



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
March 12, 2015**

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12th, 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 March 4th, 2015.

Open Meeting Law Act

Vice Chairman Burke stood in for Chairman Zochol to lead the meeting.

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

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

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

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

Absent: Kevin Oligmueller

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manger
Sheri Daniels, Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylan Weingart, NRD Office Manager
Fred McCartney, NFS
Doak Nickerson, NFS
Elbert Traylor, NDEQ
Dave Griffith, NRCS/NDEQ
Laura Johnson, NDEQ
Maureen Skavdahl

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Mngr
Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist
Shar Sapp, NDEQ
Shelley Steffl, NGCP
Lindsey Phillips, NDEQ
Don Grein

Emergency Agenda Additions

None.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

The NRCS received their funding for EQIP that will need to be divided into two categories: Rangeland and Cropland. Staff will decide how this funding will be divided up based on land owner interest. Robin also discussed the Ogallala Initiative that could provide additional funding for irrigation management in the designated focus areas. Robin will meet with Pat to discuss whether an application could be put together by the March 27th deadline. The Wildlife initiative was also discussed but with the March 20th deadline in mind, there have not been many applications received.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak discussed the grant SWANN received from NDEQ to chip the pile of tree branches remaining from the snow storm in October 2013. The pile in Crawford will be taken care of first due to the where it is located and then Chadron's will be taken care of after that, Doak hopes to have the trees chipped by May 1st and after that date there will be wood chips available to consumers.

**Nebraska Game and Parks
Shelley Steffl**

Shelley discussed many of the programs that the Game and Parks Commission is currently involved in including Wild Nebraska, State Wildlife Grants, and the Wildlife friendly fencing program. The wildlife friendly stubble program is in its last year of funding and may not be pursued in the future due to lack of participation from landowners.

**Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Shar Sapp**

Shar provided the Board with an update on the recent NDEQ efforts as well as the current happenings at the Crow Butte Mine. Crow Butte hopes to expand to Marsland by April 2016 pending a permit approval from NRC. They are also working to obtain a permanent deep well permit from NDEQ. A public hearing will be held on the requested permit in the future.

**NDEQ/NRCS
Watershed Planning
Elbert Traylor**

The NDEQ and NRCS are working to develop watershed management master plans and have targeted the White River-Hat Creek basin as a priority. Mr. Traylor discussed the plan funding as well as what they hope to accomplish with this plan. In many cases a consultant is hired to assist with the preparation of the plan. The plan will need to be sponsored and funded by an NRD.

Pat will write up a draft of the information pertaining to the plan development as well as the budget needed and present it to the Board for a decision at the April meeting.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- There is a new director of DEQ, Jim Macy. Mr. Macy is supportive of field offices and may expand the field office roll in the future.
- The Natural Resources Committee will likely not pursue LB586 which expands the minimum job qualifications for the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. It is likely an interim study will be initiated.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Staff will begin taking static water level measurements next week. There will be a full report in April or May.
- Trees will be coming in the first part of April. This will consume much of the staff's time.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The Adventure Camp for the Environment (ACE) will be held in Halsey this year in June. The NRD will reimburse all students from our district half of their entrance fee if they plan to attend this camp.
- Sheri also reminded the Board to be thinking about who they may like to nominate for awards this year. The deadlines are coming up soon.

**Office Manager
Kylan Weingart**

Kylan gave a brief update on tree sales, Director Expenses and NSWCP approvals.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- The Water Issues meeting went well and had a very good turnout.
- Haley and Nevin will begin static water level measurements next week.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin gave an update on the work he has been conducting on soil moisture sensors and flow meter repair.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, Allen Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- The NARD voted to elect their new officers for the current year with Terry Martin, president, Jim Bendfeldt, and Larry Reynolds as Secretary/Treasurer
- NET television network would like to do a special on the NRD's across the state. Each NRD would need to contribute \$2000-\$3000 in order to participate. A decision will be made by the NARD Board in June and each District will need to decide whether or not to participate.
- There are 53 people planning to attend the Trip to Washington DC next weekend.
- Director Dorshorst also discussed the NRD Hall of Fame and suggested UNWNRD proceed with a nomination

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The Rules and Regulations should be finalized soon. Prior to adoption, a hearing will be held on the rules and must be reviewed and approved by the governor and attorney general.
- The next NRC meeting will be in Kearney on March 16th.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported on the following:

- The NRBA voted to move forward with the Instream Flow Right Application at the last meeting. Now all 5 NRD's in the Basin will need to vote on it individually.

Steve Sandberg moved to apply for the Instream Flow Right, Tod Dorshorst seconded it. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

**Water Committee Report
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- H 7 Bar Ranch was approved for a replacement well permit. The replacement well has been drilled but the old well was not decommissioned or modified within the required 180 day period. Because the decommissioning or modification did not take place the new replacement well cannot be registered. As per our permitting requirement the original permit is voided and the landowner needs to decommission the old well and apply for a late new well permit; the landowner is requesting approval of this permit and the original well will be decommissioned.

Scott Berndt moved to approve the new well permit, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

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

Director Kadlecek had nothing to report.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

Rich Zochol moved to excuse Kevin Olimueller from the meeting, Allen Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent Kevin Olimueller.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.


Rich Zochol, Chairman of the Board


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 7-9-15

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
March 12, 2015