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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, January 23, 2020, 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 15, 2020.

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:

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

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Tricia Goes, NRD Conservation Prog. Assistant	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager
Maria Baglieri, NRD Resource Tech.	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Melissa Krotz, NRCS Programs Assistant	Fred McCartney, Nebraska Forest Service
Seth Peterson, Nebraska Forest Service	Candi Sanders, Union Bank & Trust

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Election of Officers

Chairman

John Burke nominated Dave Carlson for Chairman. No other nominations were made.

Nancy Fisher moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Dave Carlson as Chairman by acclimation, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman

Nancy Fisher nominated Dave Kadlecek for Vice Chairman. No other nominations were made.

Nancy Fisher moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Dave Kadlecek as Vice Chairman by acclimation, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion.

Secretary Treasurer

Tod Dorshorst nominated Nancy Fisher for Secretary/Treasurer. No other nominations were made.

Dave Carlson moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Nancy Fisher as Secretary/Treasurer by acclimation, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.

NARD Representative and Alternant

Tod Dorshorst nominated Scott Berndt for NARD Representative. No other nominations were made.

Scott Berndt nominated Tod Dorshorst for NARD Alternant. No other nominations were made.

Mike Strasburger moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Scott Berndt as NARD Representative and Tod Dorshorst as NARD Alternant, Dave Carlson seconded the motion.

NRBA Representative and Alternant

Nancy Fisher nominated Dave Carlson for NRBA Representative and Kevin Oligmueller for NRBA Alternant. No other nominations were made.

Nancy Fisher moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to appoint Dave Carlson as NRBA Representative and Kevin Oligmueller as NRBA Alternant, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion.

NRCS

Robin Foulk

Robin introduced Melissa Krotz the new Programs Assistant in the Chadron Field Office. Robin announced Kortni Burnett will be the new Range Conservationist in the Alliance Field Office. Robin explained the obligation of conservation funds by the fiscal year. Robin explained that NRCS staff will be training on the new Conservation Planning platform and network in the coming future. Robin and Pat announced the Local Working Group meeting will be held on February 18th starting at 10 am at the UNWNRD office.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred explained work is being completed on areas that have been damaged by fire and presented videos of the activity being conducted on private and federal lands.

**Union Bank/Nebraska Federal Investment Trust
Candi Sanders**

Candi presented on the option Union Bank and Trust has to offer to replace the current investment pool of NPAIT. Specifically, the Nebraska Federal Investment Trust.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat made note of the new carpet in the office.
- Pat mentioned Nevin's resignation; Maria will be taking over most of Nevin's previous duties.
- Pat reminded the board that the 2019 Annual Review will be presented prior to the February meeting.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed the voluntary Integrated Management Plan meeting on February 24, 2020 in Rushville starting at 6:00 P.M. and ending by 8:00 P.M.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Pat reported for Kylene stating W2's are in each Director's folder.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley reported on and distributed a draft agenda for the Water Education Day on February 25, 2020 at the Eagles' Club in Alliance.

**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 February 2020 in Dawes and Box Butte counties.

**Conservation Programs Assistant
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported on the following activities:

- Envirothon is scheduled for February 5, 2020.
- Conservation Festival scheduled for May 12, 2020.
- Range Day attendance was roughly 175 participants between partners and students along with the general public.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda; Scott Berndt seconded the motion.
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt 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 had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn reported on water transfers. At the time of the meeting only 12 of 51 had been completed and signed by the landowners.
- Lynn updated the board on the irrigated acre certification update.
- Lynn handed around a map and explained an issue with two sets of two pivots of equal length which cross each other from pivot point to pivot point. With one pivot certified close to double the acres of the other in each scenario. Each pivot during a rotation is able irrigate half the combined acres under both pivots, historically these systems have been cropped and operated like one unit. Each pivot is supplied water from one well. In a given year one system may run more than the other, with the pivots certified and recorded separately there continues to be issues of water allocation shortages and the need to transfer water after each allocation period to the smaller certified acres pivot. The water use reporting of this unique situation could be rectified by splitting the acres evenly between the pivots or to allow the two pivots to be managed as one unit in each situation.

Rich Zochol moved to approve the 12 requests for water transfers., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion

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

Rich Zochol moved to allow the combination of the allocation for these two sets of two pivots as one unit in each situation, as long as the operation stays the same, John Burke seconded the amended motion

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

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

Kevin Oligmueller moved to enter Executive Session for strategic planning and protect the public interest at 3:17 P.M., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Rich Zochol moved to exit Executive Session at 3:27 P.M., Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.



David Carlson, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 2-13-20