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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 Thursday, June 14, 2018, 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, The Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on June 6th, 2018.

Open Meeting Law Act

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

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

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

Scott Berndt	Kevin Oligmueller
Mike Strasburger	Dave Kadlecck
Tod Dorshorst	John Burke
Nancy Fisher	Steve Sandberg
Rich Zochol	Al Rasmussen

Absent: Dave Carlson

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Nevin Price, NRD Resource Technician	Tricia Goes, NRD Conservation Prog. Assistant
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Craig Eddie, NRD Resources Coord.
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.
Luther Thomson II, NRCS Pathways Student	Doak Nickerson, NFS

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin introduced the new Pathway Student; Luther Thompson II who is from Jackson, Mississippi and is stationed in the Alliance Field Office until the end of July 2018. Robin also mentioned a recently hired NRCS employee, who was a Pathways student, Quentin Wagner. Quentin will be working out of the Sidney, Nebraska office, as a Soil Conservationist. Quentin did a Capstone Project from Chadron State College, which allowed him to develop an educational contest for youth wanting to learn more on Environmental Resources. The name of Quentin's program is Y.E.S, which stands for Youth Environmental Stewards.

Robin went on to mention the NRCS staff is completing compliance status reviews within the district. Compliance status reviews require staff to check whether conservation plans are being followed on highly erodible cropland and if any wetlands, previously determined, have been manipulated. To complete the NRCS report, Robin mentioned soil health and how cover can keep down soil temperatures. Robin fielded questions regarding soil cover and erosion complaints.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak discussed a Midwest foresters meeting he attended in Nebraska City and the conversations held in and around that meeting. Doak gave thanks to the population in the Midwestern Region of the United States for their tree education. Doak also discussed a conversation with Richard Gilbert from Bessey Nursery regarding funds becoming available for the construction of new greenhouses at the nursery. Doak mentioned John Duplissis from the Lincoln office will be leaving his current position to take a new one in Duluth, Minnesota.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat mentioned the staff changes being made; in the replacement of Sheri Daniels who is retiring from the NRD position. Kylene Armstrong and Tricia Goes will be a team effort in working with the Office Manager duties and the Information and Education Programs. Haley Anders will be in charge of all domestic water sampling as well as Groundwater Quality Monitoring and Assessment and Chemigation Program. Nevin Price will assist with Chemigation, handle some educational events, and NERAIN. Craig will continue on with the tree program and well as take on the No-Till education events. Pat mentioned he will be working with Robin Foulk on searching for someone to fulfill the Administrative Assistant position at the NRCS office.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed that the construction of the monitoring wells is currently underway and includes Haley Anders, Sergeant Irrigation, and Steve Sibray, UNL-CSD.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Sheri showed appreciation to everyone involved with the NRD and the friendships she has made over the years.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene added the following to her written report:

- Kylene discussed the transition stage between her and Tricia Goes. Kylene also mentioned her duties going forward, which will include all of the financials.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin discussed the increase in education and need for the crop water use report.
- Nevin also discussed the cheat grass control project. John Burke's land did not respond as well as hoped, and other plots are not looking well either.

**Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig discussed the completion of tree season and that there were less than 3% trees that were not sold. Craig also mentioned there is one planting left for Buskirks to complete, which is located in a wet area that will need to dry out before it can be planted. Craig also mentioned the high activity with both no-till drills.

**Conservation Programs Assistant
Tricia Goes**

Tricia added the following to her written report:

- Tricia discussed the appreciation of patience and willingness to work with her during this transition time, but she is looking forward to the challenges it will take.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Scott Berndt moved to approve the consent agenda, John Burke seconded the motion.
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DC.*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt attended the June NARD meeting in Lincoln, in place of Director Dorshorst who was unable to attend. Many topics were discussed at the meeting; some including: Envirothon (donors), Insurance rates, Risk Pool & Medical liabilities and savings. There will be a 5% increase on Risk Pool Health Insurance Premiums and no changes in dental premiums.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Pat O'Brien spoke on behalf of Dave Carlson**

General Manager O'Brien reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the letter from Director Jim Douglas of NGPC wanting to meet at a future meeting, but could not make it until October. It was also mentioned that Middle Niobrara Natural Resource District will be sending out a similar letter to Director Jim Douglas of NGPC.

*John Burke moved to invite Jim Douglas to the October Board Meeting to discuss the partnership between the NRBA and NGPC as well as the Purchase Agreement of the Spencer Dam Hydro Facility,
Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DC.*

Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn discussed Chuck Holmgren's request, for Holmgren Cattle Company, to certify acres that were eligible to be certified but were not previously certified. There is a small discrepancy between the amount of acres that were previously assessed and that which are currently assessed. The difference in the assessments will be researched and the request will be brought back to Board.
- Lynn and Pat went over the draft changes to the Rules and Regulations. Suggested changes include grammatical edits, the addition of language for exceptions to the well moratorium in subarea III, suggestions from legal counsel and considerations for the next allocation period. Director Zochol requested a small change in the wording in section 15.2.7.1.2.1 regarding chemigation inspections. The request was adopted with no further action needed.

Tod Dorshorst moved to submit the draft Rules and Regulations to Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Department of National Resources for review and to proceed with the public information process, Scott Berndt seconded the motion.

Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DC.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the Building Insurance coverage increase and the 2018-2019 insurance premium quote submitted by Gregory's Insurance
- Director Kadlecek discussed the 2017-2018 Fiscal year Audit bid from Kristi Dietrich
- Director Kadlecek discussed employee salaries and increases
- Lynn discussed NSWCP allocations and the percent decrease that may happen, but regardless would like to let producers get an early start to help reduce the list of producers waiting for cost-share.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Building Insurance coverage increase and 2018-2019 insurance premium quote of \$17,914.00 submitted by Gregory's Insurance, Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DC.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Audit bid by Kristi Dietrich for \$4,900 to complete the 2018-2019 fiscal year audit, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DC.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve a 3% increase in the General Manager's salary and increase the total payroll by \$5,657.00 for a total 2018-2019 payroll of \$426,022, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DC.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve 2018-2019 NSWCP allocations, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DC.

Old or New Business

Kylene Armstrong mentioned Sheri Daniels' going away party on June 29, 2018.

Excused Absences

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

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

John Burke moved to enter Executive Session at 10:27 AM and allow Pat O'Brien and Lynn Webster to be present, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DC.

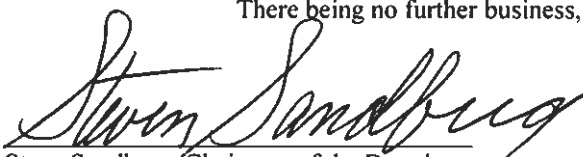
Rich Zochol moved to exit Executive Session at 10:31 AM, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DC.

Executive Session

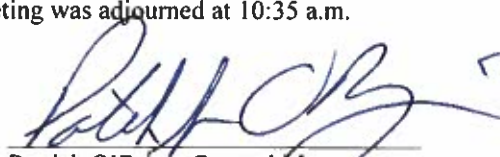
Rich Zochol moved to give Sheri Daniels a \$10,000 bonus for 19 years of dedicated service, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DC.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.



Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 7-12-18