



Serving Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux Counties

430 East Second Street * Chadron, Nebraska 69337 * Phone (308) 432-6190
Fax (308) 432-6187 * www.unwnrd.org

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, April 13, 2017, 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 and The Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on April 5th, 2017.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman John Burke pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Burke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Programs Coord.
Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician	Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Coord.
Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist	Fred McCartney, NFS
Don Grein	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

The Federal Hiring Freeze has been lifted but there may be a plan to reduce the size of Government and number of Federal employees.

Robin then provided an update on the Nebraska Northwest Landscape Restoration Program noting that the sign up deadline is April 21st.

NRCS staff has been busy flagging tree belts and working to complete several EQIP and CSP contracts.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
April 13, 2017

Doak discussed the Ponderosa Pine test plots that the NFS has been working on. There are three different sizes of soil plugs to be compared with bare root trees as well.

Doak also discussed two new species of trees he believes may do well in our area; English Oak and Siberian Larch. He brought both species to show the Directors.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat provided an update on recent legislative activity.
- Pat also discussed the state budget, noting revenue the forecasting board will be meeting on April 26th and will likely include additional income shortfalls.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed a complaint that was made to the Water Well Standards Board regarding wells drilled and installed in our District. There has been a concern voiced about the potential that some irrigation wells completed or modified within the District do not meet the current water well construction standards. A site inspection of the wells constructed since January 2015 will be completed and a review of this will be completed by DHHS Water Well Standards Program staff. The review is planned to be completed by June, with determinations of construction inadequacies and remediation recommendations. Some determinations may have to be completed after irrigation season.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Sheri discussed the upcoming state Envirothon that will be held in Gering on April 26th. Haley and Nevin will be going with Sheri to help out as needed.

**Office Manager
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylen discussed tree sales, collections, accounts receivable, and inventory.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- Haley has been busy entering chemigation permits.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- UNWNRD has sold 93,000 trees to date.
- Craig also discussed the No Till drill utilization.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin discussed soil moisture probes and provided an update on static water levels.
- There will be a tour of invasive grasses in Wyoming coming up in June that Nevin may attend.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
April 13, 2017

- Nevin distributed the preliminary spring static water level hydrographs.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, Dave Carlson seconded the motion.
Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.*

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Tod Dorshorst

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Director Dorshorst mentioned the NRD 45th Anniversary t-shirts for sale.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

No report was given.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance Dave Carlson

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

Water Committee Report Rich Zochol

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Pat discussed CMAT, a statewide modeling tool that has been requested to be funded by the NRD's.
- Lynn discussed Aqua Mart. John Heaston is working on a statewide project for helping producers find and utilize management practices to maximize water use efficiencies and profitability. John is looking for support from partners and producers who will participate with the project. John offered and would like to come to a board meeting and discuss project with the board.
- The next phase of modeling conducted by Adaptive Resources will be to conduct an analysis and prepare a map that shows 75% depleted saturated thickness and the time in terms of years when the depletion occurred.
- Pat noted that other NRD's are using self reporting for Water Use and provided an example using Lower Elkhorn NRD's system. This could be an option for this District as well. Staff will work on a proposal.

Rich Zochol moved to allow UNWNRD staff to prepared and send out a request for proposals for Water Use self reporting, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

- Pat discussed possible modeling and other tools that could be used to show how one well can be affected by a neighboring well. He noted a possible scoring system to be used in the future to approve transfers and variations. Pat also mentioned the wording in the current UNWNRD policy for transfers and variations stating that there is reference to a transfer or variance being approved for "good cause" though the policy does not currently state what "good cause" includes.

Rich Zochol moved to allowed staff to develop policies and procedures for the UNWNRD to evaluate transfers and variances for further review by the board, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

- Lynn discussed the Bruce Simmons modification request. Bruce has a sideroll irrigated parcel that they are proposing to install a center pivot on. The irrigated acres will be the same as what is currently certified and irrigated. Bruce has contacted the USDA Rushville office to ensure compliance with them for sobusting and HEL determinations.

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the Simmons transfer request as presented, Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

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

Director Kadlecek had nothing to report.

**Information & Education
Nancy Fisher**

Director Fisher reported on the following:

- NARD has proposed an approximate \$10,000 contribution from the UNWNRD over a 3 year period to support the National Envirothon competition that will be held in Lincoln in 2020. The I&E committee has suggested a contribution through a current line in the budget that has not been used in the last few years for \$1,000 as well as looking for other sources to help sponsor the event from our area.

Nancy Fisher moved to contribute \$1,000 from the Promotional Booths line in the UNWNRD budget for three years as well as looking for outside sources of funding for the event in the form on sponsorships, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

None

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

Kevin Oligmueller moved to enter Executive Session at 11:03 a.m., Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Rich Zochol moved to exit Executive Session at 11:20 a.m., Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 5/11/17