



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
January 19, 2017

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 19, 2017, 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 Times Herald on January 11th, 2017.

Open Meeting Law Act

Vice Chairman Steve Sandberg pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Vice Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Absent: John Burke

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coord.
Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.	Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Fred McCartney, NFS	Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist
Doak Nickerson, NFS	Don Grein
Andy Curd	

Emergency Agenda Additions

Executive Session was requested to be added to the agenda following public comment.

Oath of Office

All re-elected Directors read their Oath of Office and signed them.

Election of Officers

The Directors discussed the current officers and noted that each had only served one year with the typical term being two years.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
January 19, 2017

Tod Dorshorst moved to retain all officers and agency delegates, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin showed a brief video on soil health and provided an update on RCPP and EQIP.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak discussed the NFS's recent grant writing efforts. NFS is currently working to clean up much of the burnt area in the Pine Ridge west of Highway 385 and this three year CAFA grant would help to advance that process.

NFS also met with the Chadron VFD to discuss the grant focus area and determine the level of local support.

Doak is currently looking for volunteers to provide various test sites to grow Ponderosa Pine. NFS is hoping to find out how to increase the survivability of Ponderosa Pine across the state. NFS will plant a variation of 400 potted Ponderosa Pine in four different test sites with different soil types to see how they grow.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- If the Directors would like to request a change of the current committee assignments they should direct these to Chairman Burke.
- Pat asked the Directors to make their final decisions about Legislative conference so that additional hotel rooms or cancellations can be made. Transportation to and from Lincoln will be discussed after the meeting.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed the 2016 fall static water levels in each sub area.
- The Erosion and Sediment Control Rules and Regulations Hearing will be held during the next board meeting at 2:30 p.m. February 9th.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The winter Panhandle Conservation Conference will be held in Bridgeport on February 22nd. The registration deadline is February 10th. There will be no cost to attend but registration is necessary in order to get a head count for lunch.
- Sheri also discussed the changes being made to the Conservation Partnership. Their goal is to broaden the focus of the partnership instead of focusing primarily on No Till farming practices and soil health.
- Sheri needs help with the Envirothon February 1st in Gordon and requested some help from NRCS to grade tests.

**Office Manager
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen discussed the upcoming Legislating Conference in Lincoln and tax reporting.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley was not present but provided a 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 was very successful and had a great turn out as well as great feedback from those who attended. Given the success of the last two years a range day will be planned for 2018.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Scott Berndt moved to approve the consent agenda, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Pat discussed some of the relevant Legislative Bills that were introduced during this session as well as how they may affect the UNWNRD and the NRD system. Positions were discussed and action will be taken through the delegate at the upcoming NARD business session.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Greg Wilke, MNNRD Board Member was elected as the Niobrara River/White River-Hat Creek representative at the Basin Caucus held January 9, 2017 in Valentine.

**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 transfer request from Jerry Mundt and Craig Kumpf. Jerry is reapplying to shift his pivot from the NW ¼ to the NE ¼ of Section 25. The board had previously approved the transfer however due to a crop being hailed out and low commodity prices the transfer did not occur during the one year period allowed by the rules and regulations. The only change from the previous request is the pivot shift will not go as far to the east, leaving 14 acres in the NW ¼.

Rich Zochol moved to approved the transfer request for Jerry Mundt and Craig Kumpf, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the upcoming hearing for the Erosion and Sediment Control Rules and Regulations.
- The annual review will be before the next Board Meeting.

Old or New Business

None.

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse John Burke from the meeting, Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.

Public Comment

None

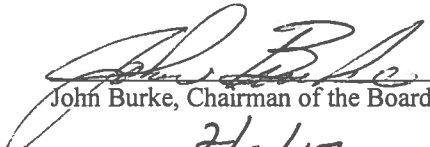
Executive Session

Tod Dorshorst moved the enter into Executive Session at 3:05 p.m., Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.

Rich Zochol moved to exit Executive Session at 3:22 p.m., Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board
Date Signed 2/9/17



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager