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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, January 14, 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 January 6, 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
Dave Carlson	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Dave Kadlecek
Kevin Oligmueller – via Zoom	Al Rasmussen
Steve Sandberg	Mike Strasburger
Rich Zochol- via phone	

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
Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service – via phone	

Emergency Agenda Additions

Pat added credit card charges to Operating, Personnel and Policy report.

**Election of Officers
Chairman**

John Burke recommended that the current slate of officers be re-elected for an additional year. Current officers are: Chairman Carlson, Vice Chairman Kadlecek, Secretary/ Treasurer Fisher, NARD Representative Berndt with Alternant Dorshorst, NRBA Representative Carlson with Alternant Oligmueller.

John Burke moved retain the current slate of officers for 2021 and be elected by a unanimous ballot, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays, (0) absent

Chairman Carlson reminded Directors to let him know if there are any committee assignment changes are desired.

**Natural Resource Conservation Service
Robin Foulk**

Robin announced that Jeff Vander Wilt would be serving as Acting State Conservationist. Robin explained Environmental Quality Incentive Program applications and monies available for 2021. Robin and Pat have completed the Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Work between NRCS and UNWNRD. Robin presented a Pheasants Forever and CRP informational meeting for producers.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak discussed working on windbreak renovations and establishment with a Dawes County Landowner along with Erik.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat mentioned the continuance of virtual meetings until April 30, 2020 via Executive Order issued by the Governor. Pat also mentioned the final Healthy Soils Task Force Report. Pat reminded the Board that the Annual Review will be held on February 11th.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn has been communicating with the Department of Natural Resources on future VIMP meetings.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylen mentioned NSWCP applications; NC14 has four applications still waiting. Kylan took videos of Buskirks planting trees last spring to be placed on the website as informational videos.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley reported she has been working on the water quality database to be submitted to the Quality Assessed Agricultural Contaminant Database also known as the Clearinghouse.

**Resources Coordinator
Erik Jacobson**

Erik mentioned he has been working on designing windbreaks with Doak. Erik reported 21,855 trees were sold at this time in 2020 and 20,400 trees have been sold in 2021.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Erin Lee**

Erin reported on the preliminary average water use across the district. The District average was 11.05 inches with sugar beets using 16.22 inches and corn and alfalfa using 15.00 inches.

**Conservation Programs Specialist
Tricia Goes**

Tricia mentioned Regional Envirothon contests going virtual. NARD will coordinate the contests for 2021 with registrations ended on January 22, 2021. State Envirothon is April 28, 2021 at Lake Wanahoo with National Envirothon still being held in July. Tricia has been updating Chemigation database for the permits to be mailed out in February. Tricia has been working on updating the website/ social media pages.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

In order for funds to be transferred from the NARD Risk Pool to the NARD Foundation for purchase of the NARD office building, the Nebraska Department of Insurance required approval to distribute a dividend to each member and then be returned to the Foundation. Each NRD has been asked to ratify the agreement via resolution. Pat mentioned the status of Legislative Conference is unknown at this time.

*Scott Berndt moved to adapt the resolution motion for risk pool for insurance dividend, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion.
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays (0) absent*

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Pat mentioned the NRC Director caucus in Valentine, NE on January 15, 2021. Director Sandberg and Director Carlson will be attending.

**Water Committee Report
John Burke**

Pat mentioned staff will be working on reviewing and proposing changes to the Groundwater Management Area and Integrated Management Area Rules and Regulations within the next year. No action is needed at this time.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Kylene reported on SpotOn credit card processing fee company options.

Steve Sandberg moved to accept SpotOn credit card company processing fees; Al Rasmussen seconded the motion.

Roll call: (10) ayes, (1) nays (John Burke) (0) absent

Old/New Business

Pat mentioned a special meeting may need to be held to discuss and review Legislative Bills.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



Dave Carlson, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 2-11-21