



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
May 14, 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, May 14th, 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 May 6th, 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
John Burke	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Allen Rasmussen
Kevin Oligmueller	Mike Strasburger
Steve Sandberg	

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	Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist
Don Grien	Andy Curd

Emergency Agenda Additions

None.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin showed a video on soil health and discussed the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative Grant the NRCS/NRD applied for to fund projects in some of the areas of significant groundwater declines in the district. The application was denied but Robin will do some further research into why it was denied.

Nebraska Forest Service

Fred McCartney and Doak Nickerson were not present for the meeting but provided a video on the 2012 fires and steps landowners can take to manage forests.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
May 14, 2015

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- The NARD Basin Tour will be June 15th-16th; anyone interested in going should contact Kylen as soon as possible.
- Pat gave a brief update on all of the legislative activity including the legislation introduced on oil and gas wastewater.
- The manager's evaluation has been given to each board member, they are asked to completed it and mail it to Chairman Zochol.
- The NRD is also advertizing for a new position to coordinate the watershed planning process and implementation.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed the Flatwater Group's work on the IDEP project that will be used to refine the Upper Niobrara surface and groundwater model.
- The NRD is still working with the county assessors to update any discrepancies on our certified acres.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Sheri thanked everyone who helped to make the Conservation Festival a success.

**Office Manager
Kylen Weingart**

Kylen gave a brief update on tree sales, NSWCP, and the No Till Drill is now in working order and will be stored at the NRD office.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

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

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

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

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:

- Director Dorshorst and Pat discussed the NET video proposal. The district would contribute \$3000 in order to participate. The video would discuss NRD functions and projects to better inform the public of Nebraska.

John Burke moved to support the Upper Niobrara White NRD's participation in the NET video production, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Director Kadlecek discussed the hearing for the Water Sustainability Fund. All of the transcripts have been received and will need to be reviewed. Any further adjustments to the draft will result in further hearings.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the impacts of LB 483 pertaining to subarea 2 and the potential for surface water irrigation expansion. The Directors discussed how this proposal might affect the well moratorium. No action will be taken by the District.
- Lynn discussed the static water level readings for this year as well as what the NRD may need to budget for monitoring wells in the next fiscal year.
- Pat and Lynn also mentioned the status of the modeling efforts.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The Directors discussed applying for an NET grant next year to replace the No Till Drill as it is old and worn out.

**Information/Education/Land & Weed
Nancy Fisher**

Director Fisher reported on the following:

- Director Fisher and Sheri discussed the conservation award nominations for Camp Norwesca submitted by Fred McCartney and the Nebraska Forest Service and for Wayne McGown submitted by Trees Are Us. The committee is recommending that the district award both of these.

John Burke moved to award Camp Norwesca for reforestation and Wayne McGown with the Charlie Snook Memorial award, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

None

Public Comment

Andy Curd commented on the surface water rights and wondered how an area could be fully appropriated with these rights. He also mentioned that in his opinion, the modeling efforts would need to be better calibrated in order to be used. He believes the model is not completely accurate at the moment.

Executive Session

Tod Dorshorst moved to enter executive session at 10:05a.m., Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

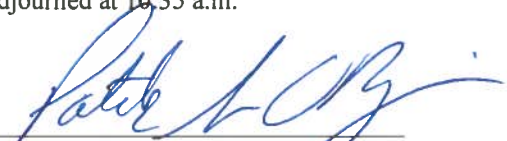
Dave Kadlecek moved to exit executive session at 10:34 a.m., Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

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 6.11.15