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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, January 18, 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 January 11, 2024. *The meeting was originally scheduled to begin at 2 pm. In accordance with NRD policies, the chairman deemed the weather conditions to be worsening and opened the meeting prior to the scheduled time.*

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman David Kadlecsek pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Kadlecsek called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	John Burke via teleconference
Nancy Fisher	Rich Zochol via teleconference
Al Rasmussen	Mike Strasburger
Dave Kadlecsek	Steve Sandberg
Dave Carlson	Tod Dorshorst
Kevin Oligmueller	

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Eli Goff, NRD Resources Coordinator
Robbin Randall, NRD Groundwater Coordinator	Jordan Grasis, Administrative Assistant
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Election of Officers

Steve Sandberg moved to nominate Director Oligmueller for Chairman of the Board; Dave Carlson seconded the motion

Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays

The meeting was then presided over by Chairman Oligmueller

Steve Sandberg moved to nominate Director Fisher for Vice Chairperson; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion

Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays

Steve Sandberg moved to nominate Director Dorshorst for Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Carlson seconded the motion

Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays

Dave Carlson moved to nominate Director Berndt for as the NARD Representative and Director Dorshorst as NARD Alternate; Mike Strasburger seconded the motion

Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays

Tod Dorshorst moved to nominate Director Carlson as NRBA Representative and Director Oligmueller as NRBA Alternate; Scott Berndt seconded the motion

Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Robin Foulk

Robin shared information about the new funding from the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act). She also shared information about the Soil Health Conference that will be held on January 23, 2024 in Rapid City, SD.

General Manager

Pat O'Brien

Pat reminded the board that the 2023 Annual Review will be presented at 12:30 p.m., prior to the February 8th board meeting.

Assistant Manager

Lynn Webster

Lynn reported he was been working with Longitude 103 to include the water quality data and static water level information into the database application. He also shared that it is a challenge for landowners to find a well driller.

Conservation Program Coordinator

Kylen Armstrong

Kylen reported that the Western Regional Envirothon will be held on January 31st in Gordon, NE. She also shared that they have started on the Ponderosa Pine Rein Forestation Project, so far, they have obligated 42,000 trees.

Water Resource Manager

Haley Anders

Haley was absent for the meeting however provided a written report.

Resources Coordinator

Eli Goff

Eli reported for the next couple months he will be focusing on trees and NSWCP plans.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Robbin Randall**

Robbin reported that she has been looking at water use reports, sending out courtesy letters to those whose water use reports are low (13 inches and under). She has also been reviewing static level water data, making sure there were no errors on the subarea hydrographs.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Steve Sandberg moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Scott Berndt seconded the motion
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt reported that he will be attending the 2024 Legislative Session on January 23rd-24th in Lincoln, NE. Pat continued with sharing a handful of bills that have been introduced that may impact NRDs including LB 1184 and LB 1368

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee
Rich Zochol**

Lynn reviewed the policy for de minimis water use, from regulated wells, that is currently in place for road construction projects. To clarify for the accounting of water withdrawals for this type of use, from regulated wells, for other similar uses, staff is recommending language be added to include all construction/compaction/maintenance projects. Water use will be tracked and reported to the District.

*Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the Construction/Compaction/Maintenance Water Use Report; Scott Berndt seconded the motion
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

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

Director Oligmueller had nothing to report.

Old/New Business

*Nancy Fisher moved to authorize Director Dorshorst as a signatory on District Bank Accounts; Dave Carlson seconded the motion
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

Public Comment

None

Excused Absences

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Kevin Oligmueller, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____