



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
January 15, 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 Tuesday, January 15, 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, January 9, 2013.

Open Meeting Law Act

Vice-Chairman Zochol pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that is displayed on the wall.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Vice-Chairman, Rich Zochol, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Scott Berndt	Curt Roth
John Burke	Steve Sandberg
Dave Carlson	Rich Zochol
Tod Dorshorst	Absent:
Jim Irwin	Jim Lees
Dave Kadlecek	

Others present:

Lyndon Vogt, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager	Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Coordinator
Katie Harris, NRD Administrative Assistant	Haley Anders, NRD Resources Technician
Kody Schwager, NRD Resources Technician	Lindsey Phillips, NDEQ
Sharyl Sapp, NDEQ	Shelley Steffl, NGPC
Bryan Kahl, NRCS	Doak Nickerson, NFS
John Axtel	

Oath of Office

John Burke and Rich Zochol signed their Oath of Office and Lyndon notarized them. Dave Carlson and Scott Berndt signed their Oath of Office in Valentine during the Commission election on January 9, 2013.

Emergency Agenda Additions

There is an amendment to the current NGPC lease agreement. This item will be added to Old or New Business.

Election of Officers

Tod Dorshorst moved to keep all officers the same including Jim Lees as Chairman, Rich Zochol as Vice-Chairman, John Burke as Secretary/Treasurer, Curt Roth as the NARD Representative and Tod Dorshorst as the NARD Alternate; Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees.

NRCS Robin Foulk

Bryan Kahl handed out calendars and discussed Robin's written report. Bryan added that NRCS is busy working on EQIP applications. The first sign up ended on December 21, 2012, and there is a second sign up ending on February 15, 2013. NRCS will have a new docket in the next week or two.

Nebraska Forest Service Doak Nickerson

The NFS had a well attended forestry workshop at the UNWNRD office on January 8. Doak discussed the workshop. Doak handed out a flyer on the tree care workshops that are left in the western half of the state.

General Manager's Report Lyndon Vogt

Lyndon added the following to his written report:

- Lyndon attached the draft bill for the proposed chemigation fees.
- Lynn handed out a map of our NRD separated into our five sub-districts. We have a board vacancy in sub-district five.
- Lyndon handed out information on the NARD Washington, D.C. Conference on March 9-13. Sheri will be attending this conference.
- Lyndon wrote a support letter from UNWNRD for a grant that Mel Brozek with the Mirage Flats Irrigation District is applying for.
- Lyndon discussed the report from the ICON's Seventh Annual Convention.
- Lyndon attended the GWDA meeting in Austin, Texas, January 8-10. After attending the meeting, Lyndon insists that we, as NRD's, are on the right track to help conserve our water.

Assistant Manager Lynn Webster

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- A producer this morning called with concerns about getting replacement wells drilled. The closest companies that are drilling wells are overbooked and it is taking quite a bit longer to get replacement wells drilled, if drilled at all.

Water Resources Manager Sheri Daniels

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- It is nomination time for UNWNRD Conservation Awards. Nomination forms are due by March 1.
- We have had feedback from landowners that they appreciated the hydrographs with their water use reports.
- Sheri helped the Mirage Flats Irrigation District apply for a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to upgrade head gates at seven locations on the Irrigation District project. Their manager, Mel, is also looking into options to make the project more productive.

- Please let us know if you would like to attend the Water Issues Meeting on February 7 or the PNTP Winter No-Till Meeting in Gering on February 20-21.

**Resources Coordinator
Travis Nitsch**

Travis added the following to his written report:

- Travis and Lyndon participated in Sound Off on KCSR on January 4 to promote our tree program. After the radio broadcast, we have sold an additional 5,000 trees.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley has most of the water use reports complete and sent out. She is waiting on electric use to complete the final ones.

**Resources Technician
Kody Schwager**

Kody added the following to his written report:

- Kody attended the tree care workshop that the NFS put on.

Approval of Consent Agenda

John Burke moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Curt Roth seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources District
Curtis Roth**

The NARD Board will meet in Lincoln on January 30.

**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported the following:

- Director Kadlecek thanked everyone for such strong support for the Commission election. Kadlecek won the election after running unopposed.
- The next Commission meeting will be January 30 in Lincoln.

Board Vacancy

The UNWNRD board has a vacancy in sub-district five. Lyndon has a letter drafted that will need to be sent to the Secretary of State acknowledging our opening. Dave Kadlecek moved to approve sending the letter to the Secretary of State acknowledging our board vacancy in sub-district 5; Jim Irwin seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees.

**Water Committee Report
Curt Roth**

The Water Committee met on December 18, 2012, in Alliance.

- Jim Dye would like to transfer 6 acres from NE1/4 11-24-49 to the SE1/4 11-24-49 in order to install a 56 acre pivot on currently gravity irrigated ground. The field boundaries will also be modified to allow for the pivot to be installed. John Burke approved Jim Dye's acre transfer request; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees.
- Darby Jespersen would like to transfer 60 acres from SW1/4 22-26-50 to the SE1/4 21-26-50 in order to install a 70 acre center pivot. He will be downsizing his current pivot in the NE1/4 21-26-50 from 140 to 130 acres in order to allow the extra 10 acres to go with the 60 transferred acres to make the new 70 acre pivot. He will dry up 60 acres in the SW1/4 22-26-50. John Burked moved to approve Darby Jespersen's transfer request; Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees.
- Most of the failed meters in our district are not propeller analog meters. UNWNRD is interested in providing 50% cost-share (up to \$500) to producers to replace failed meters that are not a propeller analog meter with a propeller analog meter. The producer must be approved before installation in order to receive the cost-share. Tod Dorshorst moved to approve offering 50% cost-share, up to \$500, to producers replacing a failed non-propeller analog meter with a propeller analog meter with total cost-share for FY 2012-2013 not to exceed \$10,000 with cost-share offered on a first come first serve basis; Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees.
- John Burke moved to put together a Recharge Committee to look at different options for recharge projects with the committee consisting of three Directors and three stakeholders; Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees. Curt Roth moved to appoint John Burke, Dave Carlson and Dave Kadlecek to the Recharge Committee with the stakeholders to be appointed at a later date; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees.

Old or New Business

There is an amendment to the current NGPC lease agreement. Amendment #3 removes long distance phone services, therefore the NGPC will be getting their own phone line. The lease agreement continues through January 2014. Steve Sandberg moved to approve Amendment #3 with the NGPC lease agreement; Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees.

Excused Absences

Dave Kadlecek moved to excuse Jim Lees; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Date Signed _____