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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, September 14, 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 September 6, 2017.

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	Kevin Oligmueller
Nancy Fisher	Steve Sandberg
Rich Zochol	

Absent: John Burke, Al Rasmussen

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coord.	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager
Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.	Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension	Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist
Doak Nickerson, NFS District Forester	Fred McCartney, NFS District Forester
Seth Peterson, NFS Fire Specialist	Bryce Gerlok, NWTf Forester

Emergency Agenda Additions

Pat O'Brien added a past due account to the Operating/Personnel/Policy Report.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin discussed the hiring freeze and noted that she would soon be able to re-advertise the Soil Conservation Technician position in Chadron and Soil Conservationist in Rushville.

Robin also gave an update and analysis on some of the EQIP practices going on throughout the district since 2010.

Nebraska Forest Service

Doak Nickerson introduced Bryce Gerlok as the new National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTFF) Forester for the area.

Seth Peterson gave a quick fire update for the area and said that things have been going well this year and that fuel moistures are lowering around the area.

**UNL Extension
Jack Arterburn**

Jack discussed some of the articles he has written and is putting on a grazing workshop at Terrell Farms on Oct. 11th.

Also discussed some programs he put on the FSA about analyzing profits for producers.

There will be a range judging practice day before the Range Judging Competition on September 20th.

**Budget Hearing
FY 2017-2018 Budget**

Dave Carlson moved to open the budget hearing at 0915. Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, AR

Pat presented the final advertised 2017-2018 budget and asked for questions or comments from Directors, staff and public. No comments were made.

Scott Berndt moved to close the budget hearing at 0934. Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, AR

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Discussed a whistle blower complaint made to the Nebraska State Auditor against the Little Blue NRD about concerns over reimbursement policies and procedures.
- Also discussed the Niobrara River Model that the National Park Service is having developed by the United States Geological Survey for the scenic area of the river.

**Special Hearing
Final Tax Asking**

Tod Dorshorst moved to open the Special Hearing to set the tax asking. Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent JB, AR

Pat discussed the tax asking of \$627,300 and proposed Levy of .016583. There were no questions or comments from the Directors, staff or public.

*Tod Dorshorst moved to close the Special Hearing, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays.
Absent: JB, AR*

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn has been working with the Mayer family on CRP acres being certified as irrigated acres.
- Meter reading will begin soon and also fall statics will be done in mid-October.
- Updated the board on some well drilling issues discussed at his last meeting in Lincoln.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Boy Scout tree planting will be October 7th at Chadron State Park.

**Office Manager
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene was not present and did not provide a written report.

Pat, at Kylene's request, commented on Director Expense reimbursements and per diems will be paid when she returns.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Chemigation inspections are wrapping up for the year and went well this summer.
- Haley attended Husker Harvest days to hand out trees on September 13th.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig provided verbal report:

- Survival checks for tree plantings are going well and survival has been good this year.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin is finalizing Range Day plans and things are going well with that. The event will be held on January 16, 2018.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda, Scott Berndt seconded the motion.
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, AR*

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Tod Dorshorst

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Pat presented information on the two resolutions that will be presented at the business session during the Annual Meeting in Kearney. Directors discussed the resolutions and will support both.

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 had nothing to report.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Dave Kadlecek discussed the 2017-2018 Long Range Plan that was sent in the board packet.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the 2017-2018 Long Range Plan as amended, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, AR

- Pat discussed the Ponderosa Pine Reforestation Project and talked about some of the policies the UNWNRD would have to temporarily waive to help the NFS out with this project.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve temporarily waiving tree policies and regulations to assist NFS with reforestation project for 2018-19, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, AR

- Dave Kadlecek and Pat discussed no longer doing any cost share or any other business with Terry Stamen until his overdue bills are paid in full to the UNWNRD.

Dave Kadlecek moved to no longer offer cost share or do any other business with Mr. Stamen, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, AR

Budget Committee

Dave Carlson reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the budget, tax asking and unrestricted funds.

Dave Carlson moved to approve the 1% unrestricted funds for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, AR

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the tax asking of \$633,573 and proposed Levy of .016583., Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, AR

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve UNWNRD Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, AR

Old or New Business

Steve Sandberg asked about noxious weed control and any help that would be available or any fines that could be potentially applicable. Pat and Nevin are going to look into the matter.

Excused Absences

Rich Zochol moved to excuse John Burke and Al Rasmussen from the meeting, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB, AR

Public Comment

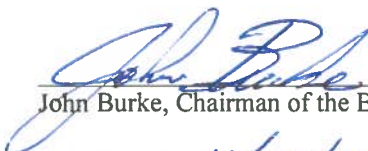
None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1015.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board
Date Signed 10/12/17



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager