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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, October 8, 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 September 30, 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	John Burke
Dave Carlson	Tod Dorshorst
Nancy Fisher	Dave Kadlecik
Steve Sandberg	Mike Strasburger
Rich Zochol	

Absent:

Kevin Oligmueller and 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
Erin Lee, Groundwater Management Coord.	Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist
Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**Natural Resource Conservation Service
Robin Foulk**

Robin reported on a new hire: Chelsea Forehead who is working under a partnership of the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Chelsea should be present at the November board meeting. Robin mentioned year end obligations for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship

Program. Roughly \$55 million was obligated on over 1,300 contracts developed. For the Upper Niobrara White NRD roughly 50 contracts were written for a total of \$4.1 million, with one million acres being benefited. Robin mentioned Conservation Innovation Grants that have been approved in Nebraska.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak presented a forest management perspective from the national presidential candidates. Doak explained trees that are beneficial in the fire footprints—Ponderosa Pines. Doak mentioned fall planting season has begun by providing Bur Oak acorn as an example.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat noted the WFPO contract has been signed with HDR and a stakeholder meeting will be set for the future – most likely in December.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn mentioned the Voluntary IMP meeting to be held on November 12, 2020, with a meeting place to be determined. Lynn presented information on a long-term database management being considered.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene reported the fall newsletters were passed out and mailed out by October 1st.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley reported that she has been reading meters and conducting domestic water samples.

**Resources Coordinator
Erik Jacobson**

Erik reported he completed reading meters on the Flats. Erik attending a tour of Bessey Nursery and will have more to report on trees at a later time.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Erin Lee**

Erin reported that she has been reading meters in Box Butte county, with Box Butte county being completed within a week.

**Conservation Programs Specialist
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported that she has been entering meter data, and that approximately half the meters have been read within the district. Tricia mentioned the Regional Envirothon Contests could potentially be moved to virtual, with all tests being taken online. Tricia reported that she attended the Bessey Nursery tour where Cole Seeley reported a few species including; American Plum and Cottonwood

Hybrids are very low inventory, and Nanking Cherry will not be offered this year. Tricia presented a draft agenda for Range Day 2021 to the Directors asking for input and suggestions. Tricia passed out a copy of the Chemigation Letter that was mailed out to producers who still needed Chemigation systems re-inspected from the summer of 2020.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda, Scott Berndt seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Kevin Oligmueller and Al Rasmussen)*

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Scott Berndt

Director Berndt reported that at the NARD annual meeting the decision was made to purchase a building in Lincoln with the funds coming from the Foundation account, the Risk Pool and NARD reserves. Director Berndt reported the resolution submitted by Lower Platte South NRD failed to advance.

Water Committee Report Rich Zochol

Director Zochol had nothing to report.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat presented additions and a correction to the Long-Range Plan. An addition on page 9 to include prairie dogs management and an edit on page 8.
- Pat presented customer charges for 2021- no significant changes to be made from the 2020 charges.
- Pat mentioned the possibility of improvements to the west side of the NRD building—taking out the slat house and adding protection for vehicles that park in the corral.

*Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Long-Range Plan with the additions and corrections noted, John Burke seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Kevin Oligmueller and Al Rasmussen)*

*Dave Kadlecek moved to maintain the customer charges from 2020 to 2021, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Kevin Oligmueller and Al Rasmussen)*

Old/New Business

Pat mentioned the November board meeting being held the same day as the Voluntary IMP meeting (location to be determined). Pat suggested holding the November board meeting at 3 pm at the same location as the Voluntary IMP meeting.

Rich Zochol moved to approve moving the November Board Meeting to 3 pm on November 12, 2020.

Dave Kadlecek seconded the motion

Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Kevin Oligmueller and Al Rasmussen)

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse the following: Director Oligmueller and Director Rasmussen, Nancy

Fisher seconded the motion

Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Kevin Oligmueller and Al Rasmussen)

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.



Dave Carlson, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 11-13-20