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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 November 13th, 2025, 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 Thursday, November 3rd, 2025.

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 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Kevin Oligmueller	Rich Zochol
Mike Strasburger	Steve Sandberg
Allen Rasmussen	Dave Carlson
Nancy Fisher	John Burke
Scott Berndt	Tod Dorshorst

Absent; Dave Kadlecek

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, Resources Coordinator

Bryce Gerlach, Nebraska Forest Service

Sydney Hunter, Cons. Program Assistant

Shelley Steffel, Nebraska Game and Parks

Katherine Crowley, BCR

Derek Krueger, Nebraska Game and Parks

Mark Betson

Wayne Fisher

Mekenna Fisher

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Senator Tonya Storer, District 43

Senator Storer attended the meeting via Zoom, presented an overview of the 2025 session, discussed the 2026 60-day session and answered questions from the board.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

No report

Nebraska Forest Service

Bryce Gerlach

Bryce discussed the S.E.A.T. plane that had been stationed in Chadron this summer for two months. He also informed the board about the Urban & Community Forestry Grants for

removing trees that pose safety hazards and replacing them with new trees. The grant is one that the NRD has applied for with expenses being be 100% reimbursed.

UNL Extension

No report

Game and Parks Commission

Shelley Steffel

Shelly thanked The UNWNRD for allowing the use of the office during the federal government shut-down. And discussed the November Firearm Deer Season.

General Manager

Pat O'Brien

Pat provided a written report and had nothing to add.

Assistant Manager

Lynn Webster

Lynn provided a written report, he updated the board on how the NSWCP had an adjustment to allocations, application approvals are moving forward.

Conservation Program Coordinator

Kylen Armstrong

Kylen provided a written report, and informed the board that the Conservation Awards are on hold due to the government shut down. She reminded the board that if they have any nominations for the awards complete and submit the provided form. Kylen reported that the auditors have reached out and the audit should be done by the end of the month.

Water Resource Manager

Haley Anders

Haley provided a written report and explained that she has been out in the field doing meter readings, static levels, and domestic sampling.

Resources Coordinator

Eli Goff

Eli provided written report and informed the board that tree order forms will be out soon. He noted that Range Day will be January 13th.

Groundwater Management Coordinator

Robbin Randall

Robbin provided a written report and informed the board that the water use report will be completed soon.

Conservation Program Assistant

Sydney Hunter

Sydney provided a written report and discussed the location of the December meeting and following Holiday Party will be held at Julie's Hay Town Grill in Hay Springs beginning at 3pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda; John Burke seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays; Absent; Dave Kadlecek

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Scott Berndt

Director Berndt reported on the Association Board Meeting that was held on November 10th.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance

Dave Carlson

The UNWNRD has been providing information on the impact of management on the river to Lower Niobrara and Middle Niobrara. There will be a formal written report once the study is complete.

Water Committee

Rich Zochol

Lynn presented information on a field boundary modification and water well request from Zach Alcorn. The modification would not result in an increase of certified acres and the certification will be updated to reflect the change in acres irrigated by the wells, if approved.

Rich Zochol moved to approve the modification request; Dave Carlson seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays; Absent; Dave Kadlecek

Operating, Personnel, and Policy Committee

Al Rasmussen

The proposed customer charges for 2026 were presented and discussed

Al Rasmussen moved to accept proposed 2026 customer charges; Scott Berndt seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays; Absent; Dave Kadlecek

Pat presented information on the addition of a Roth Option for the NARD 457 retirement savings plan and a resolution to be adopted for the UNWNRD participation.

Al Rasmussen moved to accept the NARD 457 plan – Roth Amendment Resolution; Scott Berndt seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays; Absent; Dave Kadlecek

Pat presented information on a potential donation of two parcels of land to the UNWNRD. Discussion took place.

Rich Zochol moved to accept the donated land; Al Rasmussen seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays; Absent; Dave Kadlecek

New/Old Business

Steve Sandberg moved to hold the December meeting at 3 pm, December 11th in Hay Springs and reschedule the January meeting to the 22nd; Dave Carlson seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays; Absent; Dave Kadlecek

Public Comment

None

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse Dave Kadlecek's absence; John Burke seconded the motion

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays; Absent; Dave Kadlecek

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05a.m.



Kevin Oligmueller, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 12-11-2025

