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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 9, 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 in The Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on July 1, 2020.

Open Meetings Act

Chairman Dave Carlson pointed out the Open Meetings Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

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, NRD Water Resources Manager	Maria Baglieri, NRD Natural Resource Coord.
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	Matt Steffl, Nebraska Game & Parks Comm.
Walker Zulkoski, NPAIT	Dan Kreitman, Nebraska Game & Parks Comm.
Tyler Hunter, Public	Fred McCartney, Nebraska Forest Service
Bryce Gerlach, Nebraska Forest Service	Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service
Roger Suhr, Public	

Emergency Agenda Additions

Pat noted the addition to the agenda under Operations, Policy and Personnel Committee

**Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT)
Walker Zulkoski**

Walker presented on the changes that have recently occurred with NPAIT management and the options and services that are now being offered.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin explained new mentoring program called Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program (CAMP) that is now available to producers. Robin presented the new online payment portal that has launched across the nation. Robin also announced that Maria will be starting as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Alliance field office on July 20th.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak shared his life adventures the past few months. Doak introduced Bryce Gerlach as the new Forester housed within the NRD office.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat mentioned legislative session will start in 11 days with priority bills being the focus of the discussion.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn had nothing to add to his written report.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylan pointed out some specific budget lines to bring attention to them specifically with the account receivables.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley reported chemigation inspections have been taking place.

**Natural Resource Coordinator
Maria Baglieri**

Maria added the following to her written report:

- Maria reported on the Cattail Management Project on the Niobrara River. Jason Rust has completed the spraying portion of the Project. Maria will be taking photos to document the progress. After further discussion it was decided to wait a few years before applying for the next grant to complete the project.
- Maria has been out doing chemigation inspections.

**Conservation Programs Assistant
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported that she will be in the field doing chemigation inspections, along with Haley and Maria.

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**

- Pat reported on the progress to find a new location for the NARD office. There has been discussion of moving the office outside of the downtown Lincoln area.
- Pat reported that the NARD annual conference is still being scheduled and asked directors to indicate if they would like to attend.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn reviewed the one application received for a well and acres in Sub Area III for Charles Hamilton.
- Pat reported on the Groundwater Relocation Feasibility Analysis. Four proposals were submitted. Discussion was held on the proposals and the project in general.

*Rich Zochol moved to approve Hamilton's application for a well permit and expansion of irrigated acres in Sub Area III; Mike Strasburger seconded the motion.
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

*Rich Zochol moved to approve JEO's proposal for Groundwater Relocation Feasibility Analysis; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.
Roll call: (9) ayes, (2) nays-Steve Sandberg and Mike Strasburger*

**Operating/Personal/Policy Report
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat explained the Emergency Watershed Protection Project Agreements with Box Butte and Sioux Counties

*John Burke moved to approve agreements with Box Butte and Sioux Counties for the Emergency Watershed Protection Projects; Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

2020-2021 Budget

Pat distributed a draft copy and went over the 2020-2021 budget noting that the tax asking would remain the same

Old /New Business

Director Kadlecek asked Doak Nickerson to comment on the Northern Long Eared Bat and how it has affected the logging business within the NRD. Doak provided information on the impact and the steps that contractors, who receive cost share, must undertake when working in areas where the bat is present. Director Kadlecek suggested the UNWNRD consider sending a letter requesting a review of the Nebraska Endangered Species Act be conducted.

Public Comment

Public discussion was held on the Northern Long Eared Bat and the affects it has caused the logging business within the surrounding area.

Executive Session

*Kevin Oligmueller moved to enter executive session at 10:37, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion.
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

*John Burke moved to exit executive session at 10:45, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays*

Adjournment

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



David Carlson, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 8-13-20