



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
November 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 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 12, 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 and Alliance Time Herald on November 4th, 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
Mike Strasburger	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Allen Rasmussen
Kevin Oligmueller	Steve Sandberg

Absent: John Burke

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	Mary Sackinger, NRD Watershed Proj. Coord.
Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist	Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Doak Nickerson, NFS District Forester	Molly Lakin, NRCS Conservationist
Fred McCartney, NFS District Forester	Andy Curd
Maureen Skavdahl	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin introduced Molly Lakin, the newest NRCS employee in Rushville. She has filled Dave George's position. Molly gave a brief introduction of herself including her work history.

Robin discussed a possible cost share opportunity through the EQIP program that may be used to work collectively with the US Forest Service to manage the Pine Ridge forested area. The NRD could participate by providing discounted replacement trees in the burned areas south of Chadron between Ash Creek and Bordeaux. This is currently still just a proposal and there will be more information to come regarding its approval.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred presented a slide show of photos from the boy scouts tree planting at Chadron State Park. Fred mentioned that the planting went very well but they may scale back the number of trees planted next year and focus more on the site prep.

Fred also showed a video of a piece of machinery used to break down brush piles, called a Roller Chopper.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- There will be another Oil and Gas Conservation Commission interim study hearing in Lincoln, NE on December 15th, 2015.
- Pat discussed some of the topics discussed at the Managers Meeting on November 2nd-4th including the sediment control resolution.
- The interlocal agreement between Bessey Nursery and the NRDs has expired. The NRDs are looking to renew this contract but the details have not been worked out yet.
- The Director of DNR, Jeff Fassett, has rescheduled his meeting with UNWNRD for January 21st. There will be a meet and greet before the board meeting later that afternoon.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- NRD staff is finishing up meter reading and will be done with all water use reports by the end of the year.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri was absent from the meeting but provided a written report.

**Office Manager
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylen provided a verbal report on the following:

- Credit cards will be accepted in January 2016. Regulations regarding credit card readers will change by that point so the NRD has decided to wait until then to purchase a card reader.
- Kristy Dietrich will be here the week of November 16th to work on the Audit.
- Legislative conference will be January 25th-27th at Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Kylan encouraged the Directors who are planning to attend to notify her as soon as possible in order to get hotel room reservation made.
- The NRD Christmas party will be held on December 10th following the December Board Meeting in Hay Springs at the American Legion. Kylan asked the Directors, employees and partners to let her know as soon as possible if they and their spouse would be in attendance as to finalize a head count for the meal.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley had nothing to add to her written report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig had nothing to add to his written report.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- There will be a Range Day on January 14th to discuss several Range Management issues in the area with a primary focus on Cheat Grass Management.

**Watershed Projects Coordinator
Mary Sackinger**

Mary added the following to her written report:

- There will be a public information meeting in Crawford at 7pm on November 12th.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- The NET interviews have been completed and will now have to cut 80 hours of video down in order to complete the one hour video production.
- Director Dorshorst discussed the approvals for funding requests by the NARD foundation.
- There was also a fund that was performing poorly and was replaced in the NRD retirement portfolio.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- There have been some advertisements for funding available through the Water Sustainability Fund.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the Instream Flow application regarding water rights downstream from the Spence Hyrdo Facility. This water right would be held jointly by Nebraska Game and Parks and NRBA.

Tod Dorshorst moved to allow the NRBA to enter into the Instream Flow Application, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

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

Director Kadlecek Reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the proposal to require all machine plants over 500 trees to be planned using bundles of 25 trees per species. This should alleviant some of the inventory issues regarding the extra trees needed for some machine plantings.

Dave Kadlecek moved to create a policy for machine plants over 500 trees to be planned in bundles of 25 per species, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

- Pat and Robin discussed the previously mentioned cost share opportunity through EQIP to replace trees in the burned areas south of Chadron only for contracts that are entered into through the USFS and NRCS special initiative. Pat suggested that the NRD provide up to 5,000 trees per year for three years for this program at a discounted cost of 75¢ per tree.

Dave Kadlecek moved to allow the NRD to provide trees for the burned area south of Chadron up to 5,000 trees at 75¢ per tree, Allen Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

Old or New Business

Due to the timing of the release of Legislative Bills before Legislative Conference on January 25th-27th, the January Board meeting has been requested to be moved to January 21st, 2016.

Tod Dorshorst moved to change the date of the January Board meeting to January 21st, 2016 at 2:00 p.m., Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

Excused Absences

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

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.


Rich Zochol, Chairman of the Board


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 12-10-15