

UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
March 10, 2016

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, 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 March 2nd, 2016.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman John Burke pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Burke called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Absent: Rich Zochol, Steve Sandberg

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager	Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager
Craig Eddie, NRD Resources Coordinator	Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coord.	Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist
Fred McCartney, NFS District Forester	Seth Peterson, NFS
Andy Curd	Don Grein

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin gave a brief update on the Farm Bill Conservation Programs including EQIP, CRP, and CSP. NRCS staff is currently working in the field to complete the planning and surveying portion of the planning before sign up begins.

Robin also discussed the purpose of the Conservation Effects Assessment Program surveys that are being send out to local producers. Some of the Directors mentioned receiving them.

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**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney & Seth Peterson**

Seth discussed the Simulation (Sim) Table that he has received to simulate fires in the Pine Ridge and other areas of concern. He also discussed some other uses for the table including flood evaluation and drainage in certain areas.

Seth also mentioned that he has the Sim Table set up and will be doing a demonstration after the meeting.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat gave a brief legislative update on current bills including LB1038.
- Upper Big Blue NRD will be proposing to add cost share through NSWCP for variable rate irrigation equipment. They would like UNWNRD to submit a letter in support of this proposition. The OPP committee will be addressing this request.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed water used during road construction projects. The Heartland Expressway will be initiating construction south of Alliance and will require water for various needs. Currently all water used for road construction is required to be recorded and tracked, with the water used for road construction considered a de minimis use and either metered separately or deducted from water use calculations for determining amount of water used for regulated uses. Clarification is needed in the language describing this type of use, currently it is indicated that use by the County is de minimis possibly excluding state road construction projects. By removing the reference to the County, all road construction use could be considered de minimis.

Dave Kadleck moved to strike the word county from the current policy on water use for road construction, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Rich Zochol, Steve Sandberg.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added to following to her written report:

- The first NET video on Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts airing will be March 24th.
- Chadron High School got a wild card for the State Envirothon.

**Office Manager
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen provided a verbal report on the following:

- Credit card processing on the iPad for the No Till Conference went well.
- Kylen gave an update on accounts receivable. Most everything outstanding has been collected from years previous except for one large Assignment of Payment from FSA in Box Butte County. Kylen and Pat noted that customer receivables that are outstanding for this amount of time would be charged interest. The Directors discussed adding finance charges to these charges as well.
- The District also has some reimbursement due from DNR for the IDEP project. Lynn indicated that this money should be deposited soon.
- Kylen reminded the Directors to complete their quarterly expense forms.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- The Water Issues meeting went well.

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**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- Currently 62,000 trees are sold.
- Ponderosa Pine and American Plum may be the first species sold out.
- Craig attended a tree workshop in O'Neill March 9th and gave a brief update on tree girdling and when to remove the fabric mulch from tree belts.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- MB906, a cheat grass control bacteria, has been approved as a soil inoculate.

**Watershed Projects Coordinator
Mary Sackinger**

Mary resigned her position, effective March 4th.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Rich Zochol, Steve Sandberg.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Director Dorshorst discussed the election of officers for the NARD board.
- The foundation approved the Envirothon prize money.
- The next NARD Board meeting will be held in York on June 13th.
- The NARD Basin tour will be in the Big Blue Basin on June 13th - 14th.
- The NARD Board will meet in Chadron on November 6th - 7th.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The next meeting will be held on April 19th-20th where they hope to approve applications for the Water Sustainability Fund.
- Director Kadlecek also discussed the funding needed for the Offutt Air Force Base and noted that the levee may be funded out of a direct appropriation.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol was not present for his report.

- Lynn discussed the Sandberg Variance/Transfer:
Duane Sandberg proposes to decertify four (4) gravity irrigated pivot corners, totally 30.3 acres, in section 9 and transfer the acres to section 8. In section 8 there are currently 54.31 certified gravity irrigated acres; by transferring the acres, Duane will be able to consolidate his gravity acres to one field and in the long term create a better opportunity for the future installation of subsurface drip or a center pivot.

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the Variance for Duane Sandberg, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Rich Zochol, Steve Sandberg.

- Lynn discussed the effect that the construction of the Heartland Express Way may have on certified irrigated acres. The Directors discussed options regarding the transfer of irrigated acres for land owners affected by this construction. The issue will be further discussed by the Water Committee.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Buskirk's have signed the Trees Are Us contract and the Board will need to take action in order to put it into effect. Pat discussed some of the price changes and policy changes that have been made to the contract.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Trees Are Us contract, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Rich Zochol, Steve Sandberg.

- Pat discussed the CRP Fencing Resolution. The resolution states that the UNWNRD will continue to participate in the CRP Fencing/Grasslands Grant.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Resolution for the CRP Fencing Grant, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Rich Zochol, Steve Sandberg.

- Pat discussed the payment received from the Alliance Housing Authority for Property taxes due to UNWNRD. In the past the Board has chosen to waive these fees.

Dave Kadlecek moved to waive the Alliance Housing Authority payment by returning the check, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Rich Zochol, Steve Sandberg.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

Dave Carlson moved to excuse Rich Zochol and Steve Sandberg from the meeting, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Steve Sandberg, Rich Zochol.

Public Comment

None


Executive Session

Dave Kadlecek moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues at 3:00 p.m., Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Steve Sandberg, Rich Zochol.

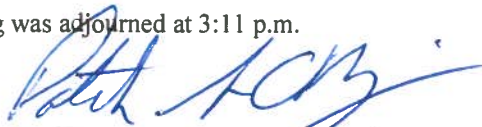
Dave Kadlecek moved to exit executive session at 3:10 p.m., Tod Dorshort seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Steve Sandberg, Rich Zochol.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 3/14/16