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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, July 8, 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 June 30, 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 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

John Burke	Dave Carlson
Tod Dorshorst	Nancy Fisher
Kevin Oligmueller	Al Rasmussen
Steve Sandberg	Rich Zochol

Absent: Scott Berndt, Dave Kadlecck, Mike Strasburger

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Kylen Armstrong, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.
Hayley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager	Erik Jacobson, NRD Resources Coordinator
Erin Lee, NRD Groundwater Management Coord.	Tricia Goes, NRD Conservation Prog. Specialist
Doak Nickerson, Nebraska Forest Service	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Fred McCartney, Nebraska Forest Service	Seth Peterson, Nebraska Forest Service
Bryce Gerlach, Nebraska Forest Service	Shelley Steffl, Nebraska Game & Parks Com.
Dean Weborg, Public	Carla McCullough, UNL-CSD (via Zoom)

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**UNL-Conservation and Survey Division
Carla McCullough**

Carla presented two education modules that were developed to help the general public understand the Integrated Management Plan process.

**Natural Resource Conservation Service
Robin Foulk**

Robin announced the Acting State Conservationist until the end of August will be Britt Weiser and from August to October John Wilson will serve in that role. Robin indicated that a new soil conservationist will be starting in the Rushville Field Office. Robin gave a COVID-19 update and policy changes within the Field offices. Robin spoke on the new CRP Grasslands program being released.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Seth Peterson**

Seth presented on the wildfire season; locally conditions have improved from the start of the summer. Seth presented maps of lightning when a storm occurs.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat reported on the Executive Order issued by Governor Ricketts in response to the Biden 30x30 plan. Pat announced the UNL Water Conference being held in Scottsbluff on August 16th.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn's written report was disturbed with the board packets.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene announced the Conservation Awards will be presented on August 1st at the Dawes County Fair and requested assistance from Directors who may be attending.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley presented that a total of 370 water samples have been taken so far this summer; some during chemigation inspections and some sampling wells that haven't been sampled in the past four years. Only four samples have come back high in nitrates thus far.

**Resources Coordinator
Erik Jacobson**

Erik reported he has been working on completing chemigation inspections. Erik has also started a list of names wanting tree plans for 2022.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Erin Lee**

Erin reported she has been busy completing chemigation inspections.

**Conservation Program Specialist
Tricia Goes**

Tricia's reported on the NACD national Envirothon; July 25-28. Tricia will be attending from Monday July 26 through July 27th. Tricia reported on the progress of Chemigation inspections throughout the summer. Roughly 217 inspections have been completed at the time of the meeting, leaving an average of 17 permits for three employees to complete in the next nine weeks to meet the Labor Day deadline. Tricia reported on working on the Range Day PIE grant submission. Tricia will be attending the Nebraska Grazing Conference in August to get an idea for speakers for Range Day.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion
Roll call: (8) ayes, (0) nays, (3) absent (Scott Berndt, Dave Kadlecsek, Mike Strasburger)*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Pat requested Directors interested in attending the Annual Conference this fall in Kearney let staff know.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Two chemigation violations to report on. One for Kevin Hall and one for Randall Blonien. Both violations were found during water sampling events. A notice of violation was sent to each producer. Blonien's did apply for a new permit however, Hall has not submitted a chemigation permit application.
- A variance request was submitted by DTW Land Co LLC. Dean Weborg was present at the meeting to explain the situation. A replacement well permit was granted and the first well drilled only produces 200 gallons per minute, the second replacement well drilled produces 750 gallon per minute. A variance request is being requested to allow a new well and tie both wells together to produce a similar amount of water that was previously used.

*Rich Zochol moved to submit Kevin Hall's chemigation violation to the Box Butte County Attorney; John Burke seconded the motion
Roll call: (8) ayes, (0) nays, (3) absent (Scott Berndt, Dave Kadlecsek, Mike Strasburger)*

*Rich Zochol moved to deny DTW's Land Co., LLC variance request; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion
Roll call: (8) ayes, (0) nays, (3) absent (Scott Berndt, Dave Kadlecsek, Mike Strasburger)*

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

The committee met prior to the board meeting to review the draft Long-Range Plan of Operation that will be an action item at the August meeting.

2021-2022 Draft Budget

Director Fisher presented the committee recommended 2021-2022 draft budget. A budget hearing and action will take place at the September meeting.

Public Comment


None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.



Dave Carlson, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 8-12-21