



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
March 8, 2012

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 8, 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, February 29, 2012.

Open Meeting Law Act

Vice-Chairman Zochol pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that is displayed on the wall.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Vice-Chairman, Rich Zochol, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Dale Anderson
Dale Berndt
John Burke
Tod Dorshorst
Jim Irwin
Dave Kadlecek

Jim Lees, 2:20 p.m.
Curt Roth
Steve Sandberg
Larry Teahon
Rich Zochol

Others present:

Lyndon Vogt, NRD General Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Resources Technician
Fred McCartney, NFS
Don Grein

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Shar Sapp, NRD Resources Manager
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Scott Berndt

Emergency Agenda Additions

Lyndon added Conservation Awards under New Business.

NRCS Robin Foulk

Robin handed out her written report and added the following:

- NRCS is assisting with an article in the Nebraska Farmer called Conservation Corner. Next month's edition will be about Brian and Carol Iodence.
- NRCS is going to have an "early out" where they will cut about 300 employees and then hire back 150 employees.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak was absent from the meeting. Fred McCartney, a new NFS Forester, introduced himself. Fred will be working with Doak and he will be renting an office in UNWNRD's basement.

Lyndon presented a new rental agreement for Doak Nickerson's office and a rental agreement for Fred McCartney for an office in our basement. Both contracts will be for \$250.00 per month. John Burke moved to approve both rental agreements; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Jim Lees.

**General Manager's Report
Lyndon Vogt**

Lyndon added the following to his written report:

- No one filed for the NRD board for Sub-district 5. Larry Teahon sent in his paperwork but it did not make it to Lincoln by the deadline. Dale Anderson did not re-file.
- Lyndon handed out an update of Legislative candidates. Seven candidates have filed for District 43.
- Senator Louden's Prairie Dog bill passed.
- We had a very successful No-till meeting. We plan to mail all the participants a CD with the presentations from the conference. All of the funds for the Panhandle No-Till Partnership will now run through our office. The Panhandle No-Till Partnership does not have any more funds with the Panhandle RC&D.
- There is a meeting in North Platte on March 20 regarding the Heartland Expressway Corridor. We will try to have someone attend that meeting.
- The Mangers Water Committee met in Lincoln regarding the UNL geologist opening in North Platte. The University and a group of NRD's are in the works to add a geologist in Lincoln and North Platte.
- On March 12, Middle Niobrara is having a meeting with Brian Dunnigan, Director of DNR, and a board meeting. Lyndon and Dave Kadlecik plan to attend those meetings.
- The April board meeting will be at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Lees entered the meeting at 2:20 p.m. and chaired the meeting from that point forward.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn had nothing to add to his written report.

**Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- In the near future, chemigation applicator training will be available online. Applicators will still need to go into an Extension Office to take the test but the training session can be done online. Sheri will let you know when the online training is up and running.
- The Panhandle No-Till Partnership Winter Conference had about 163 attendees. We reimbursed 29 landowners from our District with our No-Till scholarship that we offered this fiscal year.

**Resources Manager
Shar Sapp**

Shar added the following to her written report:

- Shar has drafted a letter to send to all the landowners with machine plant tree orders this year. The letters update the landowners on when the trees will be here, ground preparation expectations and how the planting process will go.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley has been in contact with all the landowners with failed meters. We are trying to get all the meters fixed before the irrigation season starts.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Jim Irwin seconded the motion. Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays and (0) absent.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources District
Curtis Roth**

The NARD Committee met March 5 in Gothenburg.

- The building purchase at Husker Harvest Days is moving forward. NARD received a bid to put in a garage door, add a cement pad and a porch.
- The NARD Committee had officer elections with Joe Anderjaska as Chairman, Terry Martin as Vice-Chairman and Jim Bendfeldt as Secretary/Treasurer.
- Next year at Legislative Conference there will be Wi-fi available in the rooms at no cost.
- The next meeting will be June 11 at Papio-Missouri. The basin tour will include an air boat tour of the Platte River.
- The NARD Fall Conference will be September 23-25, 2012.
- The Risk Pool is about \$428,000 in the hole for this fiscal year. They are most likely going to look at a rate increase.

**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dave Kadlecek**

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

**Water Committee Report
Curt Roth**

The City of Chadron requested a municipal transfer permit from DNR to transfer 4,320,000 gallons per day. DNR requested a response from UNWNRD on this issue. The City of Chadron's request and correspondence from DNR was included in the board packet. Larry Teahon moved to approve sending DNR the provided response letter; Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays and (0) absent.

Nebraska Water Balance Alliance

The Nebraska Water Balance Alliance would like UNWNRD to partner on an irrigation management study. John Burke moved to table the issue of being a partner with the NWBA demonstration project; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays and (0) absent.

Old or New Business

The following Conservation Awards were presented:

- The Alliance NRCS Field Office nominated Russ & Darlene Finch for Natural Resources Education. Jim Irwin moved to approve Russ and Darlene Finch for a Natural Resources Education Conservation Award; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays and (0) absent.
- Shar Sapp and UNWNRD nominated the Forney Ranch for Tree Planting. Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Forney Ranch for a Tree Planting Conservation Award; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays and (0) absent.
- Shelley Steffl with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission nominated Jean Parker for Wildlife Habitat and Range Management. John Burke moved to approve Jean Parker for a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Award; Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll Call: (1) aye – Jim Lees; (8) nay – Dale Berndt, John Burke, Tod Dorshorst, Jim Irwin, Dave Kadlecek, Steve Sandberg, Larry Teahon & Rich Zochol; (2) abstain – Dale Anderson & Curt Roth; and (0) absent. Motion failed.

Excused Absences

Everyone was present.

Public Comment

Dale Berndt introduced his son, Scott Berndt. Scott Berndt has filed for Dale Berndt's position on the UNWNRD Board.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Date Signed _____