



*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 at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 2018, 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 August 8, 2018.

### **Open Meeting Law Act**

Chairman Steve Sandberg pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

### **Roll Call & Introduction of Guests**

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

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

Absent: John Burke

Rich Zochol left at 10:18

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 |
| Robin Foulk, NRCS DC  | Carol Douglas                                 |
| Fred McCartney, Nebraska Forest Service                                   |   |
| Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Director                   |   |
| Tim McCoy, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Deputy Director              |   |
| Dan Kreitman, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission., District #1 Commissioner |   |
| Shelley Steffl, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission                          |   |

### **Emergency Agenda Additions**

None

**Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
Director Jim Douglas**

Director Douglas fielded questions from the Directors regarding the Spencer Hydroelectric Generating Facility project , the Niobrara River Basin, National Park Service and the science behind the need for protecting the flows of the river. Director Douglas also explained many aspects of funding and the following steps, procedures, and rights that would follow depending on the type of funding granted. Director Douglas stated that communication had been poor lately however that all parties are needed to make this partnership move forward.

**NRCS  
Robin Foulk**

Robin explained some personnel changes within the NRCS offices. With the hiring of Emily Heimann as the Chadron Field Office Administrative Assistant with a start date of September 4, 2018. Robin also explained there will probably be two or three student interns as part of the Pathways program, in the Chadron Field Office once school starts.

The Alliance soil Conservation Technician vacancy announcement has closed and it will take at least a week to know whether any applicants made the best qualified list.

Robin discussed a pollinator habitat tour that was held in Box Butte county. The intent was to discuss the challenges for producers to plant a pollinator habitat seed mix with biologists, in hopes some solutions would come from visiting in the field.

Robin also explained the number of active contracts within the nation, specifically in Nebraska. These contracts do not include partner cost-share efforts. Nebraska as a whole has 1,181 total active contracts, within the district there are a total of 280 active contracts. Robin also explained in detail the amount of cost-share available for a producer who applies for a Conservation Stewardship Program Application.

**Nebraska Forest Service  
Fred McCartney**

Fred discussed the status of the current fires happening within our nation, but mainly within the area. Fred also acknowledged the effort Seth Peterson made in the Vineyard fire by Hot Springs, SD. There is a high demand for seat-based managers. Without seat-based managers, a plane cannot fly to fight fires. Many planes from surrounding states helped with the Vineyard fire; twenty-eight sorties were flown with 14 being from Nebraska's plane. Fred also shared the tight-knit relationship between Nebraska and South Dakota to share planes and the expenses related to the daily usage.

**General Manager  
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat discussed personnel changes with the hiring of Emily Heimann as the Administrative Assistant in the Chadron Field Office and the hiring of Shane Schlager as the NRD Technician in replacement of Nevin, who took over Craig's previous duties. Both hires will start September 4, 2018, in their respective offices.
- UNL Extension TAPS, field day will be held at the North Platte Research Center, Field Day on September 23, 2018.
- Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory is hosting the summer open house on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- LR 387 introduced by Senator Hughes is the interim study on Eastern Red Cedar use and management in Nebraska. The hearing has been set for Friday, August 31, 2018 in Lincoln, NE

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed the progress made on NWSCP applications and allocations. There have been about \$30,000 of planned grazing application approved thus far, however more may be approved as landowners respond.
- Lynn mentioned the progress of completing chemigation inspections with the absence of Craig, other employees have been efficient with field work.
- Lynn will be traveling to Lincoln next week for a Water Well Standards Meeting. Lynn noted the letter describing changes that were made with Water Well Standards as well as Department of Environmental Quality was included in the board packet.
- Lynn discussed the status of the Recharge Evaluation Project and the timeline of when the program will be completed.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator  
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene added the following to her written report:

- Kylene discussed working on the budget forms to be sent to the state and that only one county valuation has been received thus far.
- Kylene has also been working on the newsletter
- Kylene mentioned ordering polos for each Director; an ordering form was passed around.

**Water Resource Manager  
Haley Anders**

Haley discussed the completion of chemigations and field work.

**Conservation Programs Assistant  
Tricia Goes**

Tricia discussed recent activities.

## **Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda, Scott Berndt seconded the motion.*

*Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.*

### **Agency Reports**

#### **Nebraska Association of Resources Districts**

##### **Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Director Dorshorst indicated that a voting delegate and alternate would need to be elected for the NARD Annual Meeting.
- Attending Annual Meeting: Director Sandberg, Director Fisher, Director Carlson, Director Rasmussen, Director Berndt, and Director Dorshorst.

*Scott Berndt moved that Director Dorshorst be voting delegate for NARD Annual Meeting with Director Berndt being the alternate. Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB*

#### **Niobrara River Basin Alliance**

##### **Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported on the following:

- Director Carlson reported a meeting hasn't been held, but one is planned on August 22, 2018.
- Attending the Directors Retreat in Valentine on August 20-21, 2018: Director Kadlecik, Director Carlson, Director Fisher, Director Dorshorst, and Director Berndt.

#### **Water Committee Report**

##### **Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

Lynn discussed the request for a stay on surface water rights downstream through subarea 6 and subarea 2 that was sent to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Department) to be in place through the completion of the voluntary integrated management planning process. The Board currently has moratorium on high capacity wells. Based on the statutes, the Department has indicated a stay may be put in place if the UNWNRD requests an evaluation to determine if an immediate stay should be put in place.

*Rich Zochol moved to send a letter to request an evaluation. Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.*

*Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.*

#### **Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee**

##### **Dave Kadlecik**

Director Kadlecik reported on the following:

- The committee met prior to the meeting to review 2018-2019 The Long Range Plan of Operation. Copies of the draft plan was passed around and the proposed changes were discussed.
- Director Kadlecik mentioned the computer upgrades has been completed and the need to disposal of computer towers by surplus, donation, or recycling.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the changes made to the Long Range Plan of Operation. Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB and RZ.*

*Scott Berndt moved to authorize NRD staff to dispose of old computer towers by either surplus, donations, or recycling. Allen Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB and RZ.*

**Budget Committee**  
**Nancy Fisher**

Director Fisher reported on the following:

Pat provided an overview of the 2018-2019 Budget, a few changes and reasoning as to why they were made.

*Tod Dorshorst moved to hold a public hearing on September 13, 2018 on the 2018-2019 proposed budget and levy. Allen Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB and RZ.*

**Excused Absences**

*Dave Carlson moved to excuse John Burke from the meeting. Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB and RZ.*

**Public Comment**

None

**Executive Session**


*Kevin Oligmueller moved to enter Executive Session to discuss real estate transactions at 10:32 A.M. Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB and RZ.*

The board exited Executive Session at 10:59 A.M.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

  
Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board

  
Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 9-13-18