

UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
February 13, 2014**

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday February 13, 2014, at the Natural Resources District office, 430 East Second 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 in the Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on Wednesday, February 5, 2014.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Rich Zochol pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that is displayed on the wall.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

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

Scott Berndt – arrived 2:06
John Burke
Larry Teahon
Curtis Roth
Rich Zochol
Kevin Oligmueller

Jim Lees
Dave Carlson
Tod Dorshorst
Steve Sandberg
Dave Kadlecsek

Others present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manger
Kody Schwager, NRD Resources Technician
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Coordinator
Robin Foulk, NRCS
Kerri Remp, Chadron Record
Andy Curd

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Resources Technician
Dixie Lees
Charlie Hamilton

Emergency Agenda Additions

None.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin handed out and discussed her written report.

Nebraska Forest Service

No Report.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Eighteen applications were received for the Office Manager position and interviews will be conducted in early March
- Several bills that impact the NRD are going to have hearings over the next couple weeks. Of concern are LB 1005, LB 1074 and LB 1098. Pat and Dave K. will be traveling to Lincoln on February 25 to testify on two bills.
- Mel Brozek, Mirage Flats Manager will be addressing the board at the April meeting regarding the diversion

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Two public information sessions were held on February 11, to provide information on proposed changes to rules and regulations. Several producers have been requesting information.
- 2014 is the last year of the allocation period. Any applications for transfers need to be completed before the December 2014 board meeting – tentatively scheduled for 12/11/2014.
- A notification has been sent to all users in the sub-areas 4 and 6 where the remaining water allocation is or less than 13.5 inches.

**Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Registrations can still be taken for Panhandle No-Till Conference. Directors committed so far are Berndt, Carlson and Roth.

**Tree Program
Travis Nitsch**

Travis added the following to his written report:

- The NRD has over 60,000 trees sold to date.
- Currently the NRD has sold roughly 324,000 linear feet of fabric. A second container of fabric was ordered

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report

- Haley has been reviewing the water use reports and will be looking at some of the readings to determine if the high uses are accurate.

**Resources Technician
Jessyca Hovendick**

Jessyca was absent from the meeting and provided a written report.

**Resources Technician
Kody Schwager**

Kody had nothing to add to his 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 District
Curtis Roth**

Director Roth reported the following:

- Four bills were discussed at the NARD Legislative Conference and the final positions on bills are included in the Board packet.
- There has been an Administrative Professionals group formed and will meet periodically to discuss the various issues that face office management. A meeting will be held on March 4, 2014 in Kearney.
- The NARD Washington D.C. Conference, March 22-26, 2014.
- The NARD board voted 22-1 to request NRD to contribute \$1,000 for a new building on the Nebraska State Fair Grounds with a donation of \$2,000 being contributed by the Foundation.
- The NARD Board voted to make the following donations from the NARD Foundation: ACE Camp - \$500, Ag Issues Academy - \$1,800, Great Park Pursuit - \$2,500 ad NE LEAD Program - \$1,000.
- There has been a 4% proposed budget increase for NARD.

**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- There have been some staff changes at DNR.
- The Commission met on January 29 in Lincoln voted on several Lake Wanahoo Funding issues and hopes to have these finally resolved.
- New officers have been elected for the Commission – Chair is Bev Donaldson and Vice-Chair is Kevin Fornoff.
- The Natural Resources Commission will be meeting in Chadron on June 18 and 19, 2014 for the summer meeting and will be requesting assistant with tours and other events.

**Water Committee Report
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- There were requests for two transfers of allocation . HK Farms and Rich Zochol have applied to transfer a portion of their allocation from one tract of land to another, both have the allocation remaining for the transfer and the requests meet the District's rules pertaining to transfers.

The Water Committee recommended approval.

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the HK Farms and Rich Zochol transfer requests; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays, (1) abstain: Zochol

Discussion was held on the proposed rules and regulations and the upcoming hearing. The board instructed Pat to obtain information on the options the board may have on future actions that could be taken regarding the rules.

Operating/Personnel/Policy

Nothing to report

Old or New Business

At the January 23, 2014 meeting, the City of Chadron requested the NRD contribute \$50,000 per year for a period of ten year to assist in funding the stormwater system replacement and rehabilitation program. Discussion was held on this request.

John Burke moved to deny the City of Chadron's request, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

The City of Alliance Housing Authority has requested the payment in lieu of taxes be waived by the NRD. The total amount to be waived is approximately \$77.00.

Tod Dorshorst moved to waive the PILOT fees for 2014 only, Jim Lees seconded the motion. Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Excused Absences

None

Public Comment

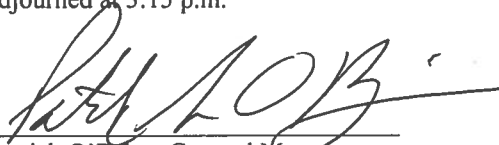
Charlie Hamilton addressed the board and expressed concerns over the proposed allocations and the information that was used to establish the levels.

Andy Curd addressed the board and expressed concerns over the perceived threat of action on the state level and the allocations that have been proposed. Mr. Curd distributed his written comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.


Richard Zochol, Chairman of the Board


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 3-13-14