



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
October 9, 2014

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 9th, 2014, at the Upper Niobrara White NRD Office in 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 on October 1st, 2014.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Zochol pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was displayed at the entrance of the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman, Richard Zochol, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Scott Berndt	Curt Roth
Steve Sandberg	Dave Carlson
Dave Kadlecek	Rich Zochol
John Burke	Tod Dorshorst
Jim Lees (9:05 a.m.)	Larry Teahon

Absent: Kevin Olligmueller

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manger
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Coordinator
Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist
Andy Curd
Don Grien

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Weingart, NRD Office Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Resource Technician
Doak Nickerson, NFS
Audrey Holland, NRCS Secretary
Dixie Lees
Maureen Skavdahl

Emergency Agenda Additions

None.

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin introduced Audrey Holland the new NRCS Secretary. Audrey gave a brief introduction of herself.

Robin discussed the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The NRCS is currently working out the funding for 2015. Robin asked for the Board's input on the project programs and funding. Robin answered questions from the Board and requested that they look over the program specifications and get back to her with some input by November 1st, 2014.

Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson

Doak discussed the forestry tour that was held the previous week in conjunction with the US Forest Service including Federal forest thinning guidelines that are currently in effect.

Doak also discussed the roll of grazing animals in the prevention of forest fires. During the 2012 fires, grass fires were the biggest problem to control because of how quickly they move. Doak discussed the need for grazing animals to keep the grass under control, both to feed the animals and keep any future fires from spreading so quickly. Chadron State Park is in the process of fencing in the entire park for grazing purposes.

Doak recently visited the Gordon City Park and identify some interesting species of trees he did not expect to find.

Finally, Doak discussed a new movement in China regarding the increase in construction of skyscrapers. The US and Canada are currently working out plans to provide the Chinese with resources alternative to metal to build these skyscrapers. They are working towards building tall buildings out of wood. They refer to these structures as "plyscrapers."

General Manager
Pat O'Brien

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Lindsey Glock left the NRD two weeks ago to move to Wyoming.
- Pat also discussed the proposed EPA regulations on how to address discharges to waters of the US that are administered by the USEPA and US Army Corps of Engineers .
 - The Board discussed some of the questions they have about these rules and regulations. Pat will draft comments that will be reviewed and submitted if the board is in agreement.

Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- NRD staff has read, in subareas 4 & 6, over 550 meters to date which is about one third of the way complete. Lynn expects that all meters will be read by November. Water use reports will be completed as soon as all of the meters have been read.
- The IMP meeting is scheduled for October 22nd. Pat and Lynn will be attending. Lynn is currently compiling all of the necessary reports to prepare for the meeting.
- The Upper Niobrara Compact meeting is scheduled for October 21st in Torrington, Lynn and Pat will also be attending.
- Director Carlson asked about any oil drilling in the area. Lynn provided information on a recent request and the transfers between districts.

Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels

Sheri added the following to her written report.
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
October 9th, 2014

- The water issues meeting will be held after the first of the year and if anyone has an suggested topics of concern or issues to be discussed please let Sheri know as soon as possible. All suggestions are welcome.

Director Kadlecek took the opportunity to thank everyone for the Director of the Year award that he received at Annual Conference in Kearney, Nebraska. He also commended the state of Nebraska in general for their joint efforts towards conservation.

**Resources Coordinator
Travis Nitsch**

Travis added the following to his written report:

- The Bessey Nursery Client's Day is scheduled for October 21st in Halsey, Nebraska.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley provided a brief update on the meters she has been able to complete so far this year.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin gave a brief introduction of himself and what he has been working on since he started on September 29th. The board welcomed him to the staff.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Curtis Roth**

Director Roth reported on the following:

- Director Roth briefly discussed the current standings of the NARD expenses.
- There will be an exchange of newsletters between NRDs among many other means of Public Relations.
- There may be a National Envirathon next year.
- Legislative Conference will be January 27th-28th in Lincoln, NE
- The NARD Washington DC trip will be March 21st-25th.
- Director Roth gave a brief update of the NARD Risk Pool.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- The NRC met in Kearney, NE after Annual Conference. Director Kadlecek gave an update as to what the NRC is currently working on, specifically the procedures and rules and regulations for distributing the LB1098 Water Sustainability Funds.
- The next meeting will be held in November.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported on the following:

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
October 9th, 2014

- The NRBA met on September 18th in Valentine, NE.
- The NRBA discussed the Delegation dues. Dues will now be based on the number of acres in each district.
- All of the Boards agreed to proceed with the development of a basin wide plan.

**Water Committee Report
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

Jimmy and Nick Buskirk Transfer – Jimmy proposes to transfer 7 acres from SW1/4 30-26-49 to NW1/4 31-26-49 along with a transfer from Nick of 3.8 acres from the SW1/4 to the NW1/4 31-26-49. The approval of the 10.8 acre transfer would allow the installation of a swing arm pivot in the NW1/4 31-26-49. Landowner and District have had communication with county assessor; assessor is aware of transfer and the requirement for all acres to be assessed as irrigated. Acres are certified and title report has been completed.

John Burke motioned to approve the Buskirk transfer request, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

- To comply with the need for inclusion of Chemigation permit fees in the rules and regulations, Director Dorshorst discussed the proposed increase in chemigation fees. Renewal permits \$25, New/Special Permits \$75, and Emergency Permits \$300. The Board held a discussion about these changes.

Tod Dorshorst motioned to hold a Public Hearing for these proposed chemigation fee changes, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

- Director Dorshorst also mentioned that there will be several applications for transfers coming in towards the end of the Allocation Period ending this year. The Water Committee discussed a deadline of December 31st for all water transfer requests. There will need to be a Public Notice.

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

Director Kadlecek had nothing to report.

Old or New Business

The December Board meeting will include the NRD Annual Review/Audit and annual report. The meeting will need to be changed to a time. The Board discussed the time changed and decided on 3 p.m., December 11th, 2014.

John Burke motioned to change the time of the December Board Meeting to 3 p.m. on Decmeber 11th, 2014, Meeting location to be decided at a later date, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Ollimueller.

The November Board meeting will need to be changed from November 13th, 2014 to November 6th, 2014 due to Board Member conflicts.

Tod Dorshorst motioned to change the date of the November Board meeting to November 6th, 2014 at 9 a.m., Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

Excused Absences

Steve Sandberg motioned to excuse Kevin Oligmueller from the Board Meeting, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Olgmueller.

Public Comment

None.


Executive Session

Steve Sandberg moved to go into executive session at 10:04 a.m., Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

Larry Teahon moved to exit executive session at 10:34 a.m., Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: Kevin Oligmueller.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.



Rich Zochol, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 11-6-14