



**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 2 p.m. on Thursday February 14, 2019, 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 February 6, 2019.

**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 2:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt at 2:03 p.m.	Mike Strasburger
Tod Dorshorst	Dave Carlson
Nancy Fisher	Steve Sandberg
Kevin Oligmueller	Al Rasmussen
Dave Kadlecek	Rich Zochol

**Absent**

John Burke

**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
Emily Heimann, NRCS Admin. Assist.	Sean Allen, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service	Fred McCartney, Nebraska Forest Service
Shelley Steffl, NGPC	Erin Divine, Bird Conservatory of the Rockies

**Emergency Agenda Additions**

None

**NRCS  
Robin Foulk**

Robin had Sean Allen introduce himself, he is the new Soil Conservationist hire working out of the Chadron Field Office. Robin provided a written report for the board packet had nothing to add.

**Nebraska Forest Service  
Doak Nickerson**

. Doak presented a photo of a billboard south of Chadron which promotes University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University's role in establishing tree belts/shelterbelts. Doak has been attending the EQIP Local Working Group Meetings discussing the future of Eastern Red Cedar to be used in the windbreak/tree programs and Doak is defending NRD tree programs that sell Eastern Red Cedar. Doak is promoting tabling the discussion on Eastern Red Cedar use and expansion.

**General Manager  
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat followed up on the flooding evaluation conducted by NRCS in the Box Butte Creek area. A committee of committees meeting will be scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on March 14, 2019 to present and discuss the information. This will be a Public Noticed Meeting.

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn mentioned the PRECIP meeting originally schedule for February 7, 2019 to discuss what technology producers are using or what could be applied in the Panhandle. The meeting has been rescheduled for March 8, 2019 in Bridgeport, Nebraska. Reminders will be sent to the Directors.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator  
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylan mentioned helping with Envirothon and preparing for Water Issues Meeting.

**Water Resource Manager  
Haley Anders**

Haley handed out her written report. Haley added that a speaker is needed for Water Issues Meeting, as a speaker had to back out due to surgery.

**Resource Coordinator  
Nevin Price**

Nevin discussed the Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant that was received to support Range Day. NRD staff has sold almost 9,000 Eastern Red Cedars and almost 15,000 Rocky Mountain Junipers. The numbers have decreased on Eastern Red Cedars this year.

**Resource Technician  
Maria Baglieri**

Maria reported that she is getting settled into her duties and office. Maria has helped with chemigation permits and has helped Nevin with failed meter reports. Maria is also working on GIS.

**Conservation Programs Assistant  
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported on the Envirothon Contest that was held on February 13<sup>th</sup> in Gordon. Tricia has also been helping Nevin with tree inventory and helping Haley with Chemigation permits.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

Director Carlson requested a correction be made to the January's Board Meeting Minutes in that Director Carlson is Vice-Chairman not Director Kadlecek. The correction of spelling was also made.

*Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the corrected minutes and the balance of the consent agenda, Scott Berndt seconded the motion.*

*Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (John Burke)*

**Agency Reports**

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts  
Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt reported on the following:

- Director Dorshorst reported on the Legislative Conference meeting that was held on January 30, 2019.
- Director Dorshorst reported that the NARD Board voted on and approved an FFA Leadership Development request for \$1,000 from the Foundation.
- Director Dorshorst also reported that the NARD Board voted and approved the Strategic Plan.
- Director Dorshorst reported the Health Care Plan has increased \$117,000 through December 2018.
- The next NARD Board Meeting in March 12, 2019 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance  
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report**  
**Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn discussed Warner Construction and DES Farms requested a variance request, a few years ago for a well pumping over 50 gallons per minutes for road construction on Highway 385. The variance stated that once the construction was completed the well would be converted into a livestock well. Warner Construction asked for 3.3 million, but over the two-year period they used 4,233,400 gallons, which put them over the variance request by 933,400 gallons. Warner Construction is required to off-set that amount. Staff suggests that Warner Construction be allowed to utilize the NRD's water bank to offset the 933,400 gallons. Warner Construction would also be asked to provide a donation to educational programs of \$300.
- Lynn discussed the certify acres document staff has worked on to be sent out to land owners. The letters and data are planned to be completed by August 1, 2019.
- Pat discussed the Policy Statement with De minimis Use.
- Pat reported on the Meter Self-Reporting survey results and other information on the collection of meter data in 2018. At this time, the benefits of the Board to moving forward with self-reporting does not appear to outweigh the cost.
- Pat discussed improving Crop Water Use Reports as those reports appear to be most widely used by producers within the district for irrigation usage.
- Pat and Lynn discussed the Mirage Flats inflows with Box Butte Reservoir impacts. The model has been completed and can be used to evaluation impacts of groundwater irrigation on the river flows. As well, staff will be looking into vegetation control in and along the river.

*Rich Zochol moved to approve the offset for Warner Construction with a donation of \$300 for educational programs and withdrawing 933,400 gallons from the UNWNRD water bank, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (John Burke).*

*Rich Zochol moved to approve moving forward with the certification update process, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (John Burke).*

*Rich Zochol moved to adopt the De minimis Use policy statement, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (John Burke).*

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

The UNWNRD has received a new contract from Doug Worman to complete the Ponderosa Pine Planting project with the Nebraska Forest Service. The Contract will be with CRW Resources rather than Worman Forest Management.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the CRW Resources contract, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (John Burke).*

**Old/New Business**

Doak asked the Board to send a letter of support to Craig Derickson, State Conservationists regarding Eastern Red Cedar for inclusion into discussion at the State Technical Group.

*Tod Dorshorst moved to send a letter of support regarding Eastern Red Cedar, Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (John Burke).*

**Excused Absences**

*Dave Carlson moved to excuse Director Burke, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (John Burke).*

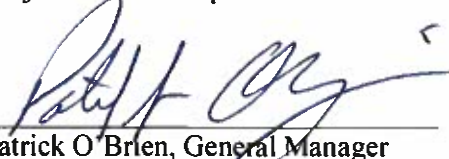
**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

  
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Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board

  
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Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 3-18-19