

Serving Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux Counties

430 East Second Street * Chadron, Nebraska 69337 * Phone (308) 432-6190
Fax (308) 432-6187 * www.unwnrd.org

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, 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 December 2, 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 3:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	John Burke – via Zoom
Dave Carlson	Nancy Fisher
Dave Kadlecsek	Kevin Oligmueller – via Zoom
Al Rasmussen	Steve Sandberg – via Zoom
Mike Strasburger	Rich Zochol

Absent:

Tod Dorshorst

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager
Erik Jacobson, NRD Resources Coordinator	Erin Lee, NRD Groundwater Management Coord.
Tricia Goes, NRD Conservation Prog. Specialist	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC – via Zoom
Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service – via phone	Shelley Steffl, NE. Game & Parks Com.
Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension	Kristy Dietrich, Dietrich & Sauter CPA, PC
Justin Stine, JEO – via Zoom	Jonathan Mohr, JEO – via Zoom
Carrie Weise, DNR – via Zoom	Dave Hume, LRE Water – via Zoom
Chelsea Forehead, BCR – via Zoom	Aaron Sanford, NRCS – via Zoom

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**2019-2020 Fiscal Year Audit
Kristy Dietrich**

Kristy presented the 2019-2020 fiscal year audit. Everything was determined to be compliant and staff was commended on the work keeping the books in order.

Dave Kadlecek moved to accept and submit the audit to the state auditor, Scott Berndt seconded the motion.

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Tod Dorshorst)

**Water Relocation Feasibility Analysis
Jonathan Mohr, JEO**

Jonathan and others presented the water relocation feasibility analysis and answered questions from the Directors.

**Natural Resource Conservation Service
Robin Foulk**

Robin's written report was handed out. Robin mentioned many retirements happening in 2021.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak reported on multiple grants the Nebraska Forest Service received. Doak also mentioned that a windbreak short course is being planned for early 2021.

**UNL Extension
Jack Arterburn**

Jack's written report was handed out.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat announced that Tom Riley has started as Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Pat discussed the WFPO meeting being on-line and starting on December 15, 2020 and running through January 14, 2020. Pat reported that the Niobrara Basin caucus will be held at the Middle Niobrara NRD on January 15, 2020, and requested that a few Directors attend.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn had nothing to add to his written report, unless there were questions. Additional information will be provided later under the Water Committee Report.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylan mentioned expense reports are due.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley handed out her written report.

**Resources Coordinator
Erik Jacobson**

Erik reported tree sales are up 15% from sales of 2020, selling 13, 500 thus far for 2021.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Erin Lee**

Erin reported that water use reports were mailed out and just a few are remaining waiting on electric use.

**Conservation Programs Specialist
Tricia Goes**

Tricia corrected her November written report on State Land Judging. Tricia mentioned the new QR code and presented instructions on how to utilize it. Tricia announced the cancellation of Range Day 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. Tricia described how Regional Envirothon 2021 contests will be monitored and held; all being virtually with NARD hosting and registering. Tricia presented each Director with a weed book donated by PRIDE.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Scott Berndt moved to approve the consent agenda, Dave Kadlecsek seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Tod Dorshorst)*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt provided an update on the NARD building acquisition process and that utilization of Risk Pool funds will require a dividend being distributed to each district and returned to the NARD Foundation. Pat explained legislative conference status.

*Rich Zochol moved to appoint Scott Berndt as the voting delegate and Dave Carlson as alternate for
Legislative Conference, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion.*

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Tod Dorshorst)

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn reported on the 2020 Fall Static Water Levels
- Director Zochol reported on Sub Area III additional wells and additional 1,300 acres for 2021
- Lynn presented Berndt Cattle Co. variance request
- Lynn presented Schaefer field boundary modification request

*Rich Zochol moved to allow additional wells and up to 1,300 acres in groundwater management subarea III for 2021, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion.
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Tod Dorshorst)*

*Rich Zochol moved to deny Berndt Cattle Co. variance request, John Burke seconded the motion.
Roll call: (7) ayes, (2) nays (Steve Sandberg and Mike Strasburger) (1) abstain (Scott Berndt) (1) absent (Tod Dorshorst)*

*Rich Zochol moved to approve Schaefer field boundary modification request; Al Rasmussen seconded the motion.
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Tod Dorshorst)*

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Director Kadlecek presented modifications to the Personnel and Operating Policies and Procedures

*Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the modifications to the Personnel and Operating Policies and Procedures; Al Rasmussen seconded the motion.
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Tod Dorshorst)*

Old/New Business

Pat mentioned the January Board Meeting is currently scheduled prior to the deadline for legislative bill introduction. The January meeting remain as scheduled on January 14, 2021 at 2 P.M. in Chadron. A special meeting could be scheduled to discuss legislative bills if necessary.

Excused Absences

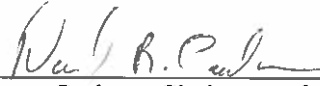
*Rich Zochol moved to excuse the following: Director Dorshorst, Nancy Fisher seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Tod Dorshorst)*

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.



Dave Carlson, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 1-14-21