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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 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021, 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 February 3, 2021.

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 2:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	John Burke- via phone
Dave Carlson	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Dave Kadlecsek
Kevin Oligmueller – via Zoom	Steve Sandberg
Mike Strasburger	Rich Zochol

Absent:

Al Rasmussen

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
Fred McCartney, Nebraska Forest Service	Seth Peterson, Nebraska Forest Service

Emergency Agenda Additions

None.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Robin Foulk

Robin presented the annual report for Environmental Quality Incentive Program as well as Conservation Stewardship Program. Robin mentioned upcoming events regarding soil health.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney and Seth Peterson**

Fred and Seth gave updates on forestry projects happening within the district. Fred has been writing grants to improve the Right-of-Way projects along the county roads and Seth has been busy with fire trainings and the SEAT plane.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat mentioned the final Healthy Soils Tasks Force report was available. Pat will be preparing the final report from the Local Working Group Meetings that were held on February 4, 2021.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn presented a Water Well Standards update from the Board meeting he attended in Lincoln. A new inspector has been hired to oversee the North Platte field office region.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene made an edit to the NSWCP numbers from her written report. Kylene mentioned the Conservation Award Nomination form that was handed out.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley has been collecting domestic samples.

**Resources Coordinator
Erik Jacobson**

Erik has been working on tree plans and submitting tree orders.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Erin Lee**

Erin will be sending out the second failed meter letters to those producers who haven't responded to the first letter.

**Conservation Programs Specialist
Tricia Goes**

Tricia had nothing to add to her written report.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Al Rasmussen)*

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Scott Berndt

Director Berndt reported on the January meeting noting a shortfall in the Risk Pool. Pat reported on a few of the Legislative Bills and the all-day hearing process.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance Dave Carlson

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

Water Committee Report Rich Zochol

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Rocking TJ Farms Inc submitted an application for a field boundary, if approved the modification would allow for the installation of a swing arm pivot. A portion of the gravity acres will be irrigated under the new pivot and some will be decertified. There will be no change in total certified irrigated acres.
- Sally Weldon submitted a request for variance for irrigated acres. Currently the irrigated acres that were originally certified do not meet the definition of historically irrigated. The irrigation system has not been used for fifteen years and it does not appear that the land has ever been assessed as irrigated. Sally's dad (Clayton Tallon) was paying for the monthly electric meter fee. Sally has inherited the property and Sally wants to know if she has an option of now irrigating the land.

Rich Zochol moved to approve Rocking TJ Farms Inc acre modification; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays, (1) absent (Al Rasmussen)

Rich Zochol moved to deny Sally Weldon request for variance; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion.

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays, (1) absent (Al Rasmussen)

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat reported on the CRW 2021 contract/Worman Enterprises from Idaho who plant the Ponderosa Pine reforestation trees for Nebraska Forest Service.

Dave Kadlecek moved to accept the CRW 2021 contract; Scott Berndt seconded the motion.

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays, (1) absent (Al Rasmussen)

Old/New Business

None.

Excused Absences

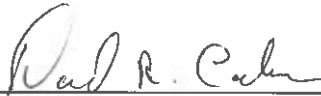
*Rich Zochol moved to excuse the following: Director Rasmussen, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays (1) absent (Al Rasmussen)*

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.



Dave Carlson, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 3-11-21