



**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, August 13, 2020, 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 August 5, 2020.

**Open Meeting Law Act**

Chairman David Carlson pointed out the Open Meeting Law 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:

Scott Berndt	Dave Carlson
Nancy Fisher	Kevin Oligmueller
Steve Sandberg	Mike Strasburger
Rich Zochol	

Absent:

John Burke, Tod Dorshorst, Dave Kadlecek, Al Rasmussen

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	Erik Jacobson, Resources Coordinator
Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist	Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension
Tanya Storer, District 43 Legislative Candidate	

**Emergency Agenda Additions**

None

**Natural Resource Conservation Service**

**Robin Foulk**

Robin gave an update on the mystery seed packets some people have been receiving throughout the nation. If someone receives these packets in the mail, they are to report it to APHIS without opening the package. Robin reported on emergency haying and grazing that has been released from FSA in Dawes, Sioux, and Sheridan counties. Robin reported that NRCS offices are in Phase II of the COVID restrictions; meaning two employees can be in the office with all appointments taking place outside the

office. NRCS offices have two new faces in them: Tom Emerson in the Chadron office and Maria Baglieri in the Alliance office. Robin mentioned the Regional Conservation Partnership Program application deadline of November 4, 2020.

**District 43 Legislative Candidate Tanya Storer**

Tanya Storer introduced herself to the board as a candidate for District 43 Legislature. Tanya is a rancher from Whitman, NE. Ms. Storer discussed the upcoming elections, the platform she is running on and answered questions from the Directors.

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

Jack reported on upcoming events happening in the area that were included on his written report.

**General Manager  
Pat O'Brien**

Pat noted the legislative session would end August 13, 2020. Also noted, the Nebraska Water Resources Association/Nebraska State Irrigation Association joint conference would be moved from an in-person event to a series of webinars.

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn presented an update on Continuing Education Units hardships and the options people would have to gain those hours per the Water Well Standards Board.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator  
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene reported the fall newsletter would be prepared and printed in September to be mailed out by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Water Resource Manager  
Haley Anders**

Haley reported that she has been conducting chemigation inspections and collecting domestic water samples.

**Resources Coordinator  
Erik Jacobson**

Erik reported he has been reading up on literature from the office and was in the field with Haley and Tricia observing the chemigation inspection process.

**Conservation Programs Assistant  
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported that she has been completing chemigation inspections and updating the website as needed.

## **Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Scott Berndt moved to approve the consent agenda, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion  
Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Tod Dorshorst, Dave Kadlecek, Al Rasmussen)*

## **Agency Reports**

### **Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt had nothing to report as there had not been a meeting. Pat reported that Annual Conference is still on schedule for September 28-30. Pat reported a committee was created to assist with the building and relocation process with the NARD staff.

*Steve Sandberg moved to nominate Director Berndt as voting Delegate and Director Dorshorst as Alternate for the NARD annual meeting, Nancy Fisher seconded the motion  
Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Tod Dorshorst, Dave Kadlecek, Al Rasmussen)*

### **Water Committee Report Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol had nothing to report.

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

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn presented the NSWCP cost-share docket for the EQIP docket.
- Pat presented numbers on NPAIT CD options.
- Pat presented EWP approvals

*Rich Zochol moved to adopt the cost-share docket for EQIP funds for wells, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion*

*Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Tod Dorshorst, Dave Kadlecek, Al Rasmussen)*

*Rich Zochol moved to allow the manager the discretion to invest in the NPAIT CD options as appropriate to ensure a beneficial return and protect cash flow, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion*

*Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Tod Dorshorst, Dave Kadlecek, Al Rasmussen)*

*Rich Zochol moved to approve the agreement with Mirage Flats Irrigation District, Sheridan County, and Dawes County for Emergency Watershed Project, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion*

*Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Tod Dorshorst, Dave Kadlecek, Al Rasmussen)*

### **Budget Committee Nancy Fisher**

Director Fisher reported on the upcoming budget:

- Budget hearing set for the September meeting.

*Nancy Fisher moved to approve the 2020-2021 Budget as presented and hold the levy and tax asking hearing at 9:00 am on September 10, 2020 with the regular board meeting to follow, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion*

*Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Tod Dorshorst, Dave Kadlecek, Al Rasmussen)*

#### **Old/New Business**

Pat reported the Box Butte Creek Watershed Project agreement was received from NRCS and will be reviewed and returned. Also, the request for proposals to conduct the work closes on August 17, 2020.

#### **Excused Absences**

*Rich Zochol moved to excuse the following: Director Burke, Director Dorshorst, Director Kadlecek, and Director Rasmussen, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion*

*Roll call: (7) ayes, (0) nays (4) absent (John Burke, Tod Dorshorst, Dave Kadlecek, Al Rasmussen)*

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.



Dave Carlson, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 9-10-20