



Serving Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux Counties

430 East Second Street * Chadron, Nebraska 69337 * Phone (308) 432-6190
Fax (308) 432-6187 * www.unwnrd.org

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2017, 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 November 8, 2017.

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 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	Dave Carlson
Mike Strasburger	Dave Kadlecek
Tod Dorshorst	John Burke
Nancy Fisher	Steve Sandberg
Rich Zochol	Al Rasmussen
Kevin Oligmueller	

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.
Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coord.	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager
Nevin Price, NRD Resource Technician	Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist
Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension	Anna Ferguson, NRSC Conservation Technician
Rob Ferguson, NRCS Survey Technician	Kari Littrel, NRCS Soil Conservation Tech.

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin introduced the new employees that have been hired at the NRCS Office in Chadron and Rushville and asked each of them to provide a brief introduction of themselves.

Robin went on to discuss the livestock grazing Focus Group Meeting that will be held on November 21st at the UNWNRD office. Any Director interested was invited to attend.

Nebraska Forest Service

No report given.

UNL Extension
Jack Arterburn

Jack discussed some of the upcoming workshops the Extension office is offering to farmer and ranchers including a talk at CSC that will be given by Dan Thompson in December as well as a work shop on finance that will teach farmers and ranchers how to manage the business side of their operation.

General Manager
Pat O'Brien

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat recently attended a meeting with Mike Murphy of MNNRD and Senator Brewer in Gordon to discuss current legislative activities including upcoming state budget cuts to make up the projected \$150-\$250 million dollar shortfall.

Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- The most recent Water Well Standards meeting was held in Lincoln on November 8th. Prior to that Lynn attended the Water Roundtable where Governor Ricketts was in attendance to discuss current and emerging issues facing Nebraska's water and natural resources as well as upcoming budget cuts.
- While in Lincoln, Lynn also met with DNR to discuss the GUI modeling work the Department is doing, noting that there could be a beta version of the model available in early spring.

Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The most recent NRD poster contest winners have been announced. Sheri passed around the winning poster for the Directors to view.
- Sheri also discussed the 2020 Envirothon fund raising efforts and noted that both she and Haley have volunteered to help with said efforts.

**Office Manager
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen discussed the FY 2016-2017 Audit, Accounts Receivable, Collections, and the upcoming Christmas Party.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- The Water Issues Meeting will be held in Alliance on March 1st, 2018.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig provided a verbal report:

- Craig discussed the recent No Till Drill activities, noting that it has been used mainly for pollinator plantings.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin has been busy with static water levels and reading meters.
- Nevin also discussed the upcoming Range Day that will be held in the CSC Ballroom of the Student Center on January 16th, 2018. He provided an agenda for each Director as well.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.

Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- The last NARD Board Meeting was held in Beatrice on November 6th.
- Director Dorshorst discussed some of the Foundation Funding Requests.
- The contract with the Younes Convention Center in Kearney for the NARD annual conference was extended for three years.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

No report was given.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported on the following:

- Attorney Blankenau has been meeting with Jesse Bradley, NDNR to discuss the water availability in the basin utilizing DNR's INSIGHT process.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- The committee will be considering modification to the current groundwater management subareas. Prior to this, it would be beneficial to allow DNR and UNL-CSD to complete the aquifer absent analysis and this may impact management area delineation decisions.
- Pat also discussed the need for a timeline for future management decision with an emphasis on ensuring the next allocation is set well in advance of the expiration of the current allocation period in 2019.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The OPP Committee and staff are currently reviewing several UNWNRD policies to ensure the District is operating according to all written policies or to determine if policies need to be modified and updated. Action will be requested at the December board meeting.

Old or New Business

Director Rasmussen inquired about the status of the Box Butte Reservoir. Some discussion ensued between Directors and staff

Excused Absences

None

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board

Date Signed 12/12/17



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager