



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, July 13, 2023, 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 6, 2023.

Open Meeting Law Act

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

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

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

Scott Berndt	John Burke
Dave Carlson	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Dave Kadlecik
Al Rasmussen	Mike Strasburger
Rich Zochol	Steve Sandberg

Absent: Kevin Oligmueller

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
Eli Goff, NRD Resources Coordinator	Jordan Grasis, Administrative Assistant
Robbin Randall, NRD Groundwater Mgmt Coord.	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service	Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension
Katherine Crawley, BCR	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Robin Foulk

Robin introduced new hire, Katherine Crawley who started June 26th and is now the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies partnership employee. Katherine shared the progress of Rejuvra which is a herbicide to control cheatgrass and compared the difference between treated and non-treated grass. Robin continued that the NRCS is hiring in bundles of 500 and there is an application out for a Natural Resource Specialist

to assist with conservation planning activities. She also explained that our district has received an additional \$455,686 in 8 new EQIP contracts and \$79,105 in 1 CStP contract.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak shared information from a Forest Health Meeting at Chadron State College which they have been discussing wood energy and nematodes which is a microscopic worm that inhabit many trees. Doak explained that these worms block water conducting tissues under the bark, making the trees dry up and die within a month.

**UNL-Extension
Jack Arterburn**

Jack shared that they have had a grazing school in Chadron with the Grazing Land Collation from South Dakota and planning on another in September. He also discussed the stocking tour in Sioux County that had a good turnout.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat introduced a new hire, Robbin Randall who started at the NRD July 5, and is taking over the Groundwater Management Coordinator position. Robbin gave an introduction of herself to the Directors.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn reported that he is making maps for subarea four in order to complete an initial inspection on those structures and gauge land owner interest.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen reported that she closed out the books for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Director Rasmussen will be helping Kylen with the conservation awards on July 30th. Kylen also said she wants to do conservation awards with Box Butte County sometime in early August.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley reported that she has been busy in the field doing domestic water quality samples and chemigation inspections.

**Resources Coordinator
Eli Goff**

Eli reported that the tree cooler has been shut off and he is busy doing chemigation inspections.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Robbin Randall**

Robbin stated that she has been studying and working with Eli and Haley.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent-Kevin Oligmueller*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt reported the insurance risk pool came out at \$2,000,000 plus for the year. Pat continued that the annual conference and Husker Harvest Days are coming up and requested that if any resolution needs to be introduced the deadline is August 18th.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Pat shared there will be a meeting with the other managers to discuss water right administration, how they should administer the water right and that a couple of flow gauges are going to have to be put in.

**Water Committee
Rich Zochol**

No Report

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

Pat discussed the 2023-2024 Long-Range Plan that has some minor changes to it.

**Information and Education Committee
Al Rasmussen**

Director Rasmussen had nothing to report.

**Budget Committee
Nancy Fisher**

Pat reviewed the 2023-2024 draft budget.

Public Comment

None

Excused Absences

*Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse Director Oligmueller, John Burke seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent-Kevin Oligmueller*

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

David Kadlecek, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____