

*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 Thursday, October 11, 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 October 4, 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      |
| 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, Natural Resources Coordinator    |
| Robin Foulk, NRCS DC                           | Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension                 |
| Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service        | Tim Buskirk, USFS District Ranger             |

### **Emergency Agenda Additions**

None

**USFS  
Tim Buskirk**

Tim provided an overview of the Pine Ridge Landscape Restoration Project that will include prescribed fire, vegetation treatments and road re-designation and re-alignment. Tim then answered Director questions.

*John Burke moved to send a letter of support to USFS for Pine Ridge Restoration Project, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.*

*Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

**NRCS**

**Robin Foulk**

Robin discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between the NRD and NRCS; Title VI includes all programs and Title VII includes employment. Robin also mentioned the use of Web soil Survey.

**Nebraska Forest Service**

**Doak Nickerson**

Doak explained the logging process that will take place in the spring for four weeks. The location of the logging process is located north of Rushville, where a hail storm came through late summer and killed or damaged a 1,000-1,200-acre foot print of trees. If the trees didn't die from the hail storm they are dying from the disease. Doak also mentioned the upcoming tree planting options: 1) Boy Scouts planting at the State Park on Saturday October 13 and a tree planting day in Crawford also on Saturday October 13; volunteers are welcome to both events.

**UNL Extension**

**Jack Arturburn**

Jack provided a handout and described the education events that are upcoming.

**General Manager**

**Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Shane Schlager is no longer employed by the NRD.
- Pat mentioned a lunch meeting with Senator Brewer at 11:30 Directors Carlson and Fisher had received information on the potential of sponsoring a weather station as part of a statewide network. Cost to the NRD would be approximately \$2,500 per year. More information will be provided at the next meeting.
- Pat discussed the Nebraska Invasive Species Council meeting to include Eastern Red Cedar as an invasive species. Discussion was held.

*Scott Berndt moved to send a letter to Nebraska Invasive Species Council to describe the benefits of Eastern Red Cedar within the district, Dave Carlson seconded the motion.*

*Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

**Assistant Manager**

**Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn mentioned meter reading season approaching, along with recording Fall static water levels.
- Lynn mentioned the Niobrara Compact Meeting in Torrington, WY on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Lynn reminded everyone of the public information meeting and public hearing on October 18 at Country Kitchen in Chadron.

**Water Resource Manager**

**Haley Anders**

Haley had nothing to add to her written report.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator  
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen had nothing to add to her written report.

**Resource Conservation Programs  
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin discussed the Cheat grass Project and the completion because of unsuccessful results
- Nevin mentioned tree season and the progress being made on ordering trees
- Nevin discussed Client's Day he attended at the Bessey Nursery.

**Conservation Programs Assistant  
Tricia Goes**

- Tricia asked the board if they would like to hold the December meeting in Chadron or in Rushville, the December meeting is usually rotated throughout the district and it would be Sheridan counties turn this year.
- Tricia thanked Haley for taking her to the field yesterday (October 10) and Nevin and Kylen for helping with the Teacher of the Month award; a pot made out of rulers with a plant stating "Thank you for helping the students grow".
- Tricia mentioned that she will be going to the field to help with meter readings and entering the date into the spreadsheet to complete the reading process
- Tricia discussed the website options she has been working on, and that once a company has been narrowed down she will present the option to the board for approval.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Al Rasmussen moved to approve the consent agenda, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.*

*Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

**Agency Reports**

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts  
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Director Dorshorst provided a summary of Annual Conference that was held in Kearney, Nebraska on September 23-25. Approximately, \$24,000 was made for the NARD Foundation.
- Director Dorshorst explained the board would be providing funding through the Foundation to Ag Day on the Hill and the Nebraska LEAD Program.
- Director Dorshorst mentioned the next meeting will be held in Holdredge, Nebraska in November.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance  
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported on the following:

- Director Carlson reported the purchase agreement was signed at Annual Conference. The process is moving forward with the agreement.
- Pat mentioned there was a letter received from the Director of the Department Natural Resources that indicated the Spencer Dam acquisition application was deemed not eligible.
- Director Carlson mentioned the environmental assessment is also moving forward.

**Water Committee Report  
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Pat reminded the Directors to try to attend the Public Information Meeting and the Public Hearing held October 18 at Country Kitchen in Chadron.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the proposed customer charges and changes. To eliminate the 3-Stripe fabric from the shed, a charge of \$40.00 for a 500-foot roll is being proposed. There were changes proposed to the fabric install price as well as the machine plant price, due to the proposed Buskirk contract Buskirk's change. Along with these price changes, there was a change proposed for the tree planting machine rental charge and the mulch machine rental.
- Director Kadlecek also discussed a proposed policy change of a minimum number of trees for hand plant orders. The minimum amount would be in increments of 5 per species, with 5 being the smallest amount.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the customer charges being changed as listed, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

*Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the policy change of adding a minimum number of trees being ordered, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

**December and January Meetings**

To accommodate the Christmas gathering and the Legislative calendar, the December Meeting time and location will need to be changed as will the January meeting date.

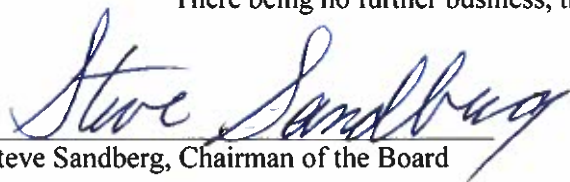
*John Burke moved to approve changing the December meeting location to Rushville at 3:00 pm and the January meeting date to January 24<sup>th</sup>, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 11-8-18