



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors' Meeting
June 12, 2013**

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at the UNWNRD office in 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 in the Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on Wednesday, June 5, 2013.

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 1:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Scott Berndt
John Burke
Tod Dorshorst
Jim Irwin
Dave Kadlecek
Jim Lees

Curt Roth
Steve Sandberg
Larry Teahon
Rich Zochol
Absent:
Dave Carlson

Others present:

Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Katie Harris, NRD Administrative Assistant
Kody Schwager, NRD Resources Technician
Ann Cotton, NRD/NRCS
Fred McCartney, NFS
Shelley Steffl, NG&PC
John Axtel

Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Coordinator
Jessyca Hovendick, NRD Summer Technician
Lindsey Phillips, NDEQ
Pat O'Brien, NARD/NDEQ
Dean Edson, NARD

Emergency Agenda Additions

Hearing none, Chairman Lees continued with the meeting.

NRCS Robin Foulk

Ann handed out and discussed Robin's written report.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred McCartney commented on the passage of LB634, the Wildfire Control Act of 2013, and the recent signing by Governor Heineman.

Fred mentioned the Forest Management Workshops that are expected to be held several times a year, the benefits of stewardship planning for landowners and the presenters at these workshops.

Fred and Doak are observing hardwoods and conifers that were scorched in the last fire that have some new buds, so hopefully some of these trees will survive.

**Nebraska Game and Parks
Shelley Steffl**

Shelley announced the Tall Stubble program signup deadline will be extended to June 14th.

The NGPC started an Employee Enterprise Award recently, which is an award to recognize individuals and/or groups that show initiative to address stewardship concerns of the Commission. This year's award goes to Shelley and Matt Steffl for the seed block project. Shelley recognized several individuals for their participation in brainstorming the project and presented a plaque to the District recognizing the support from District staff in helping with project.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn attended the Basin Tour, in Valentine, and recommends others try to attend in the future.
- Mirage Flats Irrigation District is considering changing the Diversion for the Project. Lynn received an email from Robin that NRCS may be able to provide some technical assistance or review the feasibility of the proposed changes in the future.
- The District received a letter from Beehive Industries, a software company, explaining their organization and potential benefits for using their products. Staff will look into what they have to offer that may benefit the District.
- Lynn will attend the Local Working Group meeting next Tuesday, at the Chadron NRCS office.
- The Integrated Water Management Plan Project Fund for the Upper Niobrara Basin Conjunctive Water Use Model will wrap up this fiscal year. The Flatwater Group and the Department will present later this fall on the project.
- Dustin Wilcox hired as NARD/DNR liaison and Jennifer Swanson hired as NARD/NDEQ liaison.
- A rough draft of the new budget was distributed to the Board for review.

**Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Sheri passed around a flier for the No-till field day tours.
- Sheri shared a letter that was sent to the District from Governor Heineman, for appreciation of the District's efforts in education and the Conservation Festival.
- Sheri mentioned the I&E budget distributed is the same as last year.

**Resources Coordinator
Travis Nitsch**

Travis added the following to his written report:

- Travis turned off the tree cooler on June 11th, and ended up processing 148,800 trees.
- Travis has switched gears and is now conducting chemigation inspections.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley was absent from the meeting.

**Resources Technician
Kody Schwager**

Kody added the following to his written report:

- Kody announced he has completed the NRD Groundwater Technician certification.
- Kody has been spending some time cleaning up the tree cooler, tree slat house and District property.
- Kody will be in working with the cooperators in the crop water use project, to obtain the ET information and produce the Crop Water Use Reports.

Approval of Consent Agenda

John Burke moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dave Carlson.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources District
Curtis Roth**

Director Roth reported the following:

- NARD Board met in Valentine on Monday June 10th.
- Award nominations were discussed for Director of Year, Educator of the Year and inductees into the NRD Hall of Fame.
- NARD FY 2013-2014 Budget was approved.
- August 17th is the deadline for submitting any resolutions for the September annual meeting, which is 23rd and 24th of September.
- Husker Harvest Days will be September 10th – 12th. Curt mentioned some updates that are occurring to the building that the Association owns.
- Washington DC trip went well this year and received good reviews. Next trip to Washington DC will be March 22nd – 26th 2014.
- The tree program was basically half of the 2012 sales, probably due to drought. Conservation of year awards were discussed by the NARD Board.
- There will be a 3% premium increase for insurance for the upcoming year.

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
June 12, 2013

Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek reported the following:

- Dave mentioned the next meeting is the 19th and 20th of June.

Water Committee Report Tod Dorshorst

The Water Committee met prior to the board meeting.

- Flying U Cattle Company:
 - Tim Hudson is proposing to modify his field boundaries as indicated in the application, to allow his pivot to make a complete revolution. Application was reviewed by Board.
 - Rich Zochol moved to approve the Flying U Cattle Company modification: Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dave Carlson.
- Joe Johnson:
 - Joe is proposing to transfer 3.84 acres and modify some gravity acres to allow the installation of a half-circle pivot. Application was reviewed by Board.
 - Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the Joe Johnson transfer and modification: Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dave Carlson.

Old or New Business

Dean Edson, NARD Executive Director:

- Dean commented on Northern Plains Regional NACD meeting in Chadron.
- Reviewed some insurance issues.
- Reviewed LB493 on the Cowboy Trail, LB517 on the Water Funding Task Force and LB 634 the Wildfire Control Act.

Katie Harris:

- Katie thanked everyone for her time here and mentioned her plans. Katie was then presented a photo album with pictures from her time here.

Excused Absences

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

Public Comment

No public comment.

Operations/Personnel/Policy Committee

The Operations/Personnel/Policy Committee met prior to the board meeting.

- Salaries:
 - Lyndon had given the committee his recommendations for allocating \$8,360.00 for salary increases. Spreadsheet of recommendation was provided to Board.
 - Dave Kadlecek moved to approve this salary increase recommendation; Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dave Carlson.
- Surplus Desks:
 - New furniture was purchased for one of the offices, so the District would like to surplus three desks.

- Larry Teahon moved to surplus the three desks; Steve Sandberg seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dave Carlson.
- Insurance:
 - Gregory’s Insurance, our current agent, and LARM both submitted proposals on insurance for the District. Options were discussed.
 - Dave Kadlecek moved to continue insurance for this year through Gregory’s; Larry Teahon seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Dave Carlson.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Patrick O’Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____