



UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
May 10, 2012

In accordance with LB 325, Eighty-fourth Legislature, First Session (1975), the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District held a public meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2012, 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 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, May 2, 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 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following directors present:

Dale Anderson	Jim Lees
Dale Berdnt	Curt Roth
John Burke	Larry Teahon, 9:11 a.m.
Tod Dorshorst	Rich Zochol
Jim Irwin	Absent:
Dave Kadlecek	Steve Sandberg

Others present:

Lyndon Vogt, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Sheri Daniels, NRD Water Resources Manager	Shar Sapp, NRD Resources Manager
Haley Anders, NRD Resources Technician	Katie Harris, NRD Administrative Assistant
Travis Nitsch, NRD Resources Technician	Jessyca Hovendick, NRD Summer Technician
Fred McCartney, NFS	Robin Foulk, NRCS DC
Don Grein	Laura Anderson-Beguinn
Mike Ferrel	Larry Redfern
Brenda Ferrel	Lyndal Redfern
Randy Doesher	Tim Hardy
Unla Taylor	Quinten Sherbarth
Al Davis	

Al Davis was present at the meeting and introduced himself. Many others were present to voice their concerns about the Cowboy Trail.

Emergency Agenda Additions

Many landowners along the proposed Cowboy Trail voiced concerns about the trail.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin passed out and discussed her report.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Fred McCartney discussed upcoming thinning projects. Fred also handed out and discussed a flyer on *Creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan*. Dave Kadlec moved to support a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in the Pine Ridge District; Dale Anderson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

**General Manager's Report
Lyndon Vogt**

Lyndon added the following to his written report:

- We will notify the board of any interim studies from the Legislature this summer and fall that pertain to natural resources.
- No-Till: Mark Watson will have no-till field days on June 26-28, 2012. No-Till on the Plains will have their summer whirlwind tour on August 20, 2012. Sheri is working on setting up a webpage for the Panhandle No-Till Partnership. The Panhandle No-Till Partnership will host a no-till winter conference in Gering on February 20-21, 2013.
- The Budget and Operations/Personnel/Policy Committees will meet at UNWNRD's office at 9:00 a.m. on June 8.
- The Well Drillers Association is putting on a geology tour. Let us know if you would like to attend.
- Lyndon handed out and discussed a press release from the Twin Platte and Central Platte NRDs about offering a solution to the Platte Basin water issues.
- The Manager's evaluations were distributed. Please mail them to Jim Lees by May 17.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn handed out an updated report and added the following to his written report:

- We got a request for road construction reporting. We consider water use for road construction de minimus use but they do have to report that use to UNWNRD.

**Water Resources Manager
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Sheri passed around a draft of the NARD Outstanding Tree Planter Award nomination for the Forney family.
- Sheri also passed around some of the Thank You notes we have received from area students that attended our Conservation Festival.
- Sheri introduced our new summer technician, Jessyca Hovendick.

**Resources Manager
Shar Sapp**

Shar added the following to her written report:

- Shar is working with Gary Stone to install more ETgages. He installed ETgages in Scottsbluff, Sidney, Alliance and Chadron to monitor how much water a typical lawn uses.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
May 10, 2012

- We rented out the tree planter 9 times this tree season with one person left to use it. Currently there are 7,000 trees left to sell. Buskirk's should be done machine planting by May 18. Buskirk's have replaced Leo Orr's bad fabric from last year. Katie will keep tabs on who gets their fabric replaced.
- Everything is set up for the tree round-table on June 21.
- Shar is aiming to shut the tree cooler off on May 15.

**Resources Technician
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- All but one of the failed meters have been fixed.
- Haley is entering all the failed meters into a database so that those meters can be checked while everyone is out doing chemigation inspections.

**Resources Technician
Travis Nitsch**

Travis had nothing to add to his written report.

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 – Steve Sandberg.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources District
Curtis Roth**

The next meeting is June 11, 2012.

**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dave Kadlecek**

Dave Kadlecek has a meeting with Rex Gittens and Kent Zimmerman on May 22 to go over the cost-share programs. The next Commission meeting is June 19-20, 2012 in Grand Island.

Groundwater Management Act Coalition

There was nothing to report.

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

Some of the fabric we laid last year is breaking down too fast. To our best guess, we have somewhere between 100-300 bad rolls from last year. The company that we bought the bad fabric from has agreed to send us 700 rolls of fabric to cover the rolls we have to re-install plus rolls for us to sell to recover our lost income. We borrowed 50 from MNRND and we just ordered 200 rolls to get us by until we receive the 700 free rolls this fall.

Water Committee Report Curt Roth

The Water Committee met prior to the board meeting.

- Neal Christian, Modification of Irrigated Acres: Neal Christian is requesting a modification to allow the installation of a center pivot on ground that was previously irrigated by sideroll. Neal certified 125 irrigated acres under the siderolls, the pivot with end gun would irrigate 135 acres. When Neal purchased the property in 2001, the appraisal sheet indicated 135 acres of irrigated land and the loan for the property was based on 135 acres. Curt Roth moved to approve Neal Christian's modification of irrigated acres to install a center pivot but limit him to 125 acres that were certified; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.
- Jared Roffers, Transfer of Irrigated Acres: Jared Roffers is requesting to transfer 61 acres from SE ¼ 28-33-42 and 14 acres from NE ¼ 29-33-42 to the NW ¼ 29-33-42. There would be a 75 acre pivot installed in the NW ¼ of section 29. Currently all acres involved are certified as irrigated and the majority are under center pivot with the 14 acres noted as sideroll irrigated. There will be no additional acres involved and the certified acres will stay the same. I have received the report of title and am waiting for the completed request with signed lien holder consents. Curt Roth moved to approve Jared Roffers' transfer of acres on the condition of FSA's lien holders consent approval; Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.
- William Skavdahl, Transfer of Use: William Skavdahl is requesting to transfer up to 1,000,000 gallons of water to an oil/gas drilling firm for their use in drilling up to 4 test holes. This request is in Subarea 5 and is fully appropriated. The Water Committee recommends UNWNRD board to approve William Skavdahl's one time transfer request with the condition that the 2012 annual use from the well is restricted to the historic consumptive use. The historic consumptive at this time is 14 inches per acre. By limiting the withdrawal to this historic consumptive use from the well there will be no new uses to offset. If the landowner exceeds the 14 inch per acre allocation, there will be a two inch per acre penalty for every one inch per acre overage and the allocation will carry forward to the 2013 year at a reduced rate. It is also understood that the water will be transported by truck and remain in the state of Nebraska. John Burke moved to approve the Water Committee's recommendation; Curt Roth seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.
- Data Loggers: Staff is requesting to replace the data loggers in five observation wells rather than drill new monitoring wells this year. The data loggers need to be replaced in the following observation wells: Alliance, Kilpatrick Lake, Hemingford, Hemingford SW and Mirage Flats. Lynn is getting quotes from several companies on the cost to do this but it should be less than \$10,000. Curt Roth moves