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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, June 13, 2024, at the Upper Niobrara White NRD office, 430 East 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 June 6, 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:

Scott Berndt	John Burke
Dave Carlson	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Dave Kadlecek
Al Rasmussen	Mike Strasburger
Rich Zochol	Steve Sandberg
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	Robbin Randall, NRD Groundwater Coordinator
Jordan Grasis, Administrative Assistant	Bryce Gerlach, Nebraska Forest Service
Catherine Crawley, NRCS DC	Larry Bolinger, Legislative Candidate Dist. 47

**Emergency Agenda Additions**

None

**Legislative Candidate District 47  
Larry Bolinger**

Larry introduced himself discussed why he was running for the legislature, explained his platform and answered questions that were asked by the Board Directors.

**Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Catherine Crawley**

Catherine reported the Rushville NRCS office hired Katrina Keller as the new data analysis/administrative assistant. She also reported that the Grassland CRP is open for signups. Catherine also shared that the field tour for Cheatgrass control will be in Chadron June 25<sup>th</sup> and in Scottsbluff the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Nebraska Forest Service  
Bryce Gerlach**

Bryce reported an update of defoliators on hardwood trees. that included information on honey locust plant bugs and looper worms.

**General Manager  
Pat O'Brien**

Pat reported information from the manager's meeting. Governor Pillen requested a Water Summit meeting that Director Berndt and Pat will be attending on July 30<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln, NE.

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn reported that he is continuing to work on transfers and updates for land ownership.

**Conservation Program Coordinator  
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene reported an update on the income and expense report. She also shared that there are about 90 photos submitted for the photo contest, hoping to get more interest once the newsletters are sent out.

**Water Resource Manager  
Haley Anders**

Haley reported she has been busy with domestic samples and will start chemigation permits next week.

**Resources Coordinator  
Eli Goff**

Eli reported that the tree cooler is now shut off and is working on getting signatures from landowners for NSWCP.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator  
Robbin Randall**

Robbin reported the first crop water use report went out and is staying busy with chemigation permits.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Scott Berndt moved to approve the consent agenda; Dave Carlson seconded the motion  
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

## **Agency Reports**

### **Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt reported on the NARD Risk Pool meeting, including action by the board to increase NRD and employee retirement contributions by 1% each and changing the third-party program administrator to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.

### **Niobrara River Basin Alliance Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported that the two additional gauging stations have been installed on tributaries to the Niobrara River and the remains of the Spencer Dam and power house will be removed starting this summer.

### **Water Committee Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported that the Water Committee met prior to the board meeting. Lynn continued with information about groundwater management subarea 2. Pat shared that staff has been reviewing quality data within the district and will present the results to the committee and the board at a later date.

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

Director Rasmussen reported on the board meeting public participation policy that was updated following changes to statutes from the 2024 legislative session.

*Al Rasmussen moved to Accept Public Participation Policy update, John Burke seconded the motion  
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

Director Rasmussen presented the proposed NSWCP Allocations for FY-24-2-25 which includes \$40,000 for NC-12s, \$58,649.43 for NC-14 and \$15,000 over allocation.

*John Burke moved to accept the proposed NSWCP allocations, Scott Berndt seconded the motion  
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

Director Rasmussen reported on the proposed insurance renewal from FNIC.

*Al Rasmussen moved to accept FNIC Proposal, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion  
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

Pat provided an update on potential auditors.

Director Rasmussen r presented the committee salary recommendation that will account for cost-of-living increases and allocate \$14,250 for staff and 4% for the general manager

*Mike Strasburger moved to accept the committee salary recommendations, John Burke seconded the motion  
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

**New/Old Business**

Pat provided a draft of the FY 24-25 budget.

**Public Comment**

None

**Excused Absences**

None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

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Kevin Oligmueller, Chairman of the Board

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Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_