



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
December 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 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at the Hay Springs Legion Community Center, 108 South Main Street Hay Springs, 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 and Alliance Time Herald on December 2nd, 2015.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Richard Zochol pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Zochol called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.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
John Burke	Steve Sandberg

Absent: Kevin Oligmueller

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager	Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager
Craig Eddie, NRD Resources Coordinator	Mary Sackinger, NRD Watershed Proj. Coord.
Audrey Holland, NRCS Secretary	Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Lena Vishni, NDEQ	Brett Skinner, Mirage Flats Irrigation District
Steve Sibray, UNL-CSD	Joe Reedy, ARI
Thad Kuntz, ARI	Kristy Dietrich, Dietrich & Sautter CPA
Don Grein	Joe Dorshorst, Mirage Flats Irrigation Dist.
Andy Curd	Laurie Norman
Derek Ginn	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Audrey Holland

Audrey stood in for Robin to pass out her report.

**Ground Water Model
Adaptive Resources, Inc.
Thad Kuntz**

Thad provided a Power Point presentation of the work he has been conducting with the UNWNRD Ground Water Model. He discussed draw down areas, baseline water in storage, saturated thickness, and depth to water. He also presented the model's Aquifer Life Analysis that predicts future drawdown areas based on a 100 year repeat of the 2006-2010 pumping and recharge.

Thad discussed the economic feasibility of pumping water at certain depths. He stated that the Aquifer could never be pumped dry because it would eventually cost too much to be worth pumping any further. The Directors discussed how the model could be used to help predict when this would occur.

Thad answered a few questions from the public regarding the purpose and accuracy of the model.

**FY 2014-2015 Audit Report
Kristy Dietrich**

Kristy presented her findings after the Audit of the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. Overall the Fiscal Year went well and the audit reflects that.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the FY 2014-2015 Audit as presented, John Burke seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Jeff Fassett, Director of DNR, will now be here to meet with the Board and staff on February 11th.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- NRD staff has finished meter reading and hope to have water used reports done by the end of the year.
- Lynn presented his report on fall static water levels for each sub area stating that most levels are up from last year. Lynn noted that fall readings are for informational purposes and management actions are based on spring readings.
- Lynn will have a few transfers next month for the Board to review.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri had nothing to add to her written report.

**Office Manager
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen provided a verbal report on the following:

- NSWCP applications for NC-14 planned grazing systems are about half way completed. There are three applications approved for range seeding and none of those have been completed so far. Windbreak applications have begun to come in but none have been approved yet.
- Kylen also discussed current outstanding invoices.
- Expense forms are due.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley had nothing to add to her written report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- 110,000 trees have been ordered so far with 11,400 sold to date.
- Craig discussed a conference call he attended with the ERC Summit regarding the rapid expansion of red cedar in Nebraska. There was some concern recently over the species growth in acres and this affecting the availability of red cedar for conservation planting in western Nebraska where sometimes red cedar may be the only viable option for conservation planting. An option discussed was a dissection of the state where different areas may be allowed to provide cost share based on the need for red cedar in conservation plantings.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin handed out the range day flyer and noted that all arrangements for the day had been made. Attendees were reminded to RSVP.

**Watershed Projects Coordinator
Mary Sackinger**

Mary added the following to her written report:

- There will be a second watershed planning public meeting on January 19th in Rushville, NE.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Voting delegates are needed for the upcoming Legislative conference in Lincoln January 25th-27th.

Steve Sandberg moved to appoint Tod Dorshorst as the voting delegate for UNWNRD at the Legislative Conference and to appoint Scott Berndt as the Alternate, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlec**

Director Kadlec reported on the following:

- There will likely be four public hearings held on Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.
- The NRC has a new website up and running.

**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 Interlocal Agreement between the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts and the NRD's.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

Old or New Business

None.

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse Kevin Oligmueller from the Board Meeting, Allen Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 1/20/16