



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
September 11th, 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, September 11th, 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 September 3rd, 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:

Scott Berndt	Curt Roth
Steve Sandberg	Kevin Oligmueller
Dave Kadlecck	Rich Zochol
John Burke	Tod Dorshorst
Jim Lees	Larry Teahon

Absent: Dave Carlson

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
Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist	Doak Nickerson, NFS
Sharyl Sapp, NDEQ	Nancy Nixon
Victor Micardo, NRCS Volunteer	Nancy Fisher
Andy Curd	Dixie Lees

Emergency Agenda Additions

None.

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin introduced Victor Micardo, a CSC Graduate student who is currently shadowing at the NRCS office. Mr. Micardo gave a brief introduction.

Robin continued to review her report to the Board. The NRCS is going to reopen the Soil Conservation Technician position in Alliance, after only one application was received during the first application process where only federal employees could apply. This time the position will be open to the public.

The NRCS is also working on Conservation Compliance. This involves wetland determinations, developing conservation plans, and status reviews. NRCS staff must have approval authority to conduct these compliance reviews, which involves extra training for some of the staff. Also, the reviews cannot be done by NRCS employees within their own county; they must be conducted by an NRCS employee working out of another county.

Robin also noted that Audrey Holland will be the new NRCS Administrative Assistant. Her start date will be September 22nd, 2014.

Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson

Doak gave a report on the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic that is occurring in the Black Hills area. The forest service believes that the beetle will eventually run out of food as they prefer to eat living trees. The Black Hills National Forest has been in a legal battle with several environmental groups but in the most recent district court ruling, the Forest Service will now be able to go in and thin the forest as necessary.

Doak also discussed the saw log market and entertained questions by some of the Board members regarding the Pine Ridge Area.

The dead elm trees on the back of the NRD property have finally been removed and Doak gave a list of some of the benefits that those trees have provided over their lifespan.

General Manager
Pat O'Brien

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat discussed the current status of one of the legislative bills regarding public hearings for the NRD's in front of DNR.
- Director Zochol asked for further clarification on the Chemigation Legislation. Pat provided some information on the cost of chemigation permits as well as the cost to the districts to conduct inspections. The legislation will now allow each of the districts to set their own chemigation fees.
- Pat also discussed the Environmental Trust Grant that has been submitted for about \$300,000 to expand the NRD's modeling efforts.

Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn mentioned that the NRD staff is preparing for meter reading.
- The NRD as also put in an application for some funding through Insight Data Enhancement Program (IDEP). The NRD has been approved and will receive funding for Crop Simulation Data as well as data transfer for our water modeling efforts. This funding will totally about \$60,000.

Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The NRD has been doing a lot of field work lately. Over 800 samples have been taken to date.
- Sheri thanked Curtis and Sandy Roth for attending the No Till Bus Tour.
 - Director Roth gave a brief update on the tour.
- Sheri also mentioned that there may be a No Till demonstration at Jim Irwin's in the near future. The next No Till meeting is October 2nd.

**Resources Coordinator
Travis Nitsch**

Travis added the following to his written report:

- The Windbreak renovation workshop went very well and the NRD will plan to do more in the future.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Chemigation has gone well this season; everyone is now getting ready to begin reading meters.
- Haley also worked at the State Fair at the end of August in the new Nebraska Building.

**Resources Technician
Lindsey Glock**

Lindsey was not present at the meeting, however provided a written report.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Curtis Roth**

Director Roth reported on the following:

- As the NARD voting delegate at the Fall Conference, Director Roth asked for the Board's opinion on the resolutions that he would be voting on, on behalf of the UNWNRD. Pat provided clarification on each of the resolutions and the Board agreed to go forward with each of them.
- The NARD Risk Pool is doing well.
- There will be a Program Planning teleconference that Director Roth will not be able to attend. He asked that Director Dorshorst step in as alternate. Director Dorshorst agreed to sit in on the teleconference.

2014-2015 Budget Hearing

Steve Sandberg motioned to open the 2014-2015 Budget Hearing, John Burke seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

Pat outlined the 2014-2015 Budget and Director Zochol asked for any comments or questions on the proposed budget. No comments were made in regard to the proposed Budget.

Director Dorshorst motioned to close the 2014-2015 Budget Hearing, John Burke seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Director Kadlecek and Lynn Webster attended the Lower Niobrara NRD board meeting to provide them with an update on the Natural Resources Commission.
- Director Kadlecek also provided the same update to the Board.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson was not present to provide a report. Pat mentioned that the next NRBA meeting will be September 18th in Valentine, NE.

**Water Committee Report
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Director Dorshorst discussed a transfer request from Harvey Schnell to modify the acres in which the pivot covers.

John Burke motioned to approve the Schnell transfer request, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The Long Range Plan was given to members of the Board with the suggested amendments.

Dave Kadlecek motioned to adopt the Long Range Plan, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

- There was a request from the City of Alliance for grant money to make some improvements to the Laing Lake park area. Director Kadlecek mentioned that the NRD gets a lot of requests for funding from many different organizations and it is difficult to contribute to everyone who requests money. He suggested that the NRD provide the City of Alliance with seed, trees or use of NRD equipment to complete the project instead.

Tod Dorshorst moved to deny the request from the City of Alliance but to provide the use of seed, trees or equipment to the city instead, John Burke seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

2014-2015 Tax Request Hearing

John Burke motioned to open the 2014-2015 Tax Request Hearing, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

Pat discussed the changes in the tax acting. There was a decrease in tax asking this year from .02165 for 2013-2014 to .020416 for 2014-2015. Director Zochol opened the Tax Request Hearing for discussion. The Board members discussed the increase in Property Valuations throughout the district.

John Burke moved to close the 2014-2015 Tax Request Hearing, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

Budget Committee Recommendations
Pat O'Brien

Pat discussed the recommendation to add 1% in Additional Unrestricted Funds. Director Teahon provided some clarification on the purpose for unrestricted funds.

Larry Teahon motion to approve the additional 1% in Unrestricted Funds, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

Pat discussed the Tax Request for the 2015-2014. The Directors discussed the tax request further.

John Burke moved to adopt the 2014-2015 Tax Request, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

Pat discussed the Budget Funds for 2014-2015.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the 2014-2015 Budget Funds, Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

Old or New Business

None.

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst motioned to excuse Dave Carlson from the Board Meeting, Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

Public Comment

Dixie Lees stated that she and Director Lees attended the windbreak renovation workshop that Travis Nitsch organized and that it was very informative and well organized. She encouraged everyone to attend the next one.

Executive Session

Larry Teahon moved to go into executive session at 10:05 a.m., John Burke seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

John Burke moved to exit executive session at 10:33 a.m., Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Dave Carlson.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.


Rich Zochol, Chairman of the Board


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 10-9-14