

Serving Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux Counties

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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, August 8, 2024, 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, The Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on July 31, 2024.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Kevin Oligmueller pointed out the Open Meeting Law 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 (9:07 a.m.)	Dave Carlson
Nancy Fisher	Dave Kadlecek
Al Rasmussen	Mike Strasburger
Rich Zochol	Steve Sandberg
Kevin Oligmueller	

Absent: Tod Dorshorst and Scott Berndt

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Elizabeth Heger, NRD Program Assistant
Robbin Randall, NRD Groundwater Mgmt Coordinator	Robin Faulk, NRCS DC
Luke Gazak, Nebraska Forest Service	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Natural Resource Conservation Service Robin Faulk

Robin reported NRCS Senior Leadership started having their quarterly meetings throughout Nebraska. The last quarterly meeting went really well and they visited the Box Butte Watershed Project They next

quarterly meeting will be held in the middle of state. Robin stated that she also received the 45 years of service award and discussed new funding opportunities.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Luke Gazak**

Luke talked about regulations for firewood that is transported across state lines by describing procedures in place that help control the disease and pests that could occur from wood coming into the area from out of state. Luke stated that he and John Erickson believe educating the public would be more beneficial than stricter regulations.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat introduced Elizabeth Heger (Libby) as a new staff member. Pat discussed the meeting with Governor Pillen last month and the opportunity for education withing the Governor's office.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn provided information on well construction issues throughout the district. Lynn stated that it is a challenge to find a well driller in our area. It was stated that some people have been waiting over a year to get their well replaced. He also stated that some drillers are not properly registering wells and it is becoming an issue that he is working on.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylen reported an update on the income, expense reports and accounts payable. Kylen stated she has been working on the Photo contest, and met with Information and Education committee and they have chosen winners.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley was absent from the meeting, but provided a written report.

**Resources Coordinator
Eli Goff**

Eli was absent from the meeting, but provided a written report.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Robbin Randall**

Robbin reported that she has been busy with Chemigation Inspections and water use

Approval of Consent Agenda

John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda; Dave Carlson seconded the motion

Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays; Absent- Tod Dorshorst and Scott Berndt

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Scott Berndt

Director Berndt was absent from the meeting, Kevin Oligmueller reported that conference is coming up if anyone wants to sign up. Pat announced that delegates need to be selected for the annual meeting.

*Steve Sandberg moved to appoint Scott Berndt and Tod Dorshorst as the NARD annual meeting voting delegate and alternate; John Burke seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent- Tod Dorshorst and Scott Berndt*

Niobrara River Basin Alliance Dave Carlson

No Report

Water Committee Rich Zochol

No Report

Operating, Personnel, and Policy Committee Al Rasmussen

Pat stated that the Long-Range Plan of Operation has been updated.

*Al Rasmussen moved to approve the Long Range Plan of Operation; Dave Carlson seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays; Absent- Tod Dorshorst and Scott Berndt*

Information and Education Committee Nancy Fisher

Kylen stated that she received 243 pictures from the picture contest. The committee met before the meeting and picked winners in each category.

Budget Committee Tod Dorshorst

Pat provided information on the Legislature's Special Session that is currently taking place and how some of the proposed statutes may impact the NRD's budget. Pat recommended that the board hold a special budget meeting on August 22, 2024, which should allow time for the property tax legislation to be finalized.

| *John Burke moved to hold a special meeting at 9:00 am on August 22, 2024. -Dave Carlson Seconded this motion.*

Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays; Absent – Tod Dorshorst and Scott Berndt

New/Old Business

None

Public Comment

None


Excused Absences

Rich Zochol moved to excuse Tod Dorshorst and Scott Berndt; Dave Carlson seconded the motion

Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays; Absent – Tod Dorshorst and Scott Berndt

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.



Kevin Oligmueler, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____