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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, November 14, 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 November 6, 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:

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

Absent: Kevin Oligmueller, Dave Kadlecek

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	Fred McCartney, Nebraska Forest Service
Matt Steffl, Nebraska Game & Parks Comm.	Gary Fisher, Public
Mark Betson, Public	Wayne Fisher, Public
Savannah Solon, Public	Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension
Casey Schumacher, Public	Mark Haynes, Public
Brett Skinner, Mirage Flats Irrigation District	Tim Buskirk, USFS District Ranger
Tyler Hunter, Public	Senator Steve Erdman, District 47

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

District 47 Senator Steve Erdman

Senator Erdman presented information on and discussed many issues that the Nebraska Legislature has or will be dealing with including: NCORPE Augmentation Project and land ownership, property tax relief, the Nebraska Advantage Act, support for the Water Sustainability Fund and redistricting following the 2020 census. The Senator also discussed the recent issuing of 50 elk depredation permits by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to a landowner in Morrill County. Finally, the Senator announced that he will be running for re-election.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin introduced Savannah Stolon a CSC student who was job shadowing for the day. Robin explained the Equal Opportunities and Civil Rights Acts that must be reported on annually. Robin explained all the conservation programs across the state and the trend of practices undertaken by specific offices. Robin shared the opportunities for land owners who would like to grow hemp, per the Farm Bill. Robin mentioned the woman in ag meeting coming up December 11. Robin also announced Kelly Mildebrandt as a new employee in the Alliance office, partnering with Pheasants Forever focusing on Conservation Reserve Program.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred explained a new forester position that will be shared by the Middle Niobrara NRD and Nebraska Forest Service, opening in Valentine.

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Extension
Jack Arterburn**

Jack provided a handout and explanation on upcoming events being hosted by the University of Nebraska.

**United States Forest Service
Tim Buskirk**

Tim provided a presentation of the Collins prescribed fire and explained how the fires are planned and implemented and the benefits that come with it. Tim also discussed the Join Chief's Project. The first three-year project is complete and it went well. United State Forest Service and the Nebraska Forest Service signed a Good Neighboring Agreement, which allows federal funds to be spent to treat federal acres.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat mentioned several upcoming meetings.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed Fall Static Water Levels are completed with calculations and graphs being made. It appears that all Fall levels will be up.
- Lynn discussed the irrigated acre certification update with roughly 75% being completed.
- Lynn mentioned that water usage calculations are being completed and reports created to be mailed out before Thanksgiving.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen mentioned that the tree radio ads were recorded. Kylen will be presenting on Chadron State Campus on Monday for a career's discussion. Kylen also reported the audit work in the office has been completed.

**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 is near completion.

**Resource Technician
Maria Baglieri**

Maria added the following to her written report:

- Maria completed static water level measurements in the Mirage Flats area.
- Maria is in the process of contacting landowners with failed meters.
- Maria reported on the cattail project on the Niobrara River, which will be pushed back to the Spring of 2020. A meeting will be held with the contractor, Jason Rust.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley reported that meter reading is complete and water use calculations are being made. Haley also mentioned the Water Issues meeting will be getting a new name.

**Conservation Programs Assistant
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported on the following activities:

- Attended the I&E meeting in North Platte with Kylen
- Assisted with meter reading
- Processed tree orders
- Planned the Holiday Party which will be in Chadron on December 12th
- Processed certification update forms

Tricia also reported the Range Day sign-up sheet on her desk for anyone who would like to RSVP.

Tricia passed around Legislative Conference sign-up sheet; asking for Directors to sign up.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda; Scott Berndt seconded the motion.
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Dave Kadlecek and Kevin Oligmueller)*

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Scott Berndt

Director Berndt reported on the following:

- Director Berndt reported on the discussion held at Annual Conference in September.
- Director Berndt reported on contributions made from the NARD Foundation.
- Director Berndt reported on the financials from the meeting in November.
- Pat reported on Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust, an investment account switching companies, to a company out of Iowa.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance Dave Carlson

Director Carlson reported that there will be a meeting on November 19, 2019.

Water Committee Report Rich Zochol

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the final recharge report from HDR with suggestions and top sites. The estimated construction costs came in high with the cost versus benefit not being easily identified. The water committee and staff have identified an existing structure east of Berea that would be similar to those identified in the analysis. A request will be made to HDR to perform the recharge analysis on the site and potentially a monitoring well would be located in the area to measure future recharge that is provided by the structure.
- Pat discussed the grant application that was submitted to the NRCS Watershed Flood Protection Operation Program, which was not funded this year. Suggestions were given for the future application with funding.
- Pat discussed the transfer model that was presented by Thad Kuntz in the past. The committee mentioned the landowner paying for the analysis versus the NRD paying for it. Moving forward the committee will come up with a process written for policy to be passed by the Board.
- Pat discussed the sub-area three expansion of well for 2020; staff will have static water levels available at the December meeting for further discussion.
- Lynn discussed cost-share for flow meters that are inaccessible. Director Zochol discussed the cost share items being up to \$500 or 50% of cost to move the meter to a more accessible area no more than 7 feet off the ground. Discussion was had on the type of meter if the meter needs replaced and the costs associated with replacement as well as movement. Decision was made that up to \$500 or 50% may not be enough incentive, therefore up to \$750 or 75% of cost was amended on the motion.
- Pat reported on the Emergency Watershed Project and that repairs will be made to the Mirage Flat's and Allison I's structures once a meeting is had with an engineer to create a design in the next couple weeks.

Rich Zochol moved to allow cost share of up to \$500 or 50% of the movement or replacement of meters that are inaccessible, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion

*Rich Zochol amended the previous motion to up to \$750 or 75% of the movement and/or replacement of meters that are inaccessible, Tod Dorshorst seconded the amended motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Dave Kadlecek and Kevin Oligmueller)*

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee Al Rasmussen0

Director Rasmussen reported on the following:

- Pat reported on the Master Plan changes, asking for review and change suggestions to be brought forth prior to the December meeting.
- Pat reported on the Long-Range Plan changes, with the asking of review and change suggestions to be brought forth prior to the December meeting.
- Pat reported on the NRCS memorandum of agreement for all NRD's and NRCS.

*Al Rasmussen moved to approve the memorandum of agreement with NRCS and to sign the agreement at an event scheduled in the future., Scott Berndt seconded the motion.
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Dave Kadlecek and Kevin Oligmueller)*

December and January Meetings

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

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve changing the December time to 3:00 pm and the January meeting date to January 23rd at 2:00 pm, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Dave Kadlecek and Kevin Oligmueller)

Excused Absences

*Rich Zochol moved to excuse the following: Director Kadlecek and Director Oligmueller, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Dave Kadlecek and Kevin Oligmueller)*

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.



Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____