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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 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at the Morse

Memorial Methodist Church at 119 Sprague St. Rushville, 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 December 5, 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 3:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	Mike Strasburger
Tod Dorshorst	Dave Carlson
Nancy Fisher	Steve Sandberg
Rich Zochol	Al Rasmussen
Dave Kadlecek	John Burke

Absent

Kevin Oligmueller

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
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension
Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service	Glenda Cushing, Rushville NRCS Admin. Assist.

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin discussed appointment of the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Matt Lohr. Lohr comes from Valley Pike Farm in Virginia where he also has served four years in the Virginia legislature. Robin also mentioned the new Farm Bill that was passed. There will be many changes to the EQIP program that will be discussed at the Local Working Group meeting. A date has not been set yet, but looking for either January or February time.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak mentioned the tree pests workshop the Nebraska Forest Service helped host in Alliance on December 11, 2018. Some pests to keep in mind are: Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long Horn Beetle, and Japanese Beetle. Doak also mentioned the departure of Amy Seiler, who will be working for the City of Gering. Doak met with John Erixson, Mike Murphy, Pat O'Brien, and Rich Wollen to get suggestions of the future of Nebraska Forestry. Doak also mentioned the project he is currently working on; transporting green Ponderosa Pine (peeled logs) to the West Coast (Washington) via train car. Economics have not been finalized on this project yet.

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Extension
Jack Arterburn**

Jack provided a hand out and mentioned many events/programs coming up. Many of the upcoming events will be happening in January.

**2017-2018 Fiscal Year Audit
Kristy Dietrich**

Kristy presented the 2017-2018 fiscal year audit. Everything is cleared and progressive and staff was commended on the work keeping the books in order. Director Sandberg pointed out a typo on page 15 of the audit and Kristy confirmed the mistake. It will be corrected promptly.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve and submit the audit to the state auditor, John Burke seconded the motion.

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Kevin Oglimueller)

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- The NWRA will host their evening with the Senators on January 24th, Wednesday night of Legislative Conference.
- Recently, the new Waters of the United States Rule was published. Several of the prohibitions and definitions for the previous rules have been modified. The rule will be reviewed and more information presented to the Directors.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn mentioned static water levels reports are not complete yet.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene mentioned the Poster Contest and the award winners who were selected. Kylene also shared the Teacher of the Month award was presented to Megan Janssen before the Board Meeting.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley mentioned that meter reading were complete and water use reports will be mailed out next week.

**Resource Coordinator
Nevin Price**

Nevin discussed the 2019 Range Day, provided a handout and requested that anyone wanting to attend please RSVP.

**Conservation Programs Assistant
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reminded the Directors to check their schedules and make sure they are signed up for Legislative Conference, if they chose to go. Tricia also mentioned the Christmas Party, downtown Rushville, following the conclusion of the Board Meeting. Tricia has been working on a running list of previous and current Directors; she asked everyone to look over the list and make changes if they noted any. Tricia made mention that she has been working on the website updating and has it narrowed down to two companies.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Kevin Oglimueller)*

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Tod Dorshorst

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Director Dorshorst attended the meeting held in Holdrge, NE on November 11 and 12.
- The NARD Board approved several foundation requests
- Director Dorshorst also discussed changes to the health care plan that would allow the use of an app or phone call to receive medical attention.

*Dave Carlson moved to appoint Tod Dorshorst as the voting delegate and Scott Berndt as alternate for Legislative Conference, Nancy Fisher seconded the motion.
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Kevin Oglimueller)*

Niobrara River Basin Alliance Dave Carlson

Director Carlson reported on the following:

- Director Carlson had nothing to report. Managers will be meeting with Director Fassett on December 18th to discuss the Water Sustainability Fund grant application

Water Committee Report Rich Zochol

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Director Zochol discussed the Rules and Regulations that allowed for the board to decide whether or not to allow additional irrigated acres in groundwater management sub-area 3.
- Lynn has provided a draft of the application for Request for Expansion of Irrigated Acres for groundwater management sub-area 3.
- Director Zochol and Lynn reviewed the application for allocation transfer made by Niobrara Ranch LLC.

Rich Zochol moved allow a maximum of 1,300 irrigated acres to sub-area 3 in accordance with the Groundwater Management and Integrated Management Rules and Regulations., Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Kevin Oglimueller).

Rich Zochol moved to approve the transfer request from Niobrara Ranch LLC, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Kevin Oglimueller).

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Director Kadlecek had nothing to report.

January Meeting

The January meeting date will need to be changed due to the dates of NWRA Legislative meeting and Senator Reception.

John Burke moved to approve changing the January meeting date to January 22nd at 10 a.m., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays, (1) absent (Kevin Oglimueller).

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse Director Oglimueller, John Burke seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Kevin Oglimueller).

Public Comment

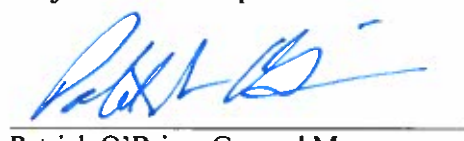
None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.



Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 1-23-19