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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, May 9, 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 May 2, 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:

Dave Carlson	John Burke (arrived at 9:08 a.m.)
Tod Dorshorst	Nancy Fisher
Al Rasmussen	Rich Zochol
Mike Strasburger	Kevin Oligmueller
Scott Berndt	Steve Sandberg

Absent: Dave Kadlecek

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	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Bryce Gerlach, Nebraska Forest Service	Shelley Steffl, Nebraska Game & Parks

Emergency Agenda Additions

Pat added a report for Nebraska Game & Parks.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Robin Foulk

Robin reported that the Grassland Conservation Program is being audited and corrected, resulting in a three-week delay. She also gave a reminder that the State NRCS Leadership will meet in the Upper Niobrara White NRD district August 6-8th. As well as the 2024 Nebraska Soil Health School will be in Crawford at Fort Robinson on September 4th.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Bryce Gerlach**

Bryce reported that they have just finished the 2024 Ponderosa Pine Reforestation Program. They planted about 75,000 trees in four days. Bryce also reported for the first time they sent 20,000 trees to Scottsbluff to plant in recent the burn footprints.

**Nebraska Game & Parks
Shelley Steffl**

Shelley reported that Nebraska Game & Parks planted several species of deciduous trees in fire foot prints to compliment the ponderosa pine plantings.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat reported on the final days of the Legislative session and bills that were passed. He provided information on LB 43e which changed how the public is allowed to participate in board meetings and the UNWNRD will likely need to modify the policy to accommodate the change. Pat also shared information on the conflicts of interest (LB 287e) bill, which is directed at conflicts associated with financial gain or loss to the public official.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn reported he has been working with landowners discussing allocation transfers as well as updating land ownerships.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen reported that the Conservation Festival had 190 students in attendance as well as 40 volunteers, which was a success. She also shared that the photo contest deadline will be extended to allow additional time to get more pictures submitted. Kylen also reported on the income and expense report.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley has been working on the nitrate analysis data as well as finishing up sampling on the rest of the monitoring wells.

**Resources Coordinator
Eli Goff**

Eli reported he has been busy with the tree program as well as the no-till drill which was rented four times this month to plant 69.5 acres.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Robbin Randall**

Robbin reported she is busy with preparing for the crop water use report.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda; Dave Carlson seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent-Dave Kadlecek*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Pat shared that the 2024 NARD Basin Tour will take place in the Republican Basin on June 10th and 11th.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol had nothing to report.

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

Director Rasmussen shared that the tree cooler needs a new compressor, as the current one won't make it another year. Pat shared that it is time for our insurance to get a quote on the building. Director Rasmussen also shared that Kristy Dietrich is retiring as the UNWNRD auditor.

*Al Rasmussen moved to increase the replacement costs to 1 million to 1.35 million dollars, Rich Zochol seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent-Dave Kadlecek*

Old/New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Excused Absences

*Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse Director Kadlecek, Scott Berndt seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent-Dave Kadlecek*

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Kevin Oligmueller, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____