



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
November 6, 2014**

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 6th, 2014, 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 October 29th, 2014.

Open Meeting Law Act

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

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

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

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|----------------|-------------------|
| Scott Berndt | Curt Roth |
| Steve Sandberg | Kevin Oligmueller |
| Dave Kadlecek | Rich Zochol |
| John Burke | Tod Dorshorst |
| Jim Lees | |

Absent: Dave Carlson, Larry Teahon

Others Present:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manger | Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager |
| Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager | Kylen Weingart, NRD Office Manager |
| Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Coordinator | Haley Anders, NRD Resource Technician |
| Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician | Fred McCartney, NFS |
| Andy Curd | Dixie Lees |
| Nancy Fisher | Maureen Skavdahl |

Emergency Agenda Additions

None.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin was not present to provide a report.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred discussed, in detail, a portable wood chipper that the Forest Service has been able to use out in the Pine Ridge recently. It can be towed behind a pickup truck on a trailer and can be taken out into the forest. Fred discussed some options for using the wood chips that are produced as a result of thinning projects. The Forest Service is open to suggestions. Fred entertained and thoroughly answered questions from the Board Members.

Fred also discussed the three components of Forestry: Field Management, Grass Management, and Access through the use of a three legged stool as the visual aid. The Pine Ridge relies on all three, and they must all be maintained.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- On December 8th, there will be a presentation of studies by the Game and Parks Commission on Niobrara River instream flow desires. The presentation will be at the UNWNRD office at 6:00 pm .
- Pat discussed Legislative conference asked who would be attending. There will need to be a head count in order to get hotel rooms lined up.
- There will be a meet and greet with Nebraska Senators Davis and Schilz on December 16th at the Alliance Public Library. Adrian Smith has been invited as well.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- The NRD is still reading meters. Sub Areas 4 and 6 are done and Haley is working on Water Use reports. They will hopefully be completed and distributed by the end of November.
- Director Oligmueller asked about water use on pivots after the meters have been read. There was a brief discussion amongst the Board Members about water use in allocated areas after the meters have been read.

**Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The yearly No Till Conference will be February 10th-11th, 2015 in Gering Sheri explained what the conference entails.
- The Annual Water Issues Meeting will be held on February 26, 2015 and staff will be establishing a location and agenda.

**Office Manager
Kylan Weingart**

Kylen provided a report to the Board on the following:

- Kristy Dietrich has been in the office working on the Audit, Kylan has been assisting her with all the information needed. The Audit will be presented at the December 11th Board Meeting.
- The NRD is in the process of getting direct deposit set up for the employees. Kylan has been working with members of Bank of the West to get this set up. Hopefully everything will be ready to go for the next pay period.
- Kylan is putting together employee apparel orders and encouraged the Board to let her know if they were interested in ordering new NRD hats.
- Kylan attended Client's Day down at the Bessey Nursery in Halsey Nebraska with Travis and Haley.
- The NRD Christmas Party will be after the Board Meeting on December 11th. The location is yet to be determined.

**Resources Coordinator
Travis Nitsch**

Travis added the following to his written report:

- The Bessey Nursery Client's Day was October 21st in Halsey. Travis, Haley and Kylen attended. Travis continued to discuss some of the species of trees that looked good as well as other concerns the NRD may have with trees in the future.
- Lori Jeffery of the Bessey Nursery in Halsey made a trip to Chadron to check out some of the Rocky Mountain Juniper trees that had a low survivability rate in our area.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley is working on Water Use reports and hopes to have them completed by the end of November.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin has begun working on a project that Kody started while he was still here. He is compiling a database of Land Owner information in our district.

Directors Forum

Pat explained this new agenda item. This is a section where the directors may discuss items that are not on the agenda. This will hopefully help to keep the discussion on the remainder of the agenda items more focused.

There was some discussion by the Directors on what matters could be discussed here.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda with minor corrections to the minutes, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson, Larry Teahon

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Curtis Roth**

Director Roth reported on the following:

- The NARD Board will meet in Grand Island on November 10th; Director Roth will not be able to attend.
- During the Grand Island meeting the Board will discuss several requests to fund projects from the NARD Foundation. The Foundation is maintained by fund raising that occurs at the Annual Meeting.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlec**

Director Kadlec reported on the following:

- The next commission meeting will be November 25th in Kearney, NE.
- Pat discussed some of the Rules and Regulations that are being discussed.
- There has also been some discussion on how the LB1098 money will be spent.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson was absent. Pat mentioned Niobrara River Basin planning meeting will be held November 18th in Ainsworth, NE with DNR in attendance.

**Water Committee Report
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Jim Irwin Transfer – Jim proposes a transfer of 25.2 acres from NE1/4N1/2SE1/4 25-25-48 to the SW1/4 20-25-48. The approval of the transfer would allow the installation of a swing arm pivot in the SW1/4 20-25-48. Additionally, a field modification is requested for the NE1/4N1/2SE1/4 25-25-48 to modify field boundaries drying up gravity acres to allow installation of swing arm pivot in the NE1/4 25-25-48. Acres are certified and title report has been completed. Transfer will be recorded with county clerk, if approved.

Tod Dorshorst motioned to approve the Irwin transfer request, John Burke seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson, Larry Teahon.

- Lynn discussed the newest changes that have been made to the GWMA Rules and Regulations regarding the cease and desist regulations as well as the proposed chemigation fee changes. There was also discussion about the need for an information meeting to be held in early December about these proposed changes in order to vote to go to hearing at the December Board Meeting.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The committee has reviewed the proposed price changes for 2015, including an increase in fabric and the proposed Chemigation fees.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the proposed price changes including the chemigation charges pending the Public Hearing, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson, Larry Teahon.

Old or New Business

Pat discussed the proposed EPA Water's of the US rules and regulations and the letter that was prepared as directed by the Board at the November meeting. The NRD's across the state and NARD are submitting comments regarding these regulations. The UNWNRD letter will need to be signed by Chairman Zochol pending board action.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve and submit the UNWNRD's comment letter, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson, Larry Teahon.

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst motioned to excuse Dave Carlson and Larry Teahon from the Board Meeting, John Burke seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson, Larry Teahon.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

Kevin Oligmueller moved to go into executive session at 9:52 a.m to discuss litigation issues., Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson, Larry Teahon.

John Burke moved to exit executive session at 10:20 a.m., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson, Larry Teahon.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.



Rich Zochol, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 12 11 14