



## UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting  
June 11, 2015**

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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at the Upper Niobrara White NRD 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 on the UNWNRD website and The Chadron Record on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

### **Open Meeting Law Act**

Chairman Richard Zochol pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was displayed at the entrance of the meeting room.

### **Roll Call & Introduction of Guests**

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

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

### **Others Present:**

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manger	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coordinator	Kylen Weingart, NRD Office Manager
Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coordinator	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager
Audrey Holland, NRCS Secretary	Doak Nickerson, NFS District Forester
Marc Groff, Flatwater Group	Shane Dolph, Flatwater Group
Maureen Skavdahl	Andy Curd

### **Emergency Agenda Additions**

None.

### **NRCS Audrey Holland**

Robin Foulk was not present at the meeting. NRCS Secretary and Audrey Holland filled in for her. Audrey discussed the NRCS report that was sent out to the Directors. She also noted that Jack Weideman, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician, will be retiring on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

### **Nebraska Forest Service Doak Nickerson**

Doak discussed the new state record ponderosa pine tree that is located in Sioux County. The tree stands 105 ft tall and 43 ft in circumference . Doak also gave a short presentation on tree identification and discussed several species of trees that are not common to the area but may do well here.

**IDEP – The Flatwater Group  
Marc Groff**

Mr. Groff provided the Directors with an update on the ground and surface watershed model process including in depth information on the CROPSIM model and its relationship to DNR’s modeling efforts. The evaluation of the Upper Niobrara model was conducted to determine if predicted water use replicated actual water use and will be used for model refinement in the future. The evaluation was conducted under the INSIGHT Data Enhancement Program, which was funded by DNR with match from the UNWNRD. An IDEP grant was also used to develop a program and process to utilize the district’s flow meter data in the model in lieu of estimations and predictions.

**General Manager  
Pat O’Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat discussed the Four States Irrigation Council summer bus Tour taking place in Wyoming and encouraged the Directors to attend.
- Senator Davis will be meeting with local residents to discuss any issues they may have. There will be town hall meetings on June 12<sup>th</sup> in Chadron at the Bean Broker from 12:00 to 1:00 pm and in Gordon at the Community Building from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.
- Pat provided the directors with a copy of the Draft Budget for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. There was some discussion amongst the Directors about the new budget.
- The NRD sold over 150,000 trees this year and had nothing left to dispose of at the end of the season. The cooler was shut off on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a Niobrara River Basin Plan Stakeholder meeting in Johnstown, NE on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed the mapping work currently being conducted for the Forest Service.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator  
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The awards voted on at the last Board Meeting will be presented at the Dawes County Fair by the Ag Society.
- Sheri will attend the ACE Camp in Halsey, NE on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Office Manager  
Kylene Weingart**

Kylene gave a brief update on tree sales, NSWCP windbreak applications, and outstanding customer balances. The fiscal year will come to an end on June 30<sup>th</sup> so she has also been working to close out the books for the year.

**Water Resources Manager  
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Chemigation inspections are underway and Haley has been working to train Craig and Nevin.
- Haley will be attending the NRD Basin Tour on June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Natural Resources Coordinator**

**Craig Eddie**

Craig had nothing to add to his written report.

**Resources Technician  
Nevin Price**

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

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

**Agency Reports**

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts  
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst had nothing to report.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission  
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek had nothing to report.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance  
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report  
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

Lynn discussed the transfer request for Frost Sun Prairie Farms.

- There are 209 certified irrigated acres for Frost Sun Prairie Farms and three other landowners, who are all family members, in section 24-26N-50W; 173.1 acres under a pivot with the remaining 35.9 acres as gravity. The proposal is to move the existing pivot's center point to the southeast and add 140' span. This would increase the pivot right at the 209 certified acres. The land has been divided; Dan Jordan owns 5 acres, Roger and Dixie Bussey owns 10.44 acres, Jacob Frost owns 10 acres and Frost Sun Prairie Farms owns the rest of section 24. All owners are in agreement and have signed the applications; title reports have been received and reviewed. NRCS has reviewed maps and the soils, for the few acres that are grass which are to be tilled, the sodbuster requirements will be met.

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the transfer request for Frost Sun Prairie Farms, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

- Pat and Lynn discussed a meeting they had with Thad Kuntz of Adaptive Resources Inc. about the modeling efforts as a result of the discussion regarding long range water management held among the directors at the May meeting. Several options are available for utilizing the predictive model including developing a baseline water in storage and stream flow and modeling several scenarios on water use. The Directors continued the discussion about the UNWNRD's modeling efforts.

John Burke moved to go forward with the Baseline Water Estimate and the five year repeat of actual water use for 100 years. Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Kristy Dietrich has put in a bid for the FY 2014-2015 Audit for the amount of \$4,650.00. There was some discussion about the budget and the audit from the Directors.

Dave Kadlecek moved to accept Kristy Dietrich's bid for the FY 14-15 Audit, Scott Berndt seconded the motion.

Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

- Pat discussed the current NRD insurance policy with Dunbar-Peterson through Gregory's Insurance Company. He recommends that the NRD continue with the same policy. The Directors discussed the policy in further detail.

Dave Kadlecek moved to keep the same insurance policy with Dunbar-Peterson, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

- Pat discussed the office rental agreements including NDEQ and NGPC. Pat would like to renew the agreement with NDEQ as it is and wait for an agreement to be drawn up from NGCP.

Dave Kadlecek moved to renew the office rental agreement with NDEQ for two more years, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

- Director Kadlecek discussed salary increases for Pat and the rest of the staff. He recommended that Pat received \$82,000 for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year and for the of the staff a \$4,000 increase over 2014-2014 budgeted salaries to be distributed as the manager determines appropriate

Dave Kadlecek moved to increase Pat O'Brien's Salary to \$82,000 and to give Pat \$4,000.00 increase in the 2014-2015 budgeted to disperse amongst the rest of the staff. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

**Old or New Business**

None

**Excused Absences**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Executive Session**

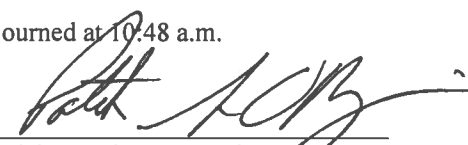
Tod Dorshorst moved to enter executive session at 10:35a.m., Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Steve Sandberg moved to exit executive session at 10:47 a.m., Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

  
Rich Zochol, Chairman of the Board

  
Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 7-9-15

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting  
June 11, 2015