



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, September 5, 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 August 28, 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	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
Maria Baglieri, NRD Resource Tech.	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service	Fred McCartney, Nebraska Forest Service
Shelley Steffl, NE G&P Commission	John Engel, HDR
John Axtell, KCSR Radio	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin presented details regarding the Emergency Conservation Program. Dawes, Sheridan, Box Butte, and Sioux counties were all impacted by flooding in the Spring of 2019; the Emergency Conservation Program will provide cost-share assistance to rehabilitate producer land which was damaged by the natural disasters. There are over 40 sites located within Dawes and Sioux counties, and additional nine sites in Sheridan county.

Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson

Fred McCartney discussed the challenges that faced local sawmills and those that provide the trees for processing. Fred also discussed that he was encouraged recently by a visit with a local contractor who was creating a commodity rather than utilizing cost share for forest management.

Budget Hearing

John Burke moved to open the public hearing for the budget at 9:13 A.M., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.

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

Groundwater Recharge Potential Analysis
John Engel, HDR

John presented the Groundwater Recharge Potential Analysis that was conducted in partnership with Nebraska DNR. The information was discussed and several questions were offered.

Budget Hearing

John Burke moved to close the public hearing for the budget at 10:08 A.M., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.

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

Tax Request and Levy Hearing

Al Rasmussen moved to open the public hearing for the final Tax Request and 2019-2020 Levy at 10:09 A.M., Dave Carlson seconded the motion.

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

Pat provided an overview of the proposed budget included projected income and expenses, the final county valuations and the levy that would be required to generate the tax asking.

General Manager
Pat O'Brien

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat mentioned Senator Tom Brewer was unable to attend the September meeting as a result of the date change however; he is scheduled to make an appearance at the December Board Meeting.
- Pat mentioned Senator Steve Erdman would be present at the November meeting.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed the process with the certification update of irrigated acres. The information packet was sent out to each landowner, with several being returned. Most of the adjustments to the information have been land ownership changes.
- Lynn mentioned meter reading will likely start after Annual Conference, with the goal to be completed by November 1st; and water use reports going out before Thanksgiving.
- Lynn reported that Static Water Levels will also be completed as staff is out reading meters.
- Lynn presented update from Water Well Standards Program. In the near future, a new Program Manager will most likely not be hired, with that employee funding request spent on replacing the vacant field representative/inspector position. Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy is pursuing funding to streamline the Ground Water Clearing House data entry and sharing process, to create a more user-friendly environment.
- Lynn mentioned the Niobrara Compact meeting being held on October 23rd in Scottsbluff, with the annual IMP meeting being held the next day in Chadron.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene added the following to her written report:

- Kylene discussed the release of the Fall Newsletter and mailing dates.
- Kylene reminded directors that at the NARD Fall Conference, Doak will be presented the Conservation Tree Planter of the Year award.
- Kylene reminded the board that expense reports should be completed and will be processed this month.

**Resource Technician
Maria Baglieri**

Maria reported that chemigation inspections are completed. Maria also reported that Crop Water Use Reports have been going well and will continue through the month of September.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley reported that chemigation inspections are completed. Haley will begin preparing to read meters and will be sampling the dedicated monitoring wells.

**Conservation Programs Assistant
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported that she has created a Facebook page and a Twitter page for the NRD and encouraged the Directors to go “like” each page respectfully. Tricia has been working on entering the chemigation inspection data into the database. Tricia reported that her and Kylene would be traveling to Wahoo next week for I & E training. Tricia reported that Land Judging would be held in Scottsbluff county on October 2, with Range judging being held in Cheyenne county on September

**Resource Conservation Programs
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin reported he has been working on tree survivability checks.
- Nevin and Tricia will be attending Bessey Nursery Client's Day on October 9th.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Tax Requesting Hearing

*Tod Dorshorst moved to close the public hearing for the final Tax Request and 2019 – 2020 Levy at
10:24 A.M., Al Rasmussen 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 reported there are two resolutions to be considered at this time. The first coming from UNWNRD regarding Natural Resources Commission member residency requirements. The MNNRD intends to support the resolution and will second a motion to adopt. The second resolution coming from LENRD regarding the extension of bonding authority to all NRDs for the purpose of flood control projects. There was not any negative discussion at the manager's meeting about either resolution.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported on the following:

- Director Carlson reported the Niobrara Basin Director's retreat was held on August 19th and 20th, in Valentine. There was a good attendance for the tour. Senator Greggert and many members of other Senators were also in attendance for the meeting.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Director Zochol reported that the UNWNRD was awarded a Riparian Vegetation Management grant for \$ 28,560 to manage cattails in and along the Niobrara River. This grant will include a match from the NRD, equaling roughly \$19,000 plus in-kind staff time. An agreement letter will be sent out to each landowner along the river, with work beginning in the fall of 2019 and completed by June 30, 2020.

*Rich Zochol moved to approve the contract with Nebraska Department of Agriculture for the Riparian Vegetation Management Project, Dave Carlson seconded the motion.
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat reported on the Jack Carnahan Memorial funds. Roughly \$800-\$900 will be donated to the NRD for use in the tree program. It was proposed that the funds be used in the tree program to support Community Forestry projects.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Jack Carnahan Memorial funds be used towards Community Forestry Projects., Scott Berndt seconded the motion.
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

**Budget Committee
Nancy Fisher**

Director Fisher reported on the following:

The restricted funds allowed by the budget for 2019-2020 are \$619,82.60.

Al Rasmussen moved approve the 1% Restricted Funds for 2019-2020, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

The 2019-2020 tax asking of \$633,573 will require a levy of \$0.016036, which is the same as it has been for the last six years.

Nancy Fisher moved to approve the 2019-2020 Tax Request of \$633,573, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

The proposed 2019-2020 budget includes an income of \$1,285,000 and expenses of \$1,506,000.

*Nancy Fisher moved to approve the 2108-2019 Budget; John Burke seconded the motion.
Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

Kevin Oligmueller moved to enter Executive Session to discuss potential litigation at 10:41 A.M., Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

John Burke moved to exit Executive Session at 10:48 A.M., Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.



Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 10-15-19