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430 East Second Street * Chadron, Nebraska 69337 * Phone (308) 432-6190
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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 on Thursday, March 14, 2024, 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 March 7, 2024.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Kevin Oligmueller pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Oligmueller 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
Al Rasmussen	Mike Strasburger
Rich Zochol	Steve Sandberg
Kevin Oligmueller	

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resource Manager
Eli Goff, NRD Resources Coordinator	Robbin Randall, NRD Groundwater Coordinator
Jordan Grasis, Administrative Assistant	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Bryce Gerlach, Nebraska Forest Service	Justin Schekall

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**Natural Resource Conservation Service
Robin Foulk**

Robin reported that NRCS received \$1.35 million in funding through the Inflation Reduction Act that was obligated in 25 contracts within the district. Robin also shared that the USDA launched new Working Lands Climate Corps to train future conservation and climate leaders on climate-smart agriculture. She also shared sign-up dates for the Conservation Reserve Programs.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Bryce Gerlach**

Bryce reported that they have received 75,000 trees for the Ponderosa Pine Reforestation Program. Bryce also shared a fabric alternative that is made from coconut shells and are more biodegradable. He also provided information on a conference that will be happening in Pierre, SD that focuses on windbreaks.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat discussed an option with the Directors to allow for monthly meetings to be bypassed in the event of limited business. Current statutes require that monthly meetings be held. Moving forward, a resolution will be prepared and submitted for consideration at the Annual Conference.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn reported that staff is preparing to record spring static water levels which will be completed by the end of the month. He also shared that the approved amended rules and regulations become effective on March 14th.

**Conservation Program Coordinator
Kylene Armstrong**

Kylene reported that the Conservation Festival will be on May 1st at Chadron State Park.

**Water Resource Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley reported that she has analyzed the nitrate data for the whole district and will be starting static water levels later in the month.

**Resources Coordinator
Eli Goff**

Eli reported that all allocated NSWCP funds have been obligated and plans and has completed 7 plans, waiting on signatures for the others.

**Groundwater Management Coordinator
Robbin Randall**

Robbin reported that she passed the Groundwater Technician exam and is focusing on failed meters and getting them all taken care of.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Scott Berndt**

Director Berndt reported on the recent meeting and legislation that is being discussed.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported about the recent meeting, explaining that the subordination costs will be 0.32 cent an acre foot.

**Water Committee
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol had nothing to report.

**Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Al Rasmussen**

Director Rasmussen had nothing to report.

Public Comment

None

Excused Absences

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

David Oligmueller, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____