



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
June 14, 2012

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 14, 2012, 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 all UNWNRD NRCS field offices and 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, June 6, 2012.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Lees pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that is displayed on the wall.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman, Jim Lees, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Dale Anderson	Jim Lees
Dale Berdnt	Curt Roth
John Burke	Steve Sandberg
Tod Dorshorst	Absent:
Jim Irwin	Larry Teahon
Dave Kadlecek	Rich Zochol

Others present:

Lyndon Vogt, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager	Shar Sapp, NRD Resources Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Resources Technician	Katie Harris, NRD Administrative Assistant
Fred McCartney, NFS	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Doak Nickerson, NFS	Dave Carlson
Lorri Meng	George Meng
Kacy Heiser	Ellen Yusten
Niki Waugh	Kris Ferguson
Sara Rittgarn	

Emergency Agenda Additions

Investment Options were added under the Executive Committee Report and NDEQ Rental Agreement was added under Other Old or New Business.

Cowboy Trail Kris Ferguson

Kris Ferguson addressed the Board in support of the Cowboy Trail West between Gordon and Hay Springs. The Cowboy Trail West group would like an interlocal agreement between the counties, cities and UNWNRD. She would like the three entities to assist financially with trail maintenance. The Board suggested Kris approach Game & Parks about trail maintenance as they maintain all of their own trails in the eastern part of Nebraska.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
June 14, 2012

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin handed out the outline she made from the NACD Northern Plains Region Leaders Meeting in Helena, Montana that she attended June 3-5. Robin discussed the key topics that were presented at the conference.

Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson

Doak distributed a flyer on the upcoming *Today's Forest: Firewise Workshops*. The upcoming workshops are going to focus on protecting homes from wildfires. The workshops will be in Newcastle, WY on June 23, in Hill City, SD on June 23 and in Chadron on June 24.

General Manager's Report
Lyndon Vogt

Lyndon added the following to his written report:

- We purchased 200 rolls of fabric from NYP Corporation and it was delivered to Buskirk's on June 9. We expect to receive 700 rolls from South Korea this fall.
- Lyndon started working on the FY2012-2013 budget. He will have a draft copy of the budget available at the July board meeting. The Budget committee will meet on July 23 at 9:00 a.m. to work on the preliminary budget.
- There is discussion about raising the chemigation fees. Pat O'Brien, NRD/NDEQ Liaison, is doing research for what the chemigation program costs the Districts to determine what an appropriate fee schedule should be. Pat will bring his findings to the Managers to discuss the next appropriate step.
- Middle Niobrara NRD is hosting a Niobrara Basin summer staff meeting on July 27. MNDRD would like to start an annual Niobrara Basin meeting during the summer.
- Lyndon has received the contract for the Panhandle No-Till Partnership to develop their website.
- Lyndon handed out the Nebraska Department of Revenue's *Real Property Value Percentage Change 2011-2012* article.

Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- We received our new data loggers. Lynn had one of the loggers on display.
- DNR is planning to attend our August board meeting to present the current modeling efforts through the IWMPP.

Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Sheri pointed out the upcoming No-till field days. Please RSVP to Mark Watson if you would like to attend.
- The next issue of our *Reflections* newsletter will be out next week in the local papers.
- Sheri played the next radio ad that is being played in the Eastern part of Nebraska to promote the NRD's.

**Resources Manager
Shar Sapp**

Shar added the following to her written report:

- Shar will start the crop water use report next week.
- Jenny Nixon spoke with Shar and Dawna Casselman about renovating the living snow fence at Harrison. Shar is going to help Jenny look for cost-share funds to help revive the living snow fence.
- UNWNRD donated that last potted trees to Lucinda Mays with CSC. Lucinda has started a tree bed at CSC that she will plant these potted trees in. Her goal is to grow these trees with close watch and transplant them to different areas on campus in 8-10 years.
- We sold just over 192,000 trees this year.
- UNWNRD is hosting the NRD Forestry Workshop with a tree round table discussion on June 21.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley had nothing to add to her written report.

**Resources Technician
Travis Nitsch**

Travis was absent from the meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda

John Burke moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Dale Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Larry Teahon & Rich Zochol.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources District
Curtis Roth**

The NARD Committee met at in Omaha on June 11, 2012.

