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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 Wednesday January 23, 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 January 16, 2019.

The meeting was originally scheduled to be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 however due to the weather the meeting was rescheduled for January 23, 2019. Notice of the postponement was provided on Chadrad.com and Panhandle Post.

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 10:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Absent

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
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension
Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service	Brett Skinner, Mirage Flats Irrigation District
Isaac Hughes, Mirage Flats Irrigation District	Jenna Lincoln, NRCS Alliance Field Office
Kelsey Thompson, NRCS Pathways Student	Maria Baglieri, NRD Resource Tech.

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Election of Officers

Dave Carlson moved to retain the current officers with the exception of the NARD Delegate and Alternate, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion.

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Rich Zochol)

The current officers state as: Director Sandberg as Chairman, Director Kadlecek as ^{Carlson} Vice Chairman, Director Fisher as Secretary/Treasurer, Director Carlson as NRBA Delegate, and Director Oligmueller as NRBA alternate

John Burke moved to elect Scott Berndt as the NARD Delegate Tod Dorshorst as the Alternate, Dave Carlson seconded the motion.

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Rich Zochol)

NRCS

Robin Foulk

Robin discussed an upcoming event on soil health held in Holyoke, Colorado. Robin mentioned a grant she will be applying for to improve soil health, improve water quality, provide habitat for local wildlife species of concern, improve the environmental and economic performance of working agricultural fields, and assist communities and groups to build and strengthen local food projects that provide healthy food and economic opportunities. The deadline for grant submission is February 20, 2019. Robin handled questions regarding the government shutdown. Jenna Lincoln introduced herself as she will be working in the Alliance Field Office as the Soil Technician. Kelsey Thompson introduced herself as she will be working in the Chadron Field Office, participating in NRCS's Pathways Program.

Nebraska Forest Service

Doak Nickerson

Doak presented a "plug" from a Green Ash tree that grew in the Hay Springs, Nebraska area. Doak thanked NRD staff for hosting and coordinating Range Day. Doak also shared the multicultural life that was living under the Rocky Mountain Juniper tree which was at the end of the NRD driveway. Doak recently cut the tree down as it was a visual hazard for the street traffic.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Extension

Jack Arterburn

Jack provided a hand out and mentioned many events/programs coming up this month.

Mirage Flats Irrigation District

Brett Skinner

Mr. Skinner discussed the historic Niobrara River inflow to Box Butte Reservoir and discussed the allocations of both surface and ground water for the Mirage Flats Irrigation District area. Mr. Skinner asked the board to consider evaluating the effects of groundwater pumping upstream of the reservoir.

Mr. Skinner also fielded questions regarding the repair of the toe drains at Box Butte Dam.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat reminded Directors that Oath of Office needs to be completed
- If a Director would like to make changes to the Committee Assignments, inform Pat
- Master Plan is due to be revised with the projected completion date being the August Board Meeting
- In the case of Prokop versus Lower Loup NRD The Nebraska Supreme Court upheld the Lower Loup's ability to impose a penalty and withhold irrigation however the court rules the penalty must fit the violation. The ruling supports the ability of the NRD to impose penalties in the rules and regulations however the board could identify specific penalties for specific violations.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn presented the fall static water level hydrographs
- Lynn mentioned the PRECIP meeting that was held with John Heaston on January 8th, with the next meeting to be held in Bridgeport in February.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley discussed the average water use throughout the district.
- Haley also mentioned the Water Issues meeting to be held on February 28th at St. Peters Lutheran Church in Mirage Flats starting at 9:30 a.m.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene mentioned helping with Range Day and working on W-2's that should be completed by the end of the week.

**Resource Coordinator
Nevin Price**

Nevin discussed the review of the 2019 Range Day. Nevin mentioned that as of to-date roughly 19,000 trees have been sold.

**Conservation Programs Assistant
Tricia Goes**

Tricia mentioned the Envirothon contest held on February 6th in Gordon. Chemigation permits should be mailed out the second week of February, if not sooner. Tricia helped with Range Day with registrations. Tree invoices are being worked on for hand plant orders.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Tod Dorshorst

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Pat provided an overview of the introduced legislative bills. Directors discussed the bills and potential positions prior to the Legislative Conference.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance Dave Carlson

Director Carlson reported on the following:

- Pat provided an overview of the meeting held with DNR Director Fassett and Kent Zimmerman regarding the Water Sustainability Fund and the application process. The NRBA managers will be working with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Department on the next application.

Water Committee Report Rich Zochol

Director Zochol was absent from the meeting and the committee requested Lynn provide information on the committee meeting that was held prior to the board meeting:

- Lynn discussed the irrigated acre recertification process. Staff will be working on a process and will present at the February Board Meeting for approval.
- Lynn mentioned surveys that were sent out regarding the self-reporting meters what producers use in making irrigation decisions.
- Lynn fielded questions regarding applications for new wells in subarea 3.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Director Kadlecek had nothing to report.

Excused Absences


*Mike Strasburger moved to excuse Director Zochol, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call:
(10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Rich Zochol).*

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.



Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 2-14-19