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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 immediately following the 9 a.m. budget hearing on Thursday, September 10, 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 September 2, 2020.

### **Open Meetings Law Act**

Chairman David Carlson pointed out the Open Meetings Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

### **Roll Call & Introduction of Guests**

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

John Burke	Dave Carlson
Nancy Fisher	Kevin Oligmueller
Steve Sandberg	Mike Strasburger
Tod Dorshorst	Dave Kadlecek
Al Rasmussen	

Absent:

Scott Berndt and Rich Zochol

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Tricia Goes, NRD Conservation Prog. Specialist
Haley Anders, Water Resources Manager	Erik Jacobson, Resources Coordinator
Erin Lee, Groundwater Management Coord.	Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist
Bryce Gerlach, Nebraska Forest Service	

### **Emergency Agenda Additions**

None

### **Natural Resource Conservation Service Robin Foulk**

Robin explained the workload NRCS employees have been completing. Robin mentioned a new congressional bill that was introduced; Conservation Corps Act.

**Nebraska Forest Service  
Bryce Gerlach**

Bryce presented information on behalf of Seth Peterson on the fires within the area. The SEAT Plane that is based out of Chadron has participated in 18 fires this season. Bryce mentioned the expanded cost-share options for landowners wishing to burn slash piles.

**General Manager  
Pat O'Brien**

Pat mentioned the Nebraska Water Resources Association annual conference has been moved to a virtual format with four webinars being offered.

**Assistant Manager  
Lynn Webster**

Lynn reported:

- Staff will begin reading meters soon.
- The Water Well Standards Program is having a difficult time getting someone hired for the Western Region representative.
- Lynn and Pat have reconvened discussions with the Department of Natural Resources on Voluntary Integrated Management Planning. Tentatively scheduling for a November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in Rushville, dependent upon availability of meeting room.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator  
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylan reported the fall newsletter would be prepared and printed in September to be mailed out by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Kylan requested that expense forms be signed. Kylan mentioned that budget forms will be completed and mailed into the state after the completion of the board meeting.

**Water Resource Manager  
Haley Anders**

Haley reported that meter sheets are being created to allow staff to begin reading meters. Haley has been working on submitting data to the Groundwater Quality Clearinghouse database.

**Resources Coordinator  
Erik Jacobson**

Erik reported on Bessey Client's Day with the status being unknown, a time will be set up to view inventory.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator  
Erin Lee**

Erin introduced herself and presented a summary of the 2020 Crop Water Use Report.

**Conservation Programs Specialist  
Tricia Goes**

Tricia reported:

- ET gages were collected from producers before the freeze on Tuesday.
- Range Judging contest has been cancelled for 2020 and Land Judging contest will be hosted by individual schools, if so desired by school instructors/teachers.
- Roughly 225 chemigation inspections in the five weeks that she was in the field.
- Range Day 2021 will be held on January 12, 2021 at the Dawes County Fairgrounds 4-H building, as Chadron State College is not allowing outside reservations at this time.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion  
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Scott Berndt and Rich Zochol)*

**Agency Reports**

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts  
Scott Berndt**

Pat reported for the committee on the NARD building information will be presented at the Annual Meeting in Kearney on September 28, 2020. . Discussion was held on the resolution submitted by the Lower Platte South NRD.

**Water Committee Report  
Rich Zochol**

No report.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat presented information on the three proposals received for the WFPO project. The committee is recommending HDR be awarded the WFPO contract.
- Director Oligmueller mentioned the Long-Range Plan would be distributed at the October board meeting.

*John Burke moved to accept HDR's proposal for the WFPO project and to enter into a contract, Steve Sandberg seconded the motion  
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Scott Berndt and Rich Zochol)*

**Budget Committee  
Nancy Fisher**

Director Fisher presented the proposed budget noting the tax request of \$627,300 will result in a slightly increased levy of 0.016129 as a result of decreased property valuations.

*Nancy Fisher moved to approve the 1% restricted funds for 2020-2021; the tax request of \$627,300 and the 2020-2021 Budget as presented, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion  
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Scott Berndt and Rich Zochol)*

**Old/New Business**

None

**Excused Absences**

*Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse the following: Director Berndt and Director Zochol, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion  
Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays (2) absent (Scott Berndt and Rich Zochol)*

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.



Dave Carlson, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 10-8-20