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In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at the Upper Niobrara White NRD office, 430 East 2nd Street 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, The Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on April 4th, 2018.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Steve Sandberg pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	Dave Carlson
Mike Strasburger	Dave Kadlecek
Tod Dorshorst	John Burke
Nancy Fisher	Steve Sandberg
Rich Zochol	Al Rasmussen
Kevin Oligmueller	

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Haley Anders, Water Resources Manager	Nevin Price, NRD Resource Technician
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.
Aaron Sanford, NRCS	John Duplissis, NFS
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	James Cannia, Aqua Geo Frameworks
Roy Lyles	Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension Office

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**Aqua Geo Frameworks
James Cannia**

Mr. Cannia provided a presentation on Airborne Electromagnetic Surveys that are being used to map out aquifers using electromagnetic signals produced by specialized equipment as helicopters fly the equipment over a specific area.

NRCS

Robin Foulk and Aaron Sanford

Robin provided a written report on the EQIP activities that have been installed in 2016 and 2017.

Aaron provided a presentation on LiDAR, Light Detection and Ranging, including how the data is collected and what the uses would be for conservation planning.

**Nebraska Forest Service
John Duplissis**

John discussed the NFS Ponderosa Pine Reforestation Project noting that there were 48,000 trees planted in the Middle Niobrara NRD and 42,000 trees planted in the Upper Niobrara White NRD.

**ULN Extension
Jack Arterburn**

Jack provided a hand out and discussed a few upcoming educational events that the Extension Office is coordinating for producers.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat provided a legislative update noting property tax relief was a big part of the discussion during the last days. Also, there will be several new senators next session as a result of term limits and two current senators choosing not to re-file for election.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed the Spring Static Water Level measurements.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri was not present but provided a written report.

**Office Manager
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene discussed tree season preparations, her work with Doak in the NFS Reforestation Project and the new office equipment.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley is reconciling the County Assessor's records of irrigated acres with the NRD's certified irrigated acres.
- She has also been busy with chemigation permits.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- Almost all of the trees have been received. Tree distribution will begin next week.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin provided an update on cheat grass trial indicating site visits would be conducted in the near future.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Larry Reynolds is the new NARD Board President.
- Tod also discussed Foundation Funding.
- Conservation award nominations are due May 1st.
- NRD Risk Pool Insurance is down \$172,000.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

No report was given.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report. The next meeting is April 16th.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn discussed the Hamilton Transfer request. Hamilton's are requesting to modify field boundaries on 257.04 certified acres in section 1-30-42; they are replacing two older pivots. The sizes of the new pivots are being modified, the NW pivot is decreasing in size to irrigate 109.52 acres and the East pivot is increasing in size to irrigate 147.52 acres; there will be no net change in the number of certified irrigated acres.

*Rich Zochol moved to approve the Hamilton Transfer Request, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion.
Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

- Pat provided additional information on the options for lifting the high capacity well moratorium for Sub Area 3. The Directors discussed the issue further including a finalization of the ranking criteria. It was decided to vet the idea in a public meeting. It was noted that a rule change will be needed if the board chooses to move forward.

Rich Zochol moved to hold public meetings regarding allowing additional high capacity well in Sub Area 3, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

- Pat discussed a potential recharge potential analysis where four proposals were received from the request issued by the District. It was also noted that DNR would provide 60% of the funding for such a project.

Tod Dorshorst moved to proceed with the recharge project study provided DNR does provide the 60% cost share Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

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

Director Kadlecek had nothing to report.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

None

Public Comment

None


Executive Session

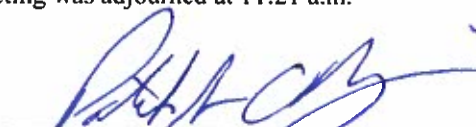
*Dave Carlson moved to enter executive session at 10:58 a.m., Rich Zochol seconded the motion.
Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

*Rich Zochol moved to exit executive session at 11:20 a.m., John Burke seconded the motion.
Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.


Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 5/10/18