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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 on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at the Upper Niobrara White NRD office, 430 East 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, The Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on Thursday, April 3<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Open Meeting Law Act**

Chairman Kevin Oligmueller pointed out the Open Meeting Act that was present in the meeting room.

**Roll Call & Introduction of Guests**

Chairman Oligmueller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

John Burke	Dave Carlson
Tod Dorshorst	Nancy Fisher
Dave Kadlecek	Mike Strasburger
Al Rasmussen	Kevin Oligmueller
Rich Zochol	Scott Berndt (Conference Call)

Absent: Steve Sandberg

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resource Manager
Brad Carlson, NRCS	Eli Goff, Resource Coordinator
Libby Heger, Cons. Program Assistant	Luke Gazak, NFS
Elle Heuwitt, Student NFS	Shelley Steffl, NE Game and Parks Comm.
Makenna Fisher	

**Emergency Agenda Additions**

None

**Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Brad Carlson**

Brad provided a written report. He stated that Robin Faulk retired as of April 3, 2025 after 45 years of employment. The acting District Conservationist will rotate with his assignment running through May, Brian Kahl in June and July and Kody Gibbons during August and September. Brad gave an update on the Federal Government employment restrictions and effects within the district.

**Nebraska Forest Service  
Luke Gazak**

Luke introduced Elle Hughes, the new student forester.

**General Manager  
Pat O'Brien**

Pat provided a written report and updated the board regarding the possible merger of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn provided a written report. He stated that static water level measurements have been completed.

**Conservation Program Coordinator  
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylan provided written report and updated the board on Conservation Festival which will be held May 7<sup>th</sup> at Chadron State Park.

**Water Resource Manager  
Haley Anders**

Haley provided a written report and stated that she has been working on the nitrate analysis. Haley is planning on sampling monitoring wells to test water quality.

**Resources Coordinator  
Eli Goff**

Eli provided written report and an update on tree sales. He stated that sales are decreased about 15,000 from last year. Eli discussed 2024 tree survival rates.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator  
Robbin Randall**

Robbin was absent but provided a written report.

**Conservation Program Assistant  
Libby Heger**

Libby provided a written report. She reminded the board to sign up for the Basin Tour if interested.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion  
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays; Absent – Steve Sandberg*

**Agency Reports**

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts  
Scott Berndt**

No report

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance  
Dave Carlson**

No Report

**Water Committee  
Rich Zochol**

Lynn presented the preliminary 2025 spring static water levels.

Pat informed the board that JD Powell has a failed meter that has not been fixed in two years. Powell was contacted in March 2024 and acknowledged the 2023 meter failure and committed to repair it. In 2024 the meter had not been repaired and Powell was notified by letter and multiple attempts for contact via phone were attempted by Robin Randall. No response has been received. According to the rules and regulations a letter of intent and cease and desist can be issued. Once the meter has been fixed the cease-and-desist order will be lifted.

*Rich Zochol moved to send the letter of intent and issue a cease-and-desist order to JD Powell for failure to maintain an operable flow meter; John Burke seconded the motion  
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays; Absent – Steve Sandberg*

Lynn presented a Sub-area III application for a new irrigation well and up to 130 certified acres for Sid Strasburger. Lynn provided a map for visual aid. Lynn stated that he is awaiting final documentation for the HEL and conservation plan, which is in progress. He requested the board consider approving the application contingent on the needed documentation being received.

*Rich Zochol moved to approve Sid Strasburger’s Sub-Area III application for a new irrigation well and up to 130 certified acres, contingent on documents being received; Mike Strasburger seconded the motion  
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays;*

**Operating, Personnel, and Policy Committee  
Al Rasmussen**

No report

**New/Old Business**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40a.m.

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Kevin Oligmueller, Chairman of the Board

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Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_