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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 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2018, 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 January 31, 2018.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Steve Sandberg pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Absent: John Burke

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.
Nevin Price, NRD Resource Technician	Haley Anders, Water Resources Mgr
Doak Nickerson, NFS	Tricia Goes, NRCS Secretary
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	Don Grien

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin discussed the reorganization taking place within the USDA noting possible future changes within NRCS, Risk Management Agency and Farm Service Agency.

Robin also discussed EQIP funding disbursement.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
February 8, 2018

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak discussed his recent trip to New Mexico for a Nationwide Forestry Meeting. He explained some of the differences between private and public forestry management across the US including the challenges of obtaining permits to conduct management actions on private property.

**ULN Extension
Jack Arterburn**

No report given.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat mentioned some recent action regarding the Papio-Missouri NRD levy permit. Specifically, the US Army Corps of Engineers who certifies the levies is requiring an extensive and expensive permitting process prior to increasing the levy height.
- Nancy, Dave C. and Steve will need to sign the new signatory card for the UNWNRD bank account as the elected Executive Officers.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Staff has been working on comparing the UNWNRD's certified irrigated acre data base and the four county assessors irrigated parcel database. Difference range widely and in the future the board will be involved in deciding how to best move forward to correct these differences.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri was not present but provided a written report.

**Office Manager
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen discussed a presentation from the State Auditor's Office at Legislative Conference as well as W-2 Tax Reporting.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley had nothing to add to her written report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig had nothing to add to his written report but invited the Directors to Bosses' Night at the Chadron Volunteer Fire Department as a thank you from the UNWNRD employees currently serving on the CVFD.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin had nothing to add to his written report.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Scott Berndt moved to approve the consent agenda, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion.
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Larry Reynolds will likely be the next NARD President while nominations are being sought for Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer. Voting will take place in March.
- Conservation and NRD Service Award Nominations are due May 1st, 2018.
- Pat discussed the Legislative Bills discussed during the caucus at Legislative Conference.
 - Senator Erdman and Senator Brewer both have signed on to LB1123 introduced by Senator Groene which would allow for the sale of land while retaining water rights. As well, LB98 has been prioritized by Senator Stinner to allow the extension of the 3 cent levy authority for fully and over appropriated basins. Senator Brewer has expressed his desire to hear from constituents on LB98. A draft letter will also be presented to the boards of the North Platte NRD, South Platte NRD, Middle Niobrara NRD and Upper Loup NRD.

Tod Dorshorst moved to send letters to Senator Brewer and Senator Erdman requesting support for LB 98 and opposition to LB1123, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

No report was given.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

The NRDs met with DNR and the Attorney General's office to discuss the river management agreement and the potential impacts of future groundwater irrigation development. Don Blankenau will be working on a proposal to send to the Attorney General and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Pat and Lynn discussed a recent meeting they had with a consultant pertaining to the identification of areas where groundwater recharge potential is high. The process utilized various different data sources. The Department of Natural Resources has indicated cost share would likely be available through the Water Resources Cash Fund, if the UNWNRD pursues a similar project.

Rich Zochol moved to allow staff to prepare and submit a request for proposal for the groundwater recharge project, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.

- Pat and Lynn discussed the Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (VIMP) for the UNWNRD noting that DNR has not issued a stay or moratorium on surface water permits within the balance of the district not covered under the current IMP. The Directors discussed possibly omitting subarea 3 in southern Sheridan County from the current moratorium on surface water noting that groundwater levels have increased over the last few years and surface water projects likely will not impact Niobrara River flows.

Tod Dorshorst moved to request the DNR issue a moratorium or stay on surface water permits until the VIMP was completed. Mike Strasburger offered an amendment to the motion to exclude Subarea 3, Tod Dorshorst accepted the amendment and Dave Carlson seconded the motion and amendment. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek had nothing to report.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

Tod Dorshorst moved to excuse John Burke from the meeting, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: JB.

Public Comment

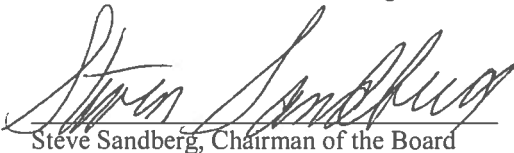
None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.


Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 3-8-18