



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
July 9, 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, July 9th, 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 July 1st, 2015.

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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
John Burke	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Allen Rasmussen
Kevin Oligmueller	Steve Sandberg

Absent: Mike Strasburger

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 Natural Resources Coordinator	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager
Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist	Nevin Price, NRD Technician
Doak Nickerson, NFS District Forester	Fred McCartney, NFS District Forester

Emergency Agenda Additions

None.

NRCS

Robin Foulk

Robin discussed the Emergency Conservation Program (EPC), noting that the funding had been approved for damages cause by the recent flooding in the area. Robin also mentioned that FSA's CRP contracts that are due to expire on September 30th, 2015 are eligible to be extended for one more year. A general sign up for CRP will be held in December 2015.

Jack Weideman retired on July 3rd, 2015. The NRCS offices are working to fill his position. Robin discussed staff changes at the NRCS offices across the district as well as the job openings.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
July 9, 2015

There was a security breach on the Federal level that affected about 50% of NRCS employees, including Robin. Robin stated that employees are being offered a free credit check as well as financial services for a period of time.

There was an error on one of the EQIP tree plantings this year. The project was improperly flagged resulting in several trees and several feet of barrier being installed onto a neighboring property. The NRCS and the NRD are working to correct this.

There will also be a soil investigation/soil moisture demonstration at Jim Irwin's farm that will be open to the public on August 18th-20th.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred discussed the Forestry Field Day that is coming up on August 20th. Fred noted some of the speakers and demonstrations that will be at the field day and distributed a draft agenda/flyer.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- The NRD Annual Conference will be held in Kearney, NE September 27th-29th. If any of the Directors are planning to go please let Pat or Kylen know as soon as possible.
- Pat mentioned the tour of the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District facilities that has been scheduled for September.
- Middle Niobrara NRD issued a temporary stay on new irrigation wells. As well, the Department of Natural Resources issued a temporary stay on new surface water rights in the MNNRD.
- An update on the Nebraska Water Balance Alliance Field Day that will be held on August 4 in Sutherland, NE was provided.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn mentioned the work he has been conducting to identify locations for additional monitoring/observation wells and test holes. Staff has met with Steve Sibray, UNL-CSD to discuss placement of these new monitoring wells.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Sheri passed out a picture of the two range camp participants from the district and mentioned that she has requested the students attend the next meeting to discuss their experience.
- Sheri also spent a day down in Halsey for the ACE Camp on June 15th.
- The PNTP field days in the UNWNRD were held at Mark Betson's and Mark Watson's this year.

**Office Manager
Kylen Weingart**

Kylen gave a verbal report on the following:

- All NSWCP applications have been submitted for payment. The NRD paid some of these remaining NC-12 (tree plantings) applications out of the NRD tree cost share funds in order to catch up with the over allocation funding in the NSWCP allocation.
- The NRD had several requests throughout tree season this year from land owners to pay for their trees via credit or debit card. Kylen is currently looking into multiple options for accepting card payments.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley has been busy in the field working to complete all of the New Permit chemigation inspections.
- Haley and Nevin attended a Cheat Grass Workshop recently and the Director's had several questions regarding these new management techniques.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- The NRD received several trees back from Buskirk's after the cooler had been shut off. Craig has been able to sell almost all of those trees.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- There was not a very good turnout for the soil moisture Field Days. Nevin plans to do more for advertisement next year.
- Nevin will also begin reporting the Crop Water Use on the radio each week.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- The NARD Board voted to allow a Hall of Fame nomination to be placed on the ballot that has two individuals on the nomination.
- Two NRD's opted out of the NET video production. This increased each participating NRD's contribution to approximately \$3,900.
- Sidney, NE placed second at the State Envirothon.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The Natural Resources Commission will have a hearing on the Water Sustainability Funds Rules and Regulation on July 31st.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst has nothing to report.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek Reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the Resolution for Retirement Reinstatement. It has not been amended in several years and a few things need to be changed in order to keep the plan compliant with current laws.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Resolution for Retirement Reinstatement, Tod Dorshort seconded the motion.
Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Mike Strasburger.

Budget Committee
Steve Sandberg

Director Sandberg reported on the following proposed changes to the 2015-2016 Budget:

- The proposed budget expenses will increase slightly for monitoring wells, part time help, and the purchase of a new No Till Drill. The budgeted income will then need to be increased for a possible grant to purchase the Drill as well as the expected income to be received from the rental of this new equipment.

Old or New Business

Lynn was asked about and discussed a past issue with Mike Raymer regarding impoundment of water on his property. We will continue to work with DNR to check into this further.

Excused Absences

Steve Sandberg moved to excuse Mike Strasburger from the meeting, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Mike Strasburger.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

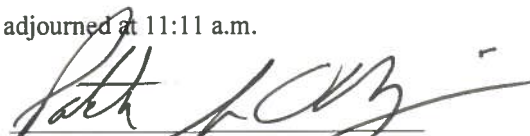
Kevin Oligmueller moved to enter executive session at 10:15a.m., Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Mike Strasburger.

Dave Carlson moved to exit executive session at 11:10 a.m., Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Mike Strasburger.

Adjournment

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


Rich Zochol, Chairman of the Board


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 8-13-15