



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, September 12, 2024, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Budget Hearing, 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 September 5, 2024.

Chairman Oligmueller opened the Budget Hearing at 9:00 a.m. An overview of the 2024-2025 budget was presented. There were no public comments.

Scott Berndt moved to close the Budget Hearing; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call (10) ayes, (0) nays, Absent John Burke.

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 9:04 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Absent: John Burke

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
Elizabeth Heger, Conservation Prog. Assistant	Robin Foulk, NRCS
Tony Tangwall, Leg. Dist. 43 Candidate	Tanya Storer, Leg. Dist. 43 Candidate

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Robin Foulk

Robin shared that the soil health workshop that was held at Fort Robinson was a success and there was a rainfall simulator that showed the impact to water quantity and quality from different conservation methods. She stated the Nebraska is the highest enrollment in grassland CRP, with 237,000 acres accepted.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat stated that he had nothing to add to his written report.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn reported that staff is getting ready for meter readings starting at the end of September. He shared that 2024 is the final year for the two groundwater management subareas that currently have allocations. Water transfers are due to the NRD office by December 31, 2024.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylan reported that the Area Range Judging competition occurred on September 11th and was a great success! Originally there was 171 student that had enrolled in the competition and 151 competed. State Range Judging is on September 25, 2024 in Chase County.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley reported that she is finishing up chemigation inspections and working on the nitrate analysis.

**Resources Coordinator
Eli Goff**

Eli reported that Client's Day is on October 16, 2024.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Robbin Randall**

Robbin reported that she is finishing chemigation inspections and should be done by Friday 13, 2024.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Pat reported that the two resolutions will be presented at annual convention. Discussion was held on each.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

No Report

**Water Committee
Rich Zochol**

Pat reported that LB 13-68 was passed during the legislature regular session which created the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act program that the NRDs will administer. An overview of the application process and how the district could prioritize applications was provided. The district was allocated \$31,029.57 to use toward nitrogen reduction incentive payments.

*Al Rasmussen moved to approve the priority ranking process; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent-John Burke*

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

Lynn discussed that he has received the updated cost share numbers for NSWCP distribution. Lynn also requested a policy that would only allow applications to be good for two fiscal years before they expire.

*Al Rasmussen moved to approve the new application process for NSWCP Administration; Dave Carlson seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent-John Burke*

**Information and Education Committee
Al Rasmussen**

Director Fisher had nothing to report.

**Budget Committee
Tod Dorshorst**

An overview of the budget and resolution was provided. –Director Sandberg stated this was the first time in 11 years the district raised the tax asking, it was increased by 2%.

*Steve Sandberg moved to approve 1% restricted fund authority, adopt the 2024-2025 property tax resolution and approve the 2024-2025 budget ; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent-John Burke*

Old Business

Director Sandberg requested an update on the Box Butte Watershed project. Pat stated that the project is at 60% in the design review process and the NRCS office is working on the project review.

Excused Absences

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

Public Comment

. Tayna Storer and Tony Tangwall were given the opportunity to provide additional information as well as answer questions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Kevin Oligmueller, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____