



## UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting  
September 10, 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, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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

Absent: John Burke

### Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manger	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coordinator	Kylen Weingart, NRD Office Manager
Craig Eddie, NRD Nat. Resources Coordinator	Mary Sackinger, Watershed Projects Coord.
Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist	Shar Sapp, NDEQ
Doak Nickerson, NFS District Forester	Fred McCartney, NFS District Forester
Brett Skinner, Mirage Flats Irrigation District	Blake Pieper, Mirage Flats Irrigation District
Joe Dorshorst, Mirage Flats Irrigation District	Andy Curd
Maureen Skavdahl	

### Emergency Agenda Additions

None.

NRCS  
Robin Foulk

The NRCS has had some staffing changes recently. Aaron Sanford has taken the Technician position in Alliance while the Chadron office has a new internship student. The NRCS is still looking to fill a position in the Rushville office as well as the civil engineer position in the Chadron office.

Robin and Sheri reported on the soil sampling and documentation that took place at Jim Irwin's Farm on August 18th. Robin discussed the soil types they sampled as well as the methods used. This sight is being used to examine soils using different farming methods.

One option being discussed for the trees planted by mistake, for the EQIP tree planting in Sheridan County, will be to transplant the trees in another contract planting. The trees were planted into a neighboring property and the land owner of that property did not wish to use the trees as a CRP contract.

**Nebraska Forest Service  
Doak Nickerson**

The Forestry Field Day went well and Doak thanked the NRD staff for their help with it.

There is a Mini Grant sponsored by the Forest Service and will be given to help plant trees in communities this fall. Doak continued to discuss the benefits of fall tree planting.

Doak, Pat and Craig were able to visit the Nursery at CSU to see how their operation is run as well as the different species they have available.

**Budget Hearing FY 2015-2016**

*Steve Sandberg moved to open the FY 2-15-2016 Budget Hearing at 9:16 a.m., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.  
Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*

Pat discussed the budget changes with the Directors. There was no public comment or opposition to the proposed budget.

*Steve Sandberg moved to close the FY 2015-2016 Budget Hearing at 9:26 a.m., Dave Carlson seconded the motion.  
Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*

**General Manager  
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat discussed the Interim Study that will be held in Sidney, NE on September 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding the water waste well in Sioux County as well as the public hearing that will be held in Valentine on September 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the Niobrara Scenic River boundaries.

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- NRD staff is getting ready to read meters starting later this month.
- Static Water Levels will be recorded in October.
- Lynn, Pat and Haley have a meeting with DNR September 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss future applications of the integrated surface and ground water model, the Department's expectations for river flow into the future and the upcoming basin evaluation.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator  
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- There will be ads on the radio soon about meter reading to let land owners know NRD employees will be in the area.
- The Boy Scouts tree planting will be on October 10<sup>th</sup> at Chadron State Park. They are looking for volunteers to help with the tree planting.

**Office Manager  
Kylan Weingart**

Kylen gave a verbal report on the following:

- Director's quarterly expense forms are due this month. Kylan reminded the Director's to get everything filled out.
- The audit will be started in October.
- Kylan also reminded to Director's to decide whether or not they will be attending Annual Conference and which nights they will be staying in order to make the necessary cancellations.

**Water Resources Manager  
Haley Anders**

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

**Natural Resources Coordinator  
Craig Eddie**

Craig had nothing to add to his written report.

**Resources Technician  
Nevin Price**

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

**Watershed Projects Coordinator  
Mary Sackinger**

Mary added the following to her written report:

- Mary discussed the watershed technical committee meeting that was held on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Special Hearing for Tax Request FY 2015-2016**

*Steve Sandberg moved to open the FY 2015-2016 Special Hearing for the Tax Request at 9:29 a.m., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke*

Pat discussed the proposed Tax Asking for FY 2015-2016. The request is for \$633,584.11 with the Levy set at 0.018577. The levy is down from last year's levy of 0.020060.

There was no public comment or opposition to the proposed tax asking.

*Steve Sandberg moved to close the FY 2015-2016 Special Hearing for the Tax Request, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

**Agency Reports**

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts  
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the resolution that will be voted on at Annual Conference. Director Dorshorst discussed with the Directors their position on the resolutions in order to vote correctly on behalf of the District.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission  
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- There was a commission meeting on September 1<sup>st</sup> that Director Kadlecek and Lynn attended. Director Kadlecek gave an update on the happenings of the meeting. The Commission met to review the hearing on Title 261 – Rules Governing the Administration of the Water Sustainability Fund; discussion revolved around some suggested minor wording changes and points for applications to the fund for federal mandates. As a result of the discussion there were a few wording changes approved in the rules and an adjustment to the points given for applications designed to meet federal mandates.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance  
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report  
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst had nothing to report.

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

Director Kadlecek Reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the changes to the Long Range Plan of Operation and answered questions from the Directors.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to adopt the Long Range Plan of Operation as presented, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*

**Budget Committee  
Steve Sandberg**

Director Sandberg reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the need for 1% restricted funds in case the tax levy would need to be raised next year.

*Steve Sandberg moved to approve 1% on Additional Restricted Funds, Allen Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*

- The Directors discussed the proposed tax asking of \$633,584.11.

*Steve Sandberg moved to approve the Tax Request of \$633,584.11, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*

- The Directors discussed the Tax Levy of 0.018577 and the details of the budget.

*Steve Sandberg moved to approve the proposed Tax Levy of 0.018577 and the proposed Budget for FY 2015-2016, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*

**Old or New Business**

None.

**Excused Absences**

*Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse John Burke from the meeting, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*

**Public Comment**

None.

**Executive Session**

*Kevin Oligmueller moved to enter executive session at 9:44a.m., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*

*Kevin Oligmueller moved to exit executive session at 10:04 a.m., Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*

**Spencer Hydro Facility & Water Appropriations  
NPPD, NRBA, NGPC**

Pat discussed the proposed agreement between the NRBA, NPPD and NGPC regarding the purchase of the Spencer Dam Hydro Facility and the water rights associated with it. There were several comments and questions from members of the public as well as the Directors in order to understand this agreement and what it means for agricultural producers pertaining to water rights. After much discussion the NRBA was thanked for their efforts on this agreement.

*Dave Carlson moved to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between NPPD, NGPC and NRBA regarding the Spencer Hydro Facility and it's Water Appropriations, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.*


**NARD Resolutions**

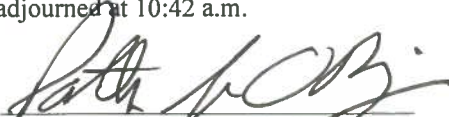
- As a result of the approval of the memorandum of understanding, legislation will need to be introduced. Pat provided a resolution to submit to NARD for consideration during the business session at the annual conference.

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the resolutions to go to NARD Annual Conference, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: John Burke.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

  
Rich Zochol, Chairman of the Board

  
Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 10-8-15