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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, November 14, 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 November 7, 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 | Nancy Fisher |
| Al Rasmussen | Mike Strasburger |
| Rich Zochol | Steve Sandberg |
| Kevin Oligmueller | Tod Dorshorst |
| Scott Berndt | |

Absent: John Burke and Dave Kadlecek

Others Present:

| | |
|--|--|
| Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager | Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager |
| Kylen Armstrong, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord. | Elizabeth Heger, NRD Program Assistant |
| Robbin Randall, NRD Groundwater Coordinator | Eli Goff, NRD Resources Coordinator |
| Robin Faulk, NRCS | Bryce Gerlach, Nebraska Forest Service |
| Vanessa Sawyers, NRCS | |

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**Natural Resource Conservation Service
Robin Faulk**

Robin introduced Range Management Specialist at NRCS in Rushville, Vanessa who provided information on herself. Robin went over her written report and stated that all program signups are due November 15th.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Bryce Gerlach**

Bryce discussed the staffing changes within the Nebraska Forest Service and discussed the forest thinning programs that are available.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat provided a written report and noted that the Natural Resources Commission Caucus will be held January 14th at the Middle Niobrara NRD.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn provided a written report and shared information from the Water Well Standards board meeting. NRD technicians training will be available online soon. Governor Pillen has proposed a merger of Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environment and Energy. Lynn discussed well driller issues.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene provided a written report and that she is still working in completing the 2023-2024 fiscal year audit

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley was absent from the meeting, but provided a written report.

**Resources Coordinator
Eli Goff**

Eli provided a written report and announced that Range Day will be January 14th on Chadron State College campus.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Robbin Randall**

Robbin provided a written report and explained that water use reports will be mailed out before November 22nd.

**Conservation Program Assistant
Elizabeth Heger**

Libby provided a written report and shared information on the Holiday Party and Legislative Conference.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Scott Berndt moved to approve the consent agenda; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays Absent: John Burke and Dave Kadlecek*

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Scott Berndt

Director Berndt gave a summary of the NARD meeting.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance Dave Carlson

No Report

Water Committee Rich Zochol

Lynn reported that static water levels have been completed and graphs were provided. Pat stated that he and Lynn have been working on installing the telemetry units and discussed the benefits. Pat showed the graphs computed from the data and stated they will be on the UNWNRD website.

Lynn discussed the water transfer process and restrictions and explained the applications are due December 31st.

Operating, Personnel, and Policy Committee Al Rasmussen

Pat shared the proposed a contract with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act.

*Al Rasmussen moved to approve the DNR contract; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays Absent: John Burke and Dave Kadlecek*

New/Old Business

Pat requested a change of location and date for the January 2025 board meeting. The board meeting will occur January 23, 2025 at 2 p.m. at the Chadron Middle School.

Scott Berndt moved to approve the change to January 2025 board meeting; Dave Carlson seconded the motion

Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays Absent: John Burke and Dave Kadlecek

Public Comment

None

Excused Absences

*Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse John Burke and Dave Kadlecek, Rich Zochol seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays Absent: John Burke and Dave Kadlecek*

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Kevin Oligmueller, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____