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430 East Second Street * Chadron, Nebraska 69337 * Phone (308) 432-6190
Fax (308) 432-6187 * www.unwnrd.org

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025, 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 Thursday, February 6th, 2025.

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 2:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Absent: Scott Berndt and Al Rassmussen

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
Robbin Randall, NRD Groundwater Mgmt Coordinator	Robin Faulk, NRCS DC
Eli Goff, Resource Coordinator	Libby Heger, Cons. Program Assistant
Luke Gazak, NFS	Brock Ortner, UNL Extension

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Audit

Robert Meyer from RJ Meyer Associates presented the 2023-24 fiscal year audit via Zoom.

Steve Sandberg moved to accept the 2023-24 Fiscal Year Audit and submit to the State Auditor; Dave Carlson seconded the motion

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

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**Natural Resource Conservation Service
Robin Faulk**

Robin provided written report and discussed project funding updates that have been impacted by Executive Orders.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Luke Gazak**

Luke reported on project funding updates and that Elle Hewitt has been hired to assist on forestry projects starting March 1st.

**UNL Extension
Brock Ortner**

Brock introduced himself with background information and noted he is located in the Rushville UNL Extension Office. Brock provided a written report.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat provided a written report and outlined future events.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn provided a written report. He stated that he attended water well standard meeting and addressed concerns over well drillers.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylen provided written report with no additions.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley provided written reports. She stated the Nebraska clearing house is approving nitrate data.

**Resources Coordinator
Eli Goff**

Eli provided written report. He discussed the 2024 tree survivability rates and effects of weather and the timing of the plantings.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Robbin Randall**

Robbin provided written report. She stated that static water level measurements have been added into the NRD app.

**Conservation Program Assistant
Libby Heger**

Libby provided a written report and stated that chemigation permits will be mailed out toward the end of February. She discussed updated to chemigation trainings. A thank you note from Chadron Middle School was shared.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda; John Burke seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays; Absent-Scott Berndt and Al Rassmussen*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Pat stated that the 2025 NARD policy books have been handed out. Information on legislative bills and the positions were sent out in the board packet.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

No Report

**Water Committee
Rich Zochol**

Lynn presented a request by Joe Schekall and J PEX Farms LLC to transfer 24.32 acres. There would be no net increase in certified acres.

*Rich Zochol moved to approve the Schekall transfer; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays; Absent-Scott Berndt and Al Rassmussen*

Lynn presented a transfer request from Vern Terrell and Terrell Farms. The transfer is two separate transfers based on the moving to two parcels. The total acres being transferred equates to 10.7.

*Rich Zochol moved to approve the Vern Terrell transfer; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays; Absent-Scott Berndt and Al Rassmussen*

Lynn the application for a well and certified acres in Sub Area 3 for B&H Heritage Ranch. He stated it meets all requirements, but waiting on the highly erodible determination and a conservation plan. The Board discussed approving the application contingent upon receipt of the required information.

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the well and acre application for B&H Heritage Ranch, contingent upon receipt of the highly erodible determination and conservation plan; Dave Carlson seconded the motion

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

Lynn provided information- on the 136 allocation transfer requests that meet the rules and regulations. He provided a list with the individual transfer information.

*John Burke moved approve 136 allocation transfers; Dave Carlson seconded the motion
Roll call: (8) ayes, (1) abstain: Rich Zochol (0) nays; Absent-Scott Berndt and Al Rasmussen*

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

No report

New/Old Business

None

Public Comment

None

Excused Absences

*Tod Dorshorst moved excuse Scott Berndt and Al Rasmussen, John Burke seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays; Absent-Scott Berndt and Al Rasmussen*

Executive Session

*Steve Sandberg moved to enter into Executive Session at 2:53 P.M.; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays; Absent-Scott Berndt and Al Rasmussen*

*Rich Zochol moved to exit Executive Session at 3:05 P.M.; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays; Absent-Scott Berndt and Al Rasmussen*

*John Burk moved to give Brenda Schnell a \$500 bonus as a departing gift as she enters into retirement;
Dave Carlson seconded the motion*

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:06 P.M.

Kevin Oligmueller, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____