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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 at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2019, 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 April 3, 2019. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019 however due to the weather the meeting was rescheduled for April 15, 2019. Notice of the postponement was provided at the UNWNRD office and on Chadrad.com and Panhandle Post.

Open Meeting Law Act

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

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

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

Scott Berndt	Dave Carlson
Tod Dorshorst	Nancy Fisher
Dave Kadlecek	Al Rasmussen
John Burke	Kevin Oligmueller
Mike Strasburger	

Absent

Steve Sandberg, Rich Zochol

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Tricia Goes, NRD Conservation Prog. Assistant
Haley Anders, Water Resources Manager	Nevin Price, Resources Coordinator
Maria Baglieri, NRD Resource Tech.	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Fred McCartney, Nebraska Forest Service	Shelley Steffl, NGPC
Mike Klosterman, Pheasants Forever	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin discussed the Conservation Stewardship Deadline is May 10, 2019. NRCS staff is working on wrapping up Environmental Quality Incentive Program applications.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred discussed a meeting that was held at the United States Forest Service office with the shared Stewardship Stakeholders on the 385 project. Fred mentioned there are 13 landowners who have enrolled in the Ponderosa Pine reforestation project, who will be getting trees planted on their lands.

**Pheasants Forever
Mike Klosterman**

Mike discussed the prescribed fire training options that Pheasant Forever offers. Mike spoke on the benefits prescribed fire can have for lands. Mike also mentioned Corners for Wildlife project that Pheasant Forever offers in accordance with Nebraska Game and Parks and other partners.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat provided a legislative update including Senator Gragert's bill that creates the Healthy Soils Task Force
- Pat mentioned the communication with Thad Kuntz on the models as directed at the March board meeting
- Pat mentioned the rescheduled the committee of committees meeting in May due to participants unable to attend in April.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn mentioned the progress of static water level measurements.
- Lynn attended the Water Well Standards board meeting and gave an update.
- Lynn discussed the meeting being held later in the week with John Heaston

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen discussed the trip to Washington D.C. and specifically noted one of presentations attended was EPA's Water Sense Program. The UNWNRD can become a partner and take advantage of the information and educational material. Kylen has planned a field trip to Chadron State Park and will be attending an Administrative meeting in Omaha later this month.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley mentioned she has been working on static water levels and domestic water samples. The domestic water sampling program has seen an increase in requests lately as a result of the flooding.

**Resources Coordinator
Nevin Price**

Nevin gave an update on trees sold this season; 71,000. Nevin has been busy getting the machines ready to be rented out.

**Resource Technician
Maria Baglieri**

Maria reported that she has been working on Static Water Levels. Maria will be attending the State Envirothon Contest with Tricia later this month. Maria is also working on the certification maps.

**Conservation Programs Assistant
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported that she was approved for a Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant to purchase an industrial sized shredder. The machine has worked well thus far. Tricia mentioned that the Conservation Festival is in the scheduling stage. Only four schools have RSVPed as of the meeting date. Tricia will also be attending the State Envirothon on April 24, 2019 with Maria at Pibel Recreation Area. Tricia has been working on preparing for hand plant days and keeping up with invoices. Tricia went with Haley to learning how Static Water Levels are measured. Tricia has been working on getting chemigation permits processed, and calling producers as a reminder to get them sent into the office before May 31, 2019. Tricia presented the new website to the board and asked for any feedback from them.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Steve Sandberg and Rich Zochol)*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt had nothing to report.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Pat described how the Crop Water Use Report will be improved for 2019.
- Pat discussed the potential for the UNWNRD to sponsor a Nebraska State Climate Office MESONET weather station that is currently being sponsored by Diamond Hill Farms and located seven miles northwest of Alliance. Diamond Hill will be discontinuing the sponsorship. The cost will be \$2,600 per year.
- Pat discussed a meeting that was held to present information on the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. In order the UNWNRD to access the funds, a letter of request would be needed to be sent to Craig Derickson, State Conservationist for NRCS.

John Burke moved to approve to enter into a one-year contract with UNL to sponsor a MESONET Weather Station, Scott Berndt seconded the motion.

Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Steve Sandberg and Rich Zochol)

Tod Dorshorst moved to send a letter to Craig Derickson requesting inclusion in the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion.

Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Steve Sandberg and Rich Zochol)

**Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Dave Kadlecek**

The OPP Committee met with the Water Committee and the information was presented above.

Old/New Business

None

Excused Absences

John Burke moved to excuse Director Sandberg and Director Zochol, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.


Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Steve Sandberg and Rich Zochol)

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.



Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board

Date Signed 5-9-19



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager