



## UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting  
December 13, 2012

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012, at the City Hall in Gordon, NE. An agenda for this meeting to be considered at such date, time and place was kept continually current and was available in all UNWNRD NRCS field offices and 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 in the Chadron Record and Alliance Times-Herald on Wednesday, December 5, 2012.

### Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Lees pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that is displayed on the wall.

### Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman, Jim Lees, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Dale Anderson	Curt Roth
John Burke	Steve Sandberg
Tod Dorshorst	Larry Teahon
Jim Irwin	Rich Zochol
Dave Kadlecsek	Absent:
Jim Lees	Dale Berndt

Lyndon introduced our new Resources Technician, Kody Schwager.

Others present:

Lyndon Vogt, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager	Katie Harris, NRD Administrative Assistant
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Manager	Kody Schwager, NRD Resources Technician
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	Fred McCartney, NFS
Kristy Dietrich, CPA Dietrich & Sautter	Scott Berndt

### Emergency Agenda Additions

The Audit presentation by Kristy Dietrich was added after the NFS Report.

NRCS  
Robin Foulk

Robin discussed her written report.

**Nebraska Forest Service  
Fred McCartney**

Fred discussed the importance of thinning trees before a fire comes. It is much easier and cost-effective to thin before a fire than to clean up after a fire.

**Audit Report – FY 2011-2012  
Kristy Dietrich, CPA, Dietrich & Sautter**

Kristy reviewed each of the financial statements in her report and explained that she found a clean audit, with no problems. Following discussion, Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the audit report; Jim Irwin seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dale Berndt.

**General Manager's Report  
Lyndon Vogt**

Lyndon added the following to his written report:

- The state mileage reimbursement rate will increase to \$0.565 per mile as of January 1, 2013.
- Lyndon included the LB229 Report in the packet. The state needs \$50-60 million minimum each year to address water needs. We, as a state, need these funds and it will need to come from the general fund. It is not known whether it would be a new tax or an existing tax. One suggestion is to raise the sales tax by 0.25%. By raising sales tax by 0.25%, the state would take in approximately \$60 million more per year.
- Legislative Conference will be January 29-30, 2013 in Lincoln. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend Legislative Conference.
- We have a couple outstanding bills from the 2012 tree program. We are trying to work with landowners and FSA to get those tree bills paid.

The staff followed with the annual program review.

**Meter Update  
Kody Schwager**

Kody's presentation included:

- Meter failure report

**Crop Water Use & Tree Program  
Travis**

Travis's presentation included:

- ET Gages and the Crop Water Use Report
- The 2012 tree program
- The cumulative tree and fabric numbers
- What to expect for the upcoming tree season
- WILD Nebraska update

**Administrative Assistant  
Katie Harris**

Katie reviewed the following information for the 2011-2012 fiscal year:

- The NSWCP program
- The expenses and income for our no-till drill rental
- The well decommissioning fund
- The UNWNRD water cost-share program

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting  
December 13, 2012

- The UNWNRD tree cost-share program
- The CRP Boundary Fence Grant
- Reforestation Assistance
- Corners for Wildlife
- The UNWNRD Wellness program
- 2012 Chemigation Program Summary

**Water Use, Ground Water & Integrated Water Management**  
**Lynn Webster**

Lynn's presentation included:

- Water use Averages by Sub-area
- The number of well permits that have been issued, along with the number of wells drilled in our district.
- Transfers/Modifications/Variations
- Upper Niobrara River Basin Conjunctive use Model
- WaterSMART Grant
- Sub-area Static Water Level Overview
- The Groundwater-level changes in Nebraska from Spring 2010 to Spring 2011 and from Predevelopment to Spring 2011

**Ground Water Quality**  
**Sheri Daniels**

Sheri's Ground Water Quality presentation included:

- Sheri evaluated the information the NRD Water Department has gathered through water sampling in 2012 for both bacteria and nitrate testing

**Information & Education**  
**Sheri Daniels**

Sheri's Information and Education presentation included:

- Annual Water Issues Meeting
- Annual Northwest Nebraska Conservation Festival
- Nebraska Envirothon
- Conservation Education
- The NRD sponsored 4 ACE Campers
- Awards
- UNW Board Tour
- No-Till Education
- Sponsored a Poster Contest titled *Soil to Spoon*
- NeRAIN

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the Consent Agenda; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (9) ayes, (0) nays and (2) absent – Dale Berndt and Dave Kadlec.

## Agency Reports

### Nebraska Association of Resources District Curtis Roth

The last meeting was in McCook on November 12, 2012. Director Roth reported the following:

- The Foundation is sponsoring The Great Park Pursuit Program with NG&PC. They gave NG&PC \$2,500 to sponsor this scavenger hunt game.
- Jed Wagner has left NARD to start his own concierge business in the Lincoln and Omaha area. Dean Edson is reviewing current staff duties and is considering another liaison position. The new position could be a liaison between NARD and DNR.
- The Foundation sponsored Ag Day on the Hill and the Nebraska Ag Youth Institute.
- One of the accounts in the retirement has not been performing well so it was replaced with a better fund.
- The NACD meeting is in San Antonio, Texas, at the same time as Legislative Conference. There are scholarships available to NRD staff and directors for the conference registration cost.
- Let Katie know if you are going to Legislative Conference so that we can get you registered.
- The next meetings are: January 29-30 in Lincoln, March 4 in Gothenberg, Basin Tour on June 10-11 in Valentine and the Fall Conference at the Younes Center in Kearney on September 23-24, 2013.
- The Risk Pool is doing well but will likely take a hit in the last couple months of the year.
- NARD had to print a new employee manual for the health care program. It is required to be distributed to every employee during open enrollment.
- The Washington, D.C. trip is March and the NRD would like to send Sheri Daniels.
- Steve Sandberg moved to appoint Curt Roth as the Legislative NARD Representative and Tod Dorshorst as the Alternate; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dale Berndt.

### Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported the following:

- All programs are running as normal.
- Brandi Flyr will be giving the presentation *The Niobrara River Basin Study: Using Various Models to Assess Water Supplies and Demands* on January 23 at UNL. This presentation will be available online at a later date.
- There is about \$1 million left this year for water expenditures from the Interrelated Water Management Plan.
- The next meeting will be at Legislative Conference on January 29-30, 2013.
- Director Kadlecek is up for reelection for the Commission. The election will be on January 9, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. CT. Dave would appreciate everyone available to travel to Valentine with him to help him get reelected for the Commission board.

### Operations/Personnel/Policy Committee Report Dave Kadlecek

- Lyndon has had a couple requests from NRCS employees to allow NSWCP cost-share assistance on pumping plants including solar and windmill pumps for livestock wells. This is currently not allowed through NSWCP. In order for cost-share to be available, it will take a change at the state level. If this board would like to see this cost-share available, we can work toward getting it approved with NDNR. John Burke moved that we recommend to the Natural Resources Commission that pumping plants be added to NSWCP practice NC-14 as a cost-shareable item; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dale Berndt.
- Tracy Hicks has paid her bill.

**Water Committee Report  
Curtis Roth**

Jimmy Buskirk is requesting to modify his field boundaries to allow a 39.8 acre pivot to be installed on gravity ground. He will dry up acres around the small pivot. There will not be an increase in certified acres. Steve Sandberg moved to approve Jimmy Buskirk's acre modification transfer request; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dale Berndt.

There will be a Water Committee meeting in Alliance on December 18, 2012, at 12:00 p.m. at the Alliance NRCS office.

**Old or New Business**

During the scheduled January 2013 board meeting, Lyndon will be in Texas giving a presentation. Rich Zochol moved to change the January board meeting to January 15, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the UNWNRD Chadron office; Curt Roth seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dale Berndt.

Lyndon presented Dale Anderson with a plaque for his five-plus years of dedication to the UNWNRD Board. A plaque will be given to Dale Berndt as well.

In January, we will notify the Secretary of State that we have a vacancy on our Board. We will then advertise the position, take letters of interest, interview candidates if necessary and appoint a new Director for subdistrict 5 at the February board meeting.

**Excused Absences**

Dave Kadlecek moved to excuse Dale Berndt; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dale Berndt.

**Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

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Rich Zochol, Vice-Chairman of the Board

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Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_