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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 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 8, 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 February 28, 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 10:00 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

Absent: Kevin Oligmueller

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Nevin Price, NRD Resource Technician
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.
Fred McCartney, NFS	Erin Divine, BOR
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	Ron Pelton, Whitney Irrigation District

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin gave a brief update on EQIP and CSP funding as well as the Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration project.

Bill Northey has been named the Under Secretary for the FFAS.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
March 8, 2018

The Local Working Group will meet again on March 26th at 9 a.m. at the NRD Office.

**Whitney Irrigation District
Ron Pelton**

Chairman Sandberg moved Agenda item #13 up in order.

Mr. Pelton discussed the need to replace a 36 inch siphon and 2,100 feet of pipeline within the Whitney Irrigation District. The current pipeline is in disrepair and will need to be replaced soon. Mr. Pelton requested that UNWNRD work in conjunction with a grant writer who also works for the NPNRD on efforts to secure funding needed for the project. The Board agreed to review any grant applications and if appropriate, will offer letters of support.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred briefly discussed the Ponderosa Pine Reforestation Project noting that they were hoping to be more successful with use of some better quality Ponderosa Pine from the Stock Trials conducted last spring. Additional discussion will be held during the OPP Committee Report

**ULN Extension
Jack Arterburn**

No report given.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat discussed LB98 noting that the bill had failed to gather enough votes to force cloture and end a filibuster. The Speaker will not place the bill on the agenda again.
- Pat also mentioned the possibility of a Directors Summer Retreat for the 5 NRDs in the Niobrara basin, to be held sometime in early August. The Directors discussed this as a possibility and agreed a one day meeting would be the most acceptable

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn provided an update on the Upper Niobrara Basin Model's conversion to a Graphical User Interface or GUI.
- Staff will be taking static water levels measurements beginning next week.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- State Envirothon will be held at Niobrara State Park on April 25th. Let Sheri know if you would like to volunteer.
- The next Chemigation Trainings will be held in Alliance on March 14th.

**Office Manager
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylen discussed NSWCP application approvals, tree inventory and her work on the Ponderosa Pine Reforestation Project. Kylen also reminded the Directors to complete and sign their expense reports.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley was not present but provided a written report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- The machine plant deadline is March 15th.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin, Craig and Haley attended the water programs training in Kearney.
- Nevin discussed some of his work on the NRDs Certified Irrigated Acres compared to the County Assessors records for irrigated acres.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- The next NARD Board Meeting will be March 12th in Lincoln. The Board will Tour Memorial Stadium following the meeting.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

No report was given.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following from the committee meeting held prior to the board meeting:

- Pat discussed the well variance criteria for subarea 3 and requested that the Directors look through the list of ranking/screening criteria provided to determine the importance of each item. Pat also noted

that it would be helpful to host a Public Meeting to determine the public's views regarding the expansion of Irrigated Acres and Wells in Subarea 3. Staff will work with legal counsel to determine if the variance process or change in the rules and regulations would be the most efficient way to allow for additional wells.

- Pat and Lynn discussed the options for Online Meter Reporting. Due to a lack of comments received to date, the Committee has requested staff utilize chemigation inspections and other opportunities to provide information to producers on the process.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the Ponderosa Pine Reforestation Project including the contract with the Worman Hand Plant Crew hired to complete the planting for the project.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Worman Contract as presented, Scott Berndt seconded the motion.
Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.*

Old or New Business

Director Burke has recently read an article on a study conducted by the University of Nebraska that ties irrigation to a lack of rainfall. Director Burke had concerns over the accuracy and implications of the findings. The article will be distributed to all Directors.

Excused Absences

*Rich Zochol moved to excuse Kevin Oligmueller from the meeting, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion.
Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.*

Public Comment

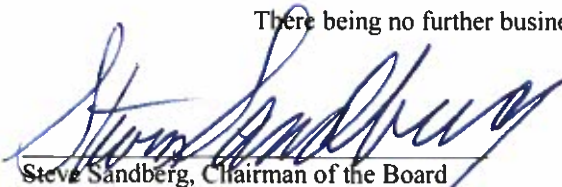
None

Executive Session

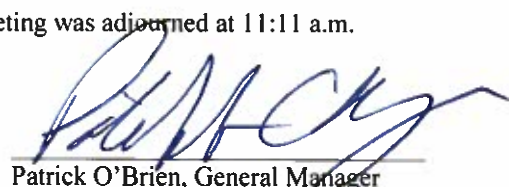
None

Adjournment

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



Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 4-12-18