



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
October 11, 2012**

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 11, 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 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, October 3, 2012.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Lees pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that is displayed on the wall.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman, Jim Lees, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Dale Anderson
Tod Dorshorst
Jim Lees
Curt Roth
Steve Sandberg
Larry Teahon

Rich Zochol
Absent:
Dale Berndt
John Burke
Jim Irwin
Dave Kadlecek

Others present:

Lyndon Vogt, NRD General Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager
Katie Harris, NRD Administrative Assistant
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Dave Carlson

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Technician
Haley Anders, NRD Resources Technician
Shelley Steffl, NGPC
Jean Parker

Jim Lees presented Jean Parker with her Wildlife Habitat Improvement Conservation Award. Jean thanked the Board for the honor.

Emergency Agenda Additions

Hearing none, Chairman Lees continued with the meeting.

NRCS Robin Foulk

Robin handed out and discussed her written report. Robin also thanked everyone for filling out the survey she distributed in August. NRCS is in the 2013 budget year but they currently do not have a budget or a Farm Bill. At this time, staff can work on existing CRP contracts but they cannot write up any new CRP contracts until they have a budget in place. They can write up new EQIP and Conservation Stewardship contracts.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
October 11, 2012

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak was absent from the meeting.

**General Manager's Report
Lyndon Vogt**

Lyndon added the following to his written report:

- Travis Nitsch will be our Natural Resources Coordinator. He will begin that position October 16.
- We will be advertising for a Resources Technician for the next few weeks.
- The Panhandle No-Till Partnership has a draft agenda together for the winter conference in Gering on February 20-21, 2013.
- Please let us know if you are interested in attending the Water/Law Conference in Lincoln on November 13-14. Lyndon will be attending the conference.
- We took bids to purchase or lease a new color copier. We would like to get a copier that could work as a printer if our current printer quits. After comparing bids, we are going to lease a Xerox color copier.
- Lyndon handed out the letter that we sent to Nebraska Game & Parks Commission regarding hunting and the danger for fire. He also handed out a response letter from Timothy McCoy, Deputy Director for the NG&PC.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- We have read approximately 700 meters to date.
- We hope to be done reading meters by Thanksgiving.
- We are working on static water levels.

**Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- We plan to have our annual Water Issues Meeting in Alliance on February 7, 2013. We are working on a draft agenda for this meeting. We are trying to get a climatologist to give a presentation.
- We will be sending out a press release to promote tree sales and reforestation efforts.
- We will be working on the next issue of the newsletter.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley has been reading meters in western Box Butte County.

**Resources Technician
Travis Nitsch**

Travis added the following to his written report:

- Travis has been reading meters in eastern Box Butte County.
- Lynn and Travis will be attending Bessey's Clients' Day on October 23-24.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Curt Roth moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays and (4) absent – Dale Berndt, John Burke, Jim Irwin and Dave Kadlecek.

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources District Curtis Roth

The NARD Board met at Fall Conference on September 25 in Kearney. Director Roth discussed the following:

- Lyndon handed out the resolutions from Fall Conference. NARD Resolution 2012-1 (Erosion and Sediment Control Act Amendments) and NARD Resolution 2012-4 (Increase in Fees Collected for Chemigation Purposes) were the only resolutions that passed.
- The Victory Diversified Stock A has been replaced in the retirement program because it has not been performing well.
- When an employee signs up with the retirement program, they have 100 days to determine how to allocate their funds. Several employees did not get that done in time so money was being deducted from their paychecks but it wasn't going into a specified fund. NARD had to set up a different account for those funds until the employees make the designation for their account.
- NARD received a clean audit report.
- The Risk Pool had a small loss in July and August but has rebounded in September.
- The NARD Foundation raised about \$16,000 at Fall Conference.
- The next meeting will be November 12, 2012.

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek was absent from the meeting.

Operations/Personnel/Policy Committee Report Lyndon Vogt

The OPP Committee met on October 3. Lyndon reported the following:

- The Committee discussed how UNWNRD could help landowners that lost trees in the recent area fires. The Committee decided on three options for shelter belts and reforestation efforts. To qualify for assistance the trees must be planted in a 2012 burn area. The three options are:
 1. Shelter belt replacement assistance: Offer 50% cost-share on trees, fabric, planting and installation regardless of the age of the shelterbelt being replaced. \$5,000 maximum per participant. Available until tree planting cost-share is gone.
 2. Reforestation using seedlings (bare root and/or potted): UNWNRD will charge 50% of the cost for a maximum of 1,000 bare root or 500 potted trees. The maximum assistance per producer will be \$500.
 3. Reforestation from seed: UNWNRD will offer seed for reforestation efforts at 50% of the actual cost. Five to six different varieties of seed will be made available such as Ponderosa Pine, Aspen and a couple of shrubs and hardwoods. UNWNRD cost will range from \$25 to \$60 per pound depending on the species. The maximum assistance per landowner will be \$500.

Program #2 and #3 will have a maximum of \$20,000 available between the two programs. Larry Teahon moved to approve the tree and reforestation cost-share as recommended by the OPP Committee; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays and (4) absent – Dale Berndt, John Burke, Jim Irwin and Dave Kadlecek.

- We will have a board tour of the West Ash fire area on November 8 before our board meeting. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. from the UNWNRD Chadron office. Rich Zochol moved to change the November 8 board meeting time to 1:30 p.m. to accommodate for our tour; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays and (4) absent – Dale Berndt, John Burke, Jim Irwin and Dave Kadlecek.
- Rich Zochol moved to change our December 13 board meeting to 2:30 p.m. at the Gordon City Hall; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays and (4) absent – Dale Berndt, John Burke, Jim Irwin and Dave Kadlecek.

**Water Committee Report
Curt Roth**

The Water Committee did not meet but a couple Directors mentioned that they had received calls from landowners with concerns about the water allocation. Landowners are concerned that they will be out of water if 2013 is as dry as 2012. One landowner requested that the board disregard any water use this year and that this year's water use should not count toward the four year allocation. These concerns were duly noted.

Old or New Business

Greg Schenbeck met with Jim Lees and discussed that the NC&PC is very much in favor of grazing.

Excused Absences

Steve Sandberg moved to excuse Dale Berndt, John Burke, Jim Irwin and Dave Kadlecek; Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays and (4) absent – Dale Berndt, John Burke, Jim Irwin and Dave Kadlecek.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Date Signed _____