



**UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE**  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**October 8, 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, October 8, 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 September 30th, 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
John Burke	

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager
Mary Sackinger, NRD Watershed Proj. Coord.	Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Fred McCartney, NFS District Forester	Seth Peterson, NFS District Forester
Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist	Mike Murphy, MNNRD General Manager
Don Grien	

**Emergency Agenda Additions**

None.

**NRCS**  
**Robin Foulk**

Robin passed out her written report to the Directors and noted that the Rushville NRCS office hired a new Soil Conservationist; Molly Lakin.

Robin also discussed the EQIP sign up and where the NRCS offices are as far as getting the applications ranked and approved. She also mentioned that there may also be the opportunity to sign up for some of these programs online using Client Gateway.

Robin entertained questions from the Directors pertaining to the Emergency Conservation Program.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting  
October 8, 2015

**Nebraska Forest Service  
Fred McCartney & Seth Peterson**

On September 15<sup>th</sup> the Forest Service was able to use the SEAT Plane on the wildfires near Whitney, NE. Seven water drops were made on the fire, each drop containing 550 gallons. Fred passed out a few photos of the plane in action. Seth discussed the SEAT Plane contract and purpose.

**General Manager  
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat mentioned there will be another Oil and Gas Conservation Commission interim study hearing will be scheduled for December in Lincoln to discuss wastewater disposal wells. Board and staff will be advised when the meeting is set.
- Pat recently met with the Mirage Flats Irrigation District and the Ainsworth Irrigation District in an attempt to educate them about in-stream flows and issues with Spencer Hydro Facility on the Niobrara River. The NRD's objective is to protect water rights for all users.
- The annual Niobrara Compact meeting will be held in Torrington, WY on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and the annual IMP Meeting will be held on on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the NRD office in Chadron, NE.

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- NRD staff has begun reading meters and will begin static water levels within the next week.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator  
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The land judging contest was held on October 7<sup>th</sup>, there were 78 students who competed.
- Director Kadlec and Sheri were interviewed for the NRD History Program being put together by NARD and NET.

**Office Manager  
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen was not present as the meeting but provided a written report.

**Water Resources Manager  
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- She has been busy reading meters and recording these reading for the water use report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator  
Craig Eddie**

Craig was not present at the meeting but provided a written report.

**Resources Technician  
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin has also been busy reading meters.
- Nevin attended a presentation at annual conference about Milkweed and discussed its positive relationship with the Monarch Butterfly that has been scarce in our area lately. Nevin suggested that more of this plant be planted in our area.

**Watershed Projects Coordinator  
Mary Sackinger**

Mary had nothing to add to her report.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

**Agency Reports**

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts  
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- There were three resolutions passed at the NARD Annual Conference. Director Dorshorst discussed the resolutions with the other Directors.
- NARD raised about \$26,000 for the Foundation from the Golf Tournament, Trap Shoot and Auction.
- There were 783,000 trees purchased from Bessey last year by NRDs.
- There were 3,500 trees given away at Husker Harvest Days.
- The contract with the NARD and the Younes Center was extended for 2 more years.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission  
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The Rules and Regulations for the Water Sustainability Fund were passed and will become effect on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The NRC can begin accepting applications for use of 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:

- There is a variance request from Jerry Bottorff for a new well permit; if granted, he would convert the old irrigation well into a livestock/observation well. Jerry is proposing to pour a concrete pad over the top of the old irrigation well, which was not decommissioned or converted within 180 days. A small riser will be installed to allow installation of submersible pump and access for observing static water levels. This is in an area where the District does not currently have an observation site.

*Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the Bottorff Variance Request, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

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

Director Kadlecek Reported on the following:

- The suggested solution to the EQIP tree planting planned for Erquiaga's property that was improperly flagged into the adjacent property owned by the City of Rushville. Cody Gibbons, the technician on the plan, has his own EQIP contract and would be willing to dig up the trees and fabric and put them into his own planting. The district would be out about \$350 with this option.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to accept the NRCS's suggestion to remove the extra trees from the Erquiaga planting and put them into Gibbons' EQIP contract, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (7) ayes, (4) nays – John Burke, Scott Berndt, Steve Sandberg, Al Rasmussen. Motion Carries.*

- Lynn discussed the CRP resolution to extend the CRP fencing grant to December 2015. Depending on funding the grant may be extended one more year until funds are used.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to extent the CRP Resolution to December 2015, John Burke seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

- Pat discussed the Convenience Fee for customers in order to use credit or debit cards. The card processing will cost the district 2.5 and 3% per transaction depending on the mode of entry. The staff recommended charge to be transferred to the customer will be a rate of 3% in order to cover the cost to use credit or debit cards.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the 3% Convenience Fee in order to allow the district to accept credit and debit cards, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

- Pat discussed the December Board meeting date, time and place as well as the Christmas Party that will follow. It has been suggested that we have the Board Meeting and Christmas party at the Hay Springs Legion on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

*Kevin Oligmueller moved to have the December Board meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 3 p.m., Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

**Old or New Business**

None

**Excused Absences**

None

**Public Comment**

Sheri discussed the Boy Scout tree plant and encouraged anyone to join in and help the boy scouts get everything planted.

Mike Murphy commended the UNWNRD Board of Directors for their work on the purchase of the Spencer Hydro Facility and Water rights.

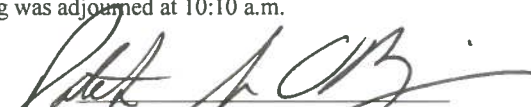
**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

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

  
Rich Zochol, Chairman of the Board

  
Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 11-12-15