



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
January 20, 2016

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 10 am on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, at the Upper Niobrara White NRD Office, 430 East 2nd 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 Time Herald on January 13th, 2016.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Richard Zochol pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Zochol called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	David Carlson
Dave Kadlecek	Rich Zochol
Mike Strasburger	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Allen Rasmussen
John Burke	Steve Sandberg
Kevin Oligmueller	

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager	Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager
Craig Eddie, NRD Resources Coordinator	Mary Sackinger, NRD Watershed Proj. Coord.
Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician	Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coord.
Fred McCartney, NFS District Forester	Lena Vishni, NDEQ
Seth Peterson, NFS	Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist
Don Grein	Andy Curd

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Election of Officers

Director Sandberg nominated John Burke for Chairman of the Board. No others were nominated.

Nancy Fisher moved to appoint John Burke as Chairman of the Board, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Director Burke chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
January 20, 2016

Director Kadlecek nominated Steve Sandberg for Vice Chairman. No others were nominated.

Dave Kadlecek moved to appoint Steve Sandberg as Vice Chairman, Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Director Sandberg nominated Dave Carlson for Secretary/Treasurer. No others were nominated.

Steve Sandberg moved to appoint Dave Carlson as Secretary/Treasurer, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Director Zochol nominated Tod Dorshorst for NARD Delegate and Scott Berndt for NARD Alternant. No others were nominated.

Rich Zochol moved to appoint Tod Dorshorst as NARD Delegate and Scott Berndt as NARD Alternant, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Director Kadlecek nominated Dave Carlson for NRBA Delegate and Kevin Olligmueller for NRBA Alternant. No others were nominated.

Dave Kadlecek moved to appoint Dave Carlson as NRBA Delegate and Kevin Olligmueller as NRBA Alternant, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin discussed the new Client Gateway database that is being used by NRCS.

Robin also noted that there are 102 EQIP applications currently and NRCS staff is working to get all of these applications ranked in order to be approved.

The soil analysis at Irwin Farms shows high permeability. NRCS will continue to test the soil health in future years.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney & Seth Peterson**

Fred discussed his perception of the public's opinion on pine versus grass in Nebraska forests. The majority of the public surveyed would prefer pine ecosystems over grass. The forest service is working on ways to maintain pine in Nebraska forests.

Seth reported on the Nebraska Wildfire Academy that has been held for ten years now. He discussed some of the classes that are offered, noting that there are local, state and national areas of discussion.

Seth also discussed the response time for the SEAT Plane. The first response time was 40 minutes which was disappointing considering the distance to the fire. Seth has been working to cut down on this response time and believes he has cut the response time in half.

Finally, Seth mentioned the new simulation (SIM) table that the Forest Service will be using to create various fire situations. This tool will assist the Forest Service and responders in predicting the behavior of a fire in certain situations.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat and Lynn discussed flood control issues facing areas of Box Butte County and have met with NRCS to determine if there are feasible projects that may be implemented by NRCS, the UNWNRD or other entities in the future.

- The Nebraska Environmental Trust Board will make the recommendations for funding at the February 4, 2016 meeting. In the past these recommendations most often receive final funding approval.
- Pat also mentioned to the Directors that Committee recommendations should be discussed with Director Burke as the new Chairman.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed the emergency release of treated waste water from Hemingford in 2015, as well as solutions to prevent illegal waste water removal.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added to following to her written report:

- The Panhandle No-Till Conference will be held in Gering on February 23rd and 24th.

**Office Manager
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene provided a verbal report on the following:

- Credit cards are now being accepted at the NRD.
- W-2's will be sent out before the end of the month.
- Kylene also discussed the required tax reporting for Health Insurance pertaining to the Affordable Health Care Act.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report

- The draft 2015 crop water use by each sub-area was distributed.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig had nothing to report.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- The Range Day was a success. Nevin discussed a few areas that people would like to see more information on next year.

**Watershed Projects Coordinator
Mary Sackinger**

Mary was not present at the meeting but provided a written report.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda, Scott Berndt 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 voted on at Legislative Conference. The Directors discussed their position on each Bill.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The next Commission meeting will be held on January 27th.
- Director Kadlecek discussed the applications received for the Water Sustainability Fund.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance Dave Carlson

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

Water Committee Report Tod Dorshorst

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- There is a transfer request for Tim Campbell to shift his pivot from the SE ¼ 10-26-50 to the SW ¼ of the same section. On the east side of the SE ¼ there is a natural drainage that runs through the path of the pivot, in an effort to move irrigation from the drainage and the potential for irrigating better soils without a drainage it is proposed to shift pivot to the SW ¼. Portions of the SE ¼ will be planted to grass for grazing cattle and the irrigated acres decertified there and transferred to the SW ¼. There will be no increase in acres irrigated. The recent purchase of the SW ¼ by Tim has prompted the request. County assessment records will be updated to current certified acre records.

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the variance request for Tim Campbell, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

- The transfer request for Dale Campbell is to shift his pivot from the NE ¼ 09-26-50 to the middle of the E ½ of the same section. On the north end of the NE ¼, there are less productive soils and also there is a natural drainage that runs through the path of the pivot occasionally causing erosion and runoff concerns, in an effort to move irrigation from the drainage and the potential for irrigating better soils without a drainage it is proposed to shift pivot to the south. The pivot would be shifted to the south as far as possible to a position just north of the existing homestead, placing it roughly in the middle of the E ½ of the section. There will be no increase in acres irrigated. The recent purchase of the SE ¼ by Dale has prompted the request. County assessment records will be updated to current certified acre records.

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the variance request for Dale Campbell, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

- The transfer request for Board of Education Land and Funds is to shift the irrigated acres that are in the SE ¼ 16-25-49 to the SW ¼ of the same section and replace existing irrigation well. Historically the well in the NW ¼ irrigated a portion of the W ½ of this section, the well was showing a decrease in water production and at the time it was decided to move the irrigation to the SE ¼ and discontinue irrigating the W ½. The proposal is to transfer the irrigated acres back to the SW ¼ and re-drill the registered irrigation well that historically irrigated the SW ¼ to supply water to that quarter. There will be no increase in irrigated acres. County assessment records will be updated to current certified acre records.

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the variance request for the Board of Education Land and Funds as long as the existing well is decommissioned or converted into a stock well, Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

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

Director Kadlecek Reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the changes to the new contract for Trees Are Us. There will be a price change in 2017 and 2018.
- The board will take action after Dean Buskirk of Trees Are Us has reviewed and signed it.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

None

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

Kevin Oligmueller moved to enter executive session at 11:13 a.m., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Rich Zochol moved to exit executive session at 11:39 a.m., Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 2/11/16