- NARD approved moving investment money around. They moved \$150,000 from the Foundation and \$250,000 from the General Funds from NPAIT to UBS diversified stocks. This should result in a 4-5% increase in interest earned.
- Approved \$1,900 in youth education programs to be funded from the NARD Foundation programs including: West Holt High School, Nebraska Envirothon winner for \$1,000; Nebraska Foundation for Ag Awareness, Ag in the Classroom for \$600; and Connecting Young Nebraskans Summit for \$300.
- NARD will be assessing \$200 per District for promotional items for the State Fair and Husker Harvest Days.
- The NARD board approved the budget with a 4% dues increase.
- The deadline for Annual Meeting resolutions is August 17.
- The following is a list of the awards:
 - Director of the Year – Judy Ridenour, ULNRD
 - Educator of the Year – Kevin Wetobick, Fullerton. LLNRD
 - Outstanding Tree Planter – Dan & Shirley Carson, ULNRD
 - Outstanding Grassland Award – Steve & Pam Reed, ULNRD
 - Outstanding Community Conservation – Village of Big Springs, Pond Project. SPNRD
- There were 50 attendees for the NARD Summer Tour and there are 32 campers registered for ACE Camp.
- The Risk Pool approved a 15% dues increase for health insurance rates. The Risk Pool will end the year \$500,000 in the hole.

- Fall Conference is September 24-25. Please get any auction item ideas to NARD by mid-July.
- Bessey Nursery sold 771,000 to all the NRD's. UNWNRD purchased 120,000 of those trees.
- The November NARD Board meeting is in McCook.

**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dave Kadlecek**

The next Commission meeting is June 19-20, 2012 in Grand Island.

Groundwater Management Act Coalition

There was nothing to report.

**Executive Committee Report
Dave Kadlecek**

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve a 5% raise for Lyndon Vogt and an additional 5% raise for the rest of the staff to be distributed as the Manager sees fit; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Larry Teahon & Rich Zochol.

Lyndon has researched different investment options that we have. We currently have our cash reserve with NPAIT and our interest rate is 0.02%. NPAIT is convenient and we can transfer money daily if we need to. If we were to change to \$25,000 CD's, it would not be as convenient but we could make more money on interest. Investment options were turned over to the Budget Committee to review over the next couple months.

**Operations/Personnel/Policy Committee Report
Dave Kadlecek**

Dave Kadlecek moved that UNWNRD's employee's annual leave shall never accrue in excess of 240 hours and the maximum amount of annual leave carryover will be changed from 160 to 240 hours; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Larry Teahon & Rich Zochol.

Dave Kadlecek moved to allocate the NSWCP funds as Lyndon recommends; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Larry Teahon & Rich Zochol.

**Water Committee Report
Curt Roth**

The Water Committee reported the following:

- Gordon Lockwood requested and has been approved for a replacement well permit in the SW1/4 09-25-49. He is having a very hard time getting the well drilled right now with the absence of a local large capacity well driller. The corn has been planted in the circle and there is no way to irrigate it. Roger Schell leases Gordon's pivot and has a pivot just to the north in the middle of the N1/2 09-25-49. Roger and Gordon are requesting to lay over-ground pipe from Roger's well to save the crop until they can get a driller to replace the well on Gordon's pivot. Both pivots are metered in the riser. If approved, the water that is applied to Gordon's land metered through his pivot will be deducted from his allocation and the water applied to Roger's land metered through his pivot will be deducted from his allocation. John Burke moved to approve the Lockwood/Schnell transfer; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Larry Teahon & Rich Zochol.
- Vern Terrell has a pivot next to Lynden Smith's land. The pivot goes half way around but has potential to swing all the way around. Lynden could not irrigate his crop and asked Vern to run the pivot around to

save his crop. Lynn gave approval due to time sensitivity. They are in the process of putting together a formal request to make considered one-unit.

Old or New Business

NDEQ would like to add Addendum #4 to their current lease for the additional office space they are renting from UNWNRD. They currently rent 192 square feet and are requesting to rent an additional 181 square feet for a total of 373 square feet of useable office space at \$9.06 per square foot totaling \$3,379.38 annually. Their current rental agreement expires on December 31, 2013. Steve Sandberg moved to approve NDEQ's Addendum #4 to their rental agreement; Dale Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Larry Teahon & Rich Zochol.

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse Larry Teahon & Rich Zochol; Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nay and (2) absent – Larry Teahon & Rich Zochol.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Date Signed _____