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In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2018, at the Upper Niobrara White NRD office, 430 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street 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 on the UNWNRD website and The Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on January 10, 2018.

**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 2:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

**Others Present:**

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.
Nevin Price, NRD Resource Technician	Doak Nickerson, NFS
Tricia Goes, NRCS Secretary	Bryce Gerlach, WTF
Shelley Steffl, NGPC	Fred McCartney, NFS
Don Grien	

**Emergency Agenda Additions**

Shelley Steffl of Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will provide a report on current NGPC programs in place of the UNL Extension report.

## **Election of Officers**

### **Chairman**

Tod Dorshorst nominated Steve Sandberg for Chairman. No other nominations were made.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Steve Sandberg as Chairman by acclamation, Dave Carlson seconded the motion.*

### **Vice Chairman**

Dave Kadlecek nominated Dave Carlson for Vice Chairman. No other nominations were made.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Dave Carlson as Vice Chairman by acclamation, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion.*

### **Secretary Treasurer**

Dave Kadlecek nominated Nancy Fisher for Secretary/Treasurer. No other nominations were made.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Nancy Fisher as Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion.*

### **NARD Representative**

Dave Kadlecek nominated Tod Dorshorst for NARD Representative. No other nominations were made.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Tod Dorshorst as NARD Representative by acclamation, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion.*

### **NARD Alternant**

Dave Kadlecek nominated Scott Berndt for NARD Alternant. No other nominations were made.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Scott Berndt as NARD Alternant by acclamation, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion.*

### **NRBA Representative**

Dave Kadlecek nominated Dave Carlson for NRBA Representative. No other nominations were made.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Dave Carlson as NRBA Representative by acclamation, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion.*

### **NRBA Alternant**

Dave Kadlecek nominated Kevin Oligmueller for NRBA Alternant. No other nominations were made.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Kevin Oligmueller as NRBA Alternant by acclamation, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion.*

Officers will assume the positions at the February Board Meeting.

**NRCS  
Tricia Goes**

Tricia provided a report on Robin's behalf regarding current CSP and EQIP applications and deadlines.

There will also be a Farming Evolution Conference in Holyoke, Colorado coming up in February.

**Nebraska Forest Service  
Doak Nickerson & Fred McCartney**

Fred discussed NFS's current Grant writing efforts, a thinning project they are working on near East Ash Road, as well as a tree clearing project that will be conducted at Chadron State Park.

**Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
Shelley Steffl**

Shelley discussed the CRP incentive programs currently available with Game and Parks. Producers could receive up to \$40/acre for 5 years for their current CRP acres if public access hunting is made available on those CRP acres.

Shelley also provided an update on the Rocky Mountain Juniper removal project currently taking place on Ken Wellnitz's property. She invited the Directors and anyone interested to visit the project this spring.

**General Manager  
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat provided an update on a lawsuit with LLNRD pertaining to a water quality area in which a cease and desist order was given. The court affirmed the NRD's ability to require reporting and assess penalties when said reporting is not completed.

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn had nothing to add to his written report.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator  
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri had nothing to add to her written report.

**Office Manager  
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylan discussed the Legislative Conference, W-2 Tax Reporting and an NSWCP application correction.

**Water Resources Manager  
Haley Anders**

Haley was not present but provided a written report as well as the draft agenda for the upcoming water issues meeting and the final water use reports.

**Natural Resources Coordinator  
Craig Eddie**

Craig had nothing to add to his written report.

**Resources Technician  
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- The UNWNRD/CSC Range Day was a success, with more than 175 people in attendance throughout the day.
- Nevin and Craig attended a prescribed burn workshop in Alliance on January 17<sup>th</sup> and found the information interesting and helpful.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion.  
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

**Agency Reports**

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts  
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the legislative bills that will be discussed at Legislative Conference. Directors then discussed the positions that should be considered during the caucus.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission**

No report was given.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance  
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report  
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn discussed the well modification request for Double J Farms Inc. Darby proposes to modify wells in Section 5 27 49, all the wells drilled on this property were originally drilled and used as irrigation wells. The following is a description of the status of each well:  
Well G-031603 was drilled in 1969 and has been decommissioned;

Well G-162561 was drilled in 1975 and has been converted/modified to a stock well;

Well G-174930 was drilled in 2009 and has been converted/modified to a stock well;

Well G-042795 was drilled in 2013 and is currently used for as irrigation well.

The proposal is to be allowed to modify/convert the current irrigation well (G-042795) to a stock well or decommission this well and convert the old irrigation well (G-162561), which is

currently registered as a stock well, back to an irrigation well. The current irrigation well casing has shifted to the extent that an irrigation pump cannot be reinstalled. Dustin White, from Dustin White Irrigation, has ran a camera down both these wells and believes the old well can be refurbished by jetting the well to clean the screen and have it be viable as an irrigation well.

*Steve Sandberg moved to approve the modification for Double J Farms Inc. with the stipulation that the current irrigation well be decommissioned, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

- Pat discussed a meeting NRD staff had with Steve Sibray regarding the re-designation of sub-areas in the UNWNRD noting that it could take 20-30 test holes with some being completed as monitoring wells and 3-5 years of time to determine the geological and hydrologically unique areas within the District.
- The use of Airborne Electromagnetic Monitoring (AEM) is another process that NRDs have been using for hydrogeologic evaluations. Information will be requested from other districts who have completed AEM surveys to determine the resources required.

**Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee**  
**Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek had nothing to report.

**Old or New Business**

Nancy Fisher, as newly appointed Treasurer, will need to be added as a signatory for the UNWNRD accounts.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to add Nancy Fisher as a signatory for the UNWNRD accounts, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

**Excused Absences**

None

**Public Comment**


None

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

  
Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board

  
Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 2-8-18