has been finalized. The insurance will be paid by NARD. The travel expenses will be paid by DNR. NARD will be reimbursed 40% of the total expenses.
- There was a small change in the investment fund. One of the stocks was changed out because of poor performance.
- Lyndon handed out a revised version of LB517.
- Dean Edson was asked by Farm Bureau to write an amendment to LB272 that would give each NRD the authority to set their own chemigation fees to cover their costs.
- Dean is going to suggest a 4% increase in dues for 2013-2014 and another 4% for 2014-2015.

**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dave Kadlec**

The Commission met in Lincoln on January 30. Director Kadlec reported the following:

- Funding for most of the cost-share programs is going on as normal.
- When the Commission funds projects they purchase a property fee title. When the project is complete, if land is no longer needed, it is sold. Those funds go back into the small watershed flood control fund. This fund has grown by about \$300,000-400,000 from recent land sales.
- The RDF will not take any more applications but will fund projects that have already been approved.
- The option to cost-share on pumping plants has been approved by the Commission. Each NRD will have to approve the item in order for their NRD to cost-share on that practice.
- Dave Kadlec was elected as Chairman for the Commission.

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

The Operations/Personnel/Policy Committee met on February 12 to interview the applicants for the director position.

- The OPP Committee interviewed four candidates. Dave Kadlecek moved to appoint Larry Teahon as director in Sub-district 5 for a two year term; Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.
- Our contract with Trees Are Us is up for renewal. Steve Sandberg pointed out a date that needed updated and would like Lyndon to clarify what we pay Trees Are Us to plant the trees and install the fabric. Steve Sandberg moved to approve the contract with Trees are Us for the tree planting years of 2013, 2014 and 2015 with the above amendments; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.
- It was at the recommendation of the board to dispose of the old desks. There was no value.
- Curt Roth moved to waive the Alliance Housing Authority PILOT fees for one year; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

**Water Committee Report
Curt Roth**

The Water Committee did not meet.

Old or New Business

Rich Zochol asked whether the NRD will cost-share on a drip system to water trees. Lyndon discussed that we cost-share on fabric or drip systems but not both. One reason we would only cost-share on one or the other was because they are both costly and the landowners would reach the \$5,000 maximum cost-share quickly with both. Travis may have found some reasonable drip lines. He will look into pricing and let everyone know what he finds.

Excused Absences

Dave Kadlecek moved to excuse John Burke; Curt Roth seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

Executive Session

Dave Kadlecek moved to go into Executive Session at 3:50 p.m. to discuss personnel; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

Rich Zochol moved to come out of Executive Session at 4:05 p.m.; Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – John Burke.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Date Signed _____

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
February 14, 2013