



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
September 13, 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, September 13, 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, September 5, 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	Jim Lees
Dale Berndt	Curt Roth, 9:19 a.m.
John Burke	Larry Teahon
Tod Dorshorst	Rich Zochol
Jim Irwin	Absent:
Dave Kadlecek	Steve Sandberg

Others present:

Lyndon Vogt, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Katie Harris, NRD Administrative Assistant	Haley Anders, NRD Resources Technician
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Technician	Doak Nickerson, NFS
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	Fred McCartney, NFS
Kristy Pahl, PRIDE	Michael Broom, NGPC
John Ravenscroft	

John Ravenscroft was present at the meeting and he introduced himself.

Emergency Agenda Additions

Lyndon added Fire Situation under Old or New Business.

NRCS Robin Foulk

Robin handed out and discussed her written report. Robin also provided the NRD with a detailed map of the Region 23 Fire Complex.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak showed digital maps of the three largest fires in the Panhandle from a few weeks ago. Doak discussed each fire in great detail including where the fires started, how the fires burned and how the crews tried to battle them.

Doak displayed two of the many trees available for the surrounding communities through ReTree Nebraska.

After great discussion about our fire situation, John Burke moved to send a letter to the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission voicing our concerns regarding the upcoming hunting season with hunters, their vehicles and rifles and the possibility of them causing a fire; Dale Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

Budget Hearing

At 9:35 a.m. John Burke moved to open the Budget Hearing; Dale Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

No one from the public offered testimony.

At 9:50 a.m. Dave Kadlecek moved to close the Budget Hearing; Jim Irwin seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

Tax Request Hearing

At 9:51 a.m. Tod Dorshorst moved to open the Tax Request Hearing; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

No one from the public offered testimony.

At 10:02 a.m. John Burke moved to close the Tax Request Hearing; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

**General Manager's Report
Lyndon Vogt**

Lyndon added the following to his written report:

- Lyndon distributed the 2012-2013 Long Range Plan.
- We hired Shane Hamilton for our Natural Resources Coordinator position. He will begin on October 9.
- Lyndon has been requested to give a presentation on how local planning for water management works and how we enforce it in Nebraska at the Groundwater Management Districts Association's annual meeting on January 9-11, 2013 in Austin, Texas. Larry Teahon moved to approve Lyndon attending the conference; Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.
- Lyndon asked if there is any interest to go on a fall tour of the burn area from the recent fires. Lyndon will set up a tour on November 8 before our board meeting.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- We started reading meters this week and all our instruments are working as planned.
- There is interest in the land across from the Mirage Flats Irrigation District where we have two monitoring wells. We might have to look at replacing those wells if they are in inconvenient locations to the new owners.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
September 13, 2012

- Travis installed fire extinguishers on the 4-wheelers and made sure all the trucks had them as well as a safety precaution during fall meter reading.
- We have taken many calls from landowners requesting help to figure out how many inches of water they have used so far this year.
- Lynn worked on the area fires for three days. He would like to thank the board for their support in allowing him to be on the Chadron Volunteer Fire Department.

**Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri was absent from the meeting.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley began reading meters on Tuesday. She took Jessyca out yesterday to train her to read the meters on the Flats.

**Resources Technician
Travis Nitsch**

Travis had nothing to add to his written report.

Budget Committee

John Burke moved to approve an additional 1% levy authority on restricted funds; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

John Burke moved to approve the 2012-2013 tax request as published; Dale Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

John Burke moved to approve the 2012-2013 budget as published; Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

Approval of Consent Agenda

John Burke moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the minutes corrected to show that Steve Sandberg and Rich Zochol were absent from the meeting and that their absences were excused; Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources District
Curtis Roth**

The next meeting will be at Fall Conference on September 25.

- Curt discussed the four NARD Resolutions.

**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dave Kadlec**

The next meeting will be at Fall Conference on September 25.

Groundwater Management and Protection Act Coalition

There was nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Curt Roth**

There was nothing to report.

Old or New Business

With all the wildfires in the area, it has become a concern to many landowners with how to address their loss of trees and fence. After much discussion, it was determined that this issue will be turned over to the Operations/Personnel/Policy Committee to discuss how UNWNRD can help landowners in need. They will present any findings at the October 8 board meeting.

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse Steve Sandberg; Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Date Signed _____