



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
March 9, 2017

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2017, 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 and The Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on March 1st, 2017.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman John Burke pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Burke called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Absent: Kevin Oligmueller

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coord.
Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Coord.
Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist	Fred McCartney, NFS
Derrick Jespersen	Don Grein
Andy Curd	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin discussed the Local Working Group that will meet March 27th at 9 a.m. at the NRD. They will discuss EQIP funding priorities as well as conservation compliance.

Robin also mentioned the Farm Bill and how it may be affected by future federal budget cuts in 2018.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
March 9, 2017

There will be a soil health meeting in June in Fort Collins, Colorado.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred discussed the urban tree care workshops and pruning workshops that the NFS has been involved with including one being held at Chadron State College on March 14.

Fred also noted some work the NFS has done recently to find new ways to utilize Bio-Char material. This material currently utilizes woody biomass that is otherwise not used for anything else. Bio-char primarily is a soil amendment.

The NFS is currently working to encourage the planting of pollinator species in tree planting this spring and consider trees as pollinator rather than just shrubs. Native pollinator species include Honey Locust, Black Locust, and Kentucky Coffee Tree.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat provided an update on recent legislative activity.
- Pat also discussed the Governor's Riparian Vegetation Task Force that he had been appointed to.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed future monitoring wells, noting that there would be one or two new wells or test holes installed depending on location and depth needed for the wells as recommended by UNL-Conservation and Survey Division.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Sheri had a meeting with Jim Williams of the NE Rain program recently. She discussed the new interactive website they are working on to make the program more accessible to producers.
- Sheri is also working on a newsletter; she encouraged everyone to let her know what might be newsworthy for UNWNRD.
- July 1st is the 45th Anniversary of the NRD system.
- Sheri reaffirmed the call for UNWNRD Conservation Award nominations

**Office Manager
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylan discussed NSWCP approvals, current budget shortfalls and director expenses.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley noted that the Water Issues meeting went well with approximately 60 in attendance.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig was absent from the meeting but provided a written report.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added to following to his written report:

- UNWNRD was not approved for the Nebraska Environmental Trust grant for soil moisture probes. Nevin will be contacting the Trust to determine shortcomings of the grant to determine if another application will be made in 2017

Approval of Consent Agenda

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda, Dave Kadlecek 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:

- Director Dorshorst discussed the newly elected officers to the NARD Board as well as the funding decisions for the NARD Foundation money which included:
 - Nebraska Envirothon
 - ACE Camp
 - Great American Park Pursuit
- The Risk Pool Health Insurance balance is not as low as last year based on lower and fewer claims being submitted.
- NARD will be sponsoring several UNL Baseball games on Nebraska Educational Television this spring.
- Nebraska was awarded the National Envirothon Competition for 2020. Funding may be requested from each NRD to cover the cost of the competition. The matter will be discussed by the I/E Committee prior to the next board 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:

- There is a variance request for Derrick and Cassie Jespersen. Lynn discussed the specifics of the variance request noting that it falls outside of the current UNWNRD policy for transfers within three contiguous sections.

Director Sandberg discussed the need to keep the rules in place as they have been set for a reason. If an exception is made for one land owner in a special situation, it will be difficult to deny the next land owner who asks for an exception as well.

Derrick Jespersen discussed his need for the variance to keep his farm ground on land that has been in his family. He does not own the ground in the sections within the accepted area for transfers. The Directors discussed further options for the Jespersen family.

Steve Sandberg moved to deny the variance request for Derrick and Cassie Jespersen as it does not fit the approved policy set by the UNWNRD Board of Directors, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The Directors discussed the Erosion and Sediment Control Rules and Regulations.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Erosion and Sediment Control Rules and Regulations as presented at the February 14, 2017 public meeting and to publish the order enacting the rules and regulations, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

- Pat and Nevin discussed providing cost share on soil moisture monitoring systems outside of UNWNRD sold items. Cost share for these systems will be paid from the Water Quality line in the UNWNRD budget at a rate of 50% up to \$1,000. The increase will be consistent with the cost share provided by NSWCP. This cost share would be for soil moisture equipment but not for any subscriptions or consulting fees included.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve cost share for soil moisture probes for hardware and equipment only for 50% of the purchase up to \$1,000 per cooperator per year, Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

Old or New Business

None.

Excused Absences

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

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

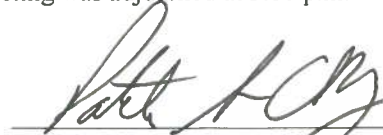
None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 4/13/17