



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
July 14, 2016

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 14, 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 Times Herald on July 6, 2016.

Open Meeting Law Act

Treasurer Dave Carlson, standing in for John Burke, pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Treasurer Carlson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	Rich Zochol
Mike Strasburger	Kevin Oligmueller
Tod Dorshorst	Dave Carlson
Nancy Fisher	Allen Rasmussen

Absent: John Burke, Steve Sandberg, Dave Kadlecek

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, Conservation Prog. Coord.	Kylen Armstrong, Office Manager
Craig Eddie, Natural Resources Coord.	Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager	Doak Nickerson, NFS
Fred McCartney, NFS	Senator Al Davis
Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist	Tim Freed, DNR
Mahesh Pun, DNR	Maureen Skavdahl
Andy Curd	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Senator Al Davis

Senator Davis spoke to the Board regarding the work he has done in Legislature during his term in office as well as the work he hopes to accomplish if re-elected for another term. Senator Davis discussed education, property tax relief, LB 1038, the completion of the Heartland Expressway and prison reform. He then answered questions from the Directors as well as the public.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
July 14, 2016

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin gave a brief update on CRP enrollment and discussed the qualifications for each CRP practice.

Megan Barnett is the new CED in the Alliance and Bridgeport FSA offices.

Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson

Doak discussed the Forestry Logging Tour that took place at Dave Kadlec's ranch, North of Hay Springs. Participants were able to see all of the logging machinery in action.

Doak also mentioned a tour of Bessey Nursery's Ponderosa Pine crop that he was able to attend in Halsey, Nebraska. They are working more with potted ponderosa pine to see if the survivability can be improved utilizing this product. Doak noted that he is looking for producers who are willing to provide test sites for the potted Ponderosa Pine.

Modeling Report
Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources Inc.
Tim Freed & Mahesh Pun, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Thad discussed the most recent changes to the UNWNRD Integrated Water Model. Thad, working with Marc Groff, The Flatwater Group and DNR was able to incorporate actual meter data into the model as well as other updated information to provide models through 2015. The models were also used to make aquifer life projections 700 years into the future.

Mahesh discussed the modeling efforts from the Department of Natural Resources. He explained the work DNR has been doing to utilize current meter data to depict how current pumping practices are affecting the aquifer and flows in the Niobrara River upstream and downstream of Box Butte Reservoir.

General Manager
Pat O'Brien

Pat added the following to his written report:

- The Lower Elkhorn NRD issued a cease and desist order where land not certified though the LENRD was being irrigated. The case eventually was appealed to the Nebraska Supreme Court and the ruling was in favor of the NRD's management of groundwater.

Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn provided an update on the Citizens Advisory Committee. He has been in touch with several members of the previous committee and is working to find new members as well.
- Lynn has also been working on a Producers Meeting that will include producer panels and vendors with the focus on water saving technology. It was tentatively scheduled for sometime in August but will most likely be postponed until late fall to ensure producer attendance.

Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The NRD was able to provide scholarships for students who attended to Range Camp as well as ACE Camp out of the Dorshorst Memorial Scholarship.

**Office Manager
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen discussed CRP Assignment of Payments, NSWCP application status and approvals as well as the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year completion.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley had nothing to add to her written report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added to following to his written report:

- The NRD sold 113,575 trees and donated 575 for the Spring 2016 Tree Season.
- The new No Till Drill was purchased from Modern Farm Equipment and should be in soon. There will be a training session for all interested sometime after it arrives.
- There will be a Windbreak/Tree Workshop on November 16th in Alliance.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin passed around a few pictures from the Range Conference he attended and discussed soil health.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (8) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, DK, SS

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Health insurance premiums went up by 6.5% and Dental increased by 3.2%.
- Resolutions, to be discussed at Annual Conference in Kearney, September 25th-27th, are due by August 19th.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek was not present. No report was given.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol had nothing to report.

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

Director Oligmueller reported on the following:

- The proposed 2016-2017 NSWCP allocations by practice include \$40,000 for NC-12, \$5,000 for NC-17, \$65,000 for NC-14, and \$15,000 for NC-Other.

Kevin Oligmueller moved to approved the proposed NSWCP allocations, Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll Call: (8) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, DK, SS.

**Budget Committee
Dave Carlson**

- At Director Carlson's request, Pat discussed the draft budget with the Directors and noted some of the changes to be made. He also mentioned that the UNWNRD tax asking has not changed in three years. If approved by the board at the August meeting, the budget hearing will be held at the September Board Meeting.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse John Burke, Dave Kadlecek and Steve Sandberg from the meeting, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call: (8) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, DK, SS.

Public Comment

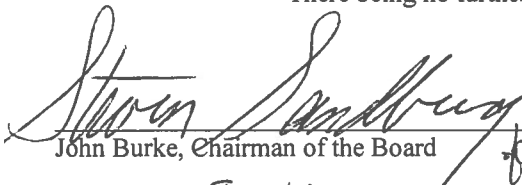
None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.


John Burke, Chairman of the Board
for John Burke


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 8-11-16