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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, December 12, 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 December 5, 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 3:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Absent: 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
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resource Manager Coord	Robbin Randall, NRD Groundwater Mgmt.
Eli Goff, NRD Resources Coordinator	Robin Faulk, NRCS
Bryce Gerlach, Nebraska Forest Service Benton Line	Shelley Steffl, Nebraska Game and Parks

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**Natural Resource Conservation Service
Robin Faulk**

Robin reviewed her written report and discussed the Regional Conservation Partnership Programs.

Nebraska Forest Service

Bryce Gerlach

Bryce discussed reforestation programs results from 2024. NFS is looking to continue this program in the coming year. Bryce stated to be eligible the location must be in a burned area since 2000.

General Manager

Pat O'Brien

Pat provided a written report. He reminded directors that the January meeting will be held January 23, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at Chadron Middle School.

Assistant Manager

Lynn Webster

Lynn provided a written report. Lynn stated he has been busy completing water transfers. He attended the annual IMP Meeting, where there we no major changes and the reports with more information is available upon request.

Conservation Program Coordinator

Kylen Armstrong

Kylen provided a written report. Kylen discussed information regarding the change to Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance for NRD Staff.

Water Resource Manager

Haley Anders

Haley provided a written report, and stated she has been working on nitrate analysis and will have it completed by the end of the year.

Resources Coordinator

Eli Goff

Eli provided a written report. He stated Range Day will be January 14th on Chadron State College campus.

Groundwater Management Coordinator

Robbin Randall

Robbin provided a written report. She stated that water use reports were mailed out on November 22nd and the number of failed meters is decreased from previous years.

Conservation Program Assistant

Elizabeth Heger

Libby provided a written report. She stated information on One Red Program and Informational emails.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda; Dave Carlson seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays Absent: Scott Berndt

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Pat stated that Delegate and Alternate needs to be chosen for 2025 Legislative Conference in January. Scott Berndt was selected as Delagate and Tod Dorshorst was selected as alternate.

Steve Sandberg moved to approve Scott Berndt as Delegate and Tod Dorshorst as Alternate; Mike Strasburger seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays Absent: Scott Berndt

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

No Report

**Water Committee
Rich Zochol**

Lynn reported that according to the Rules and Regulations, the board can take action at the December meeting to allow Sub-area III well and acre expansion up to the 1,300-acre limit and one application per entity.

Rich Zochol moved to approve 2025 Sub-area III well and acre expansion with a limit of 1,300 acres and one application; John Burke seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays Absent: Scott Berndt

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

Discussed the proposed changes to the personnel and operating policies- including changes to retirement plan and financial depositories. Also included was organizing of operating policy #47 which addresses cost-share programs.

Mike Strasburger moved to approve the changes to the personnel and operating policies; Al Rasmussen seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays Absent: Scott Berndt

**Information and Education
Nancy Fisher**

Kylen discussed nominees for 2024 conservation award. She stated these nominee's will be awarded at Range Day, January 14th, 2025 at Chadron State College.

Al Rasmussen moved to approve the nominees for 2024 Conservation awards; John Burke seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays Absent: Scott Berndt

New/Old Business

none

Public Comment

Benton Line stated that he is a small producer and geologist in the area and is interested in learning more about the NRD:

Excused Absences

Dave Carlson moved to excuse Scott Berndt, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays Absent: Scott Berndt

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Kevin Oligmueller, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____