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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, December 12, 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 December 5, 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 3:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Mike Strasburger	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Dave Carlson
Steve Sandberg	Scott Berndt
Al Rasmussen	

Absent: Kevin Oligmueller, Dave Kadlecck, John Burke, 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, Natural Resources Coordinator
Maria Baglieri, NRD Resource Tech.	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Seth Peterson, Nebraska Forest Service	Gary Fisher, Public
Mark Betson, Public	Wayne Fisher, Public
Senator Tom Brewer, District 43	Kristy Dietrich, Dietrich & Sauter CPA, PC

**Emergency Agenda Additions**

None

**District 43 Senator Tom Brewer**

Senator Brewer presented information on and discussed many issues that the Nebraska Legislature has or will be dealing with including: property tax relief, water sustainability fund, Nebraska Game & Parks

Commission with Eastern Red Cedar, stolen gun law, transfer of funds from school lands, and the Natural Resource Commission. Senator Brewer then fielded questions from the board members and staff.

**2018-2019 Fiscal Year Audit  
Kristy Dietrich**

Kristy presented the 2018-2019 fiscal year audit. Everything is cleared and progressive and staff was commended on the work keeping the books in order.

*Tod Dorshorst moved to accept and submit the audit to the state auditor, Scott Berndt seconded the motion.*

*Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Dave Kadlecsek, Kevin Oligmueller, and Rich Zochol)*

**NRCS  
Robin Foulk**

Robin announced the hiring of two new employees in the Alliance office; Kortni Burnett as a Range Conservationist and Kelli Mildebrandt as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. Robin presented graphs showing which practices and total acres of land being treated with programs through USDA.

**Nebraska Forest Service  
Seth Peterson**

Seth explained the Year End Report and the amount of fires that have been recorded for 2019 noting that the number of fires and acres impacted statewide and locally were lower than average.

**General Manager  
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat presented the proposed statutory language for NRD bonding authority as a result of the Lower Elkhorn resolution that was approved at Annual Conference in September.
- Pat mentioned Region 23 held a meeting to discuss the review and update of the hazard mitigation plan, which will be presented to the board at a later date.

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed asked Directors to assist in having people communicate with staff in regards to the sale or change of ownership of irrigated acres.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator  
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene mentioned that the radio ads for Range Day have been recorded. Kylene discussed a meeting she attended for the trails of Western Nebraska.

**Water Resource Manager  
Haley Anders**

Haley reported the date change for Water Education Meeting to February 25, 2020 in Alliance at the Eagles Club. An agenda will be set by Christmas.

**Resource Conservation Programs  
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin mentioned Range Day will be January 16, 2020, starting at 9:00 AM and ending roughly at 3:00 PM. The agenda was handed out to each Director.
- Nevin mentioned tree sales, with 11, 750 trees sold as of the meeting time. Nevin encouraged the sales of Potted Ponderosa.
- Nevin mentioned that the UNWNRD will be applying for a grant from the Wild Turkey Federation for a smaller no-till drill.

**Resource Technician  
Maria Baglieri**

Maria added the following to her written report:

- Maria reported on the cattail management project on the Niobrara River. The contractor Jason Rust and Maria will start site visits in January 2020.
- Maria mailed out the letters for cost share for the inaccessible meters on December 5, 2019.
- Maria reported there were 38 meters that needed repaired, and is still waiting on responses from 4 people.

**Conservation Programs Assistant  
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported on the following activities:

- Recertification process is about 65% complete, landowners will be called to submit the forms
- Processed tree orders
- The Holiday Party which will be in Chadron on December 12<sup>th</sup> starting promptly after the meeting is completed
- Processed certification update forms
  - Tricia passed around Legislative Conference signup sheet; asking for Directors to finalize attendance plans.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Al Rasmussen moved to approve the consent agenda; Scott Berndt seconded the motion.  
Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Dave Kadlecck, Kevin Oligmueller, and Rich Zochol)*

**Agency Reports**

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts  
Scott Berndt**

*Dave Carlson moved to appoint Scott Berndt as the voting delegate and Tod Dorshorst as alternate for Legislative Conference, Nancy Fisher seconded the motion.*

*Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Dave Kadlecsek, Kevin Oligmueller, and Rich Zochol)*

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance  
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported on the meeting on November 19, 2019, where a vote was held to move forward with acquisition of the Water Right for the Spencer Dam.

**Water Committee Report  
Rich Zochol**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Lynn reported on Fall Static Water Levels, which were up.
- Director Dorshorst reported on Sub Area III additional wells including 1300 acres.
- Pat presented a policy for dealing with failed meters during the non-irrigation season. The policy allows staff to use discretion when enforcing the 21-day meter replacement requirement.
- Pat and Lynn reported on a violation that was discovered during meter reading. A letter of violation will be sent to the landowner.

*Tod Dorshorst 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: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Dave Kadlecsek, Kevin Oligmueller, and Rich Zochol)*

*Tod Dorshorst moved to accept the policy change for failed meters, Dave Carlson seconded the amended motion*

*Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Dave Kadlecsek, Kevin Oligmueller, and Rich Zochol)*

**Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee  
Al Rasmussen**

Director Rasmussen reported on the following:

- Pat reported on the 2019-2029 Master Plan.
- Pat reported on the 2019-2020 Long-Range Plan of Operation.

*Scott Berndt moved to approve the Master Plan and Long-Range Plan., Al Rasmussen seconded the motion.*

*Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Dave Kadlecsek, Kevin Oligmueller, and Rich Zochol)*

**Excused Absences**

*Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse the following: Director Burke, Director Kadlecsek Director Oligmueller and Director Zochol, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion*

*Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Dave Kadlecek, Kevin Oligmueller, and Rich Zochol)*

**Public Comment**

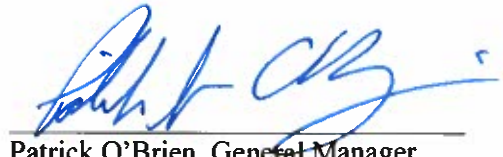
None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.



Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 1-23 2021