



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
November 15, 2016

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 Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 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 November 9th, 2016.

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 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	John Burke
Mike Strasburger	Kevin Oligmueller
Tod Dorshorst	Dave Carlson
Nancy Fisher	Steve Sandberg
Rich Zochol	

Absent: Dave Kadlecek, Al Rasmussen

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager
Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.	Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager	Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist
Fred McCartney, NFS	Shelley Steffl, NGPC
Kory Winters, NDEQ	Jason Scholz, NRCS Student Intern
Don Grein	Andy Curd

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NDEQ
Kory Winters

Kory gave a brief introduction of himself and his background.

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin discussed the current NRCS vacancies as well as the hiring of Aaron Sanford as the NRCS Civil Engineering Technician in the Chadron office

Robin then provided an update on the CSP application process as well as the Ag Land Easement (ALE) and the Wetland Reserve Easement (WLE) Programs.

Robin also introduced Jason Scholz, the new student intern at the NRCS office.

Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney

Fred mentioned the trees available to the Directors that the NFS is experimenting with for species diversity evaluation. He encouraged them to take two trees of the same species and report back to the Forest Service on the trees progress.

General Manager
Pat O'Brien

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat discussed some of the upcoming meetings and encouraged the Directors to attend if possible.
- Pat also mentioned Kylie Knigge, the new NRD student worker, and the work she is helping to complete.

Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- The Irrigation Technology Meeting will be in Alliance on November 28th at the Eagles Club.
- Static Water Levels are complete and the NRD staff will be working on the hydrographs that will be completed in December.
- The next WWSLC meeting will be in Kearney on February 13th.
- The CAC meeting went well; there was a lot of good discussion.

Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Sheri discussed the NRD poster Contest and noted the winners.

Office Manager
Kylen Armstrong

Kylen discussed the upcoming Legislating Conference in Lincoln and the FY 15-16 financial audit.

Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Meter reading is almost complete. Water Use Reports will be completed after all meters have been read.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- The Windbreak Workshop will be held in Alliance on November 16th at the Alliance Public Library.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- There are seven test plots to test out the MB906 soil inoculant for a total of 47 acres.
- Nevin is working to line up sprayers to get the test plots sprayed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK, AR.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- The last NARD Board meeting was held in Chadron on November 13th-14th.
- There were 6 requests for funding from the foundation. All but one were funded.
- There will be a new NARD award added called the Soil Steward Award.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek was not present to provide a report.
Pat noted that the next meeting will be held on December 12th.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported on the following:

- Due to the number of new senators that have recently been elected to office, the NRBA is looking to hire a Lobby Group to help educate the new Senators on the issues facing Nebraska's natural resources with specific emphasis to the Niobrara Basin.
- The UNWNRD contribution to the NRBA budget this year will be \$10,960.
- There will be a meeting with Director Fassett on December 5th to discuss moving forward with the water rights transfer associated with the Spencer Dam agreement. Included in the discussion will be water availability in the basin and the completion of the integrated management plans.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- The water committee has had some discussion about modifying the cost share program for soil moisture probes. A similar discussion was held by the OPP committee, the Directors will continue to discuss the matter.

**Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Kevin Oligmueller**

Director Oligmueller reported on the following:

- Lynn discussed the Erosion and Sediment Control Program Rules and Regulations. It is preferred that the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) approve the rules and regulations before being sent to Public Hearing.

Kevin Oligmueller moved to send the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Rules and Regulations to hearing pending NRC approval, Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK, AR.

- Shelly Steffl of Game and Parks discussed a proposal for a project through Wild Nebraska to address Rocky Mountain Juniper encroachment as well as a pipeline system to protect surface water resources on property owned by Kenneth Wellnitz.
 - Pat noted that the funding for this project would come from a line in the NRD budget that it already set up and would be a reimbursement. The funding would just need to be authorized. Shelly requested \$2,500 in UNWNRD funding.

Rich Zochol moved to allocate \$2,500 out of the Wild Nebraska line in the budget to fund the proposed project for Kenneth Wellnitz, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK, AR.

- Pat discussed the credit card processing policy UNWNRD currently has in place to charge customers a convenience fee of 3% in order to pay for any bill with a credit card. This policy has proven ineffective. Pat explained the proposal to allow customers to continue paying for their bills with a credit card as long as the amount of the bill does not exceed \$500.

Rich Zochol moved to limit credit card purchases to \$500, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK, AR.

Old or New Business

None.

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse Dave Kadlecek and Al Rassmussen from the meeting, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK, AR.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 12/13/16