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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, July 11, 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 July 3, 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 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	Dave Carlson
Tod Dorshorst	Nancy Fisher
Dave Kadlecek	Al Rasmussen
John Burke	Steve Sandberg
Rich Zochol	Mike Strasburger
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
Maria Baglieri, NRD Resource Tech.	Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service
Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist	Thad Kuntz, ARI

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**Natural Resource Conservation Service
Robin Foulk**

Robin gave an update on the Web Soil Survey, which can now be downloaded as an application for a mobile device. Robin explained the cover crop initiative, allowing individuals to apply for assistance in grounds that could not be planted due to natural disasters such as flooding. The initiative has a wide variety of crops it will cover. The deadline is July 19, 2019; there have been 12 sign-ups within the UNW. Robin explained the Conservation Stewardship Program-Grassland Initiative that will assist producers wanting to plant agricultural lands back to grasslands.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak shared with the directors the abundance of fruit that is being produced this year. Doak also explained the wide variety of fruit bearing plants/trees that can be planted in our district and will survive. Doak shared some information on fuels moisture with this being the wettest conditions since July 1994. Doak presented information on the potential of approximately 170,000 acres in the state that could be planted with trees. The estimate was made by using center pivot corners. Those 170,000 acres could hold 5 million trees but would take 100 year to plant.

**Adaptive Resources Integrated
Thad Kuntz**

Thad presented information on the super positioning conversion of the Upper Niobrara White Integrated Groundwater Model. The conversion of the model will provide a tool to evaluate the impacts of transfers on groundwater levels in the area. Directors asked several questions about the process and how the tool could be used moving forward with groundwater management decisions.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat announced Senator Brewer will be present at the September meeting and Senator Erdman will be present at the November meeting.
- Pat reported that during the Budget Committee meeting there were questions about the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT) accounts, Candi Sanders from NPAIT attend a board meeting in the future to discuss the accounts, etc.
- Pat described the Niobrara Basin Directors Retreat that will be held on August 19-20 More information will be forthcoming. Directors were asked to RSVP if they would like to attend.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn noted his written report and had nothing to add, if there were no questions. Additional information to be provided under committee reports.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene requested Directors be available for the Conservation Award Presentations during the county fairs and assist with the presentations. Dawes County will be held July 28 at 2:00 P.M., Sheridan County on the 16th at 5:00 P.M., and Box Butte pending.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley reported that she has been working on chemigation inspections and domestic water samples.

**Resources Coordinator
Nevin Price**

Nevin reported that 85,000 trees were sold with the NRD purchasing 86,300 from our suppliers.

**Resource Technician
Maria Baglieri**

Maria reported that she has been completing chemigation inspections, working on the Crop Water Use Report, and ET gages. Maria also reported that she has been helping Haley with domestic water samples.

**Conservation Programs Assistant
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported that she has been entering chemigation inspection reports, as they come in and will be tracking the number of inspections that will need to be completed per week, in order to be done by Labor Day. Tricia mentioned that at an upcoming meeting, photos will be taken of each Director for the website. Tricia handed out a spreadsheet for Directors to sign up for hotel rooms for Annual Conference.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt had nothing to report. Pat reported that resolutions are due by August 16, 2019. A resolution regarding the membership requirements for the Natural Resource Commission was presented and discussed.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to submit the Natural Resource Commission Membership Requirements Resolution to NARD for consideration at the annual meeting, Dave Carlson seconded the motion
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn presented information on three expansion of irrigated acres exception to water well moratorium applications for Groundwater Management Sub-Area III.
 - Strasburger Ranch
 - Berndt Cattle Company
 - Vinton & Sons/Fred Hlava.
- Pat reported that HDR will be assisting with the application for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operation Program
- Pat reported that the end of allocation period is December 31, 2019 and staff is requesting that all applications for water allocation transfers be submitted by close of business on December 31, 2019.

Rich Zochol moved to approve Strasburger Ranch acre expansion application, Dave Carlson seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) abstain (Mike Strasburger)

Rich Zochol moved to approve Berndt Cattle Company acre expansion application, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) abstain (Scott Berndt)

Rich Zochol moved to approve Vinton & Sons/Fred Hlava acre expansion application, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion

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

Rich Zochol moved to approve the December 31, 2019 deadline for water allocation transfer requests, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion

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

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- During the budget committee meeting it was noted that tree prices have not increased since 2013 however the price of the trees from Bessey has increased.
- Lynn reported that NSWCP cost-share rates may change. For the past several years, the UNWNRD has been using an older docket

Budget Committee
Nancy Fisher

Director Fisher reported on the upcoming budget:

- Pat provided an overview of the 2019-2020 budget and discussed some of the proposed changes as well as the 2018-2019 final profit and loss.

Old/New Business

None

Excused Absences

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.



Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 8-8-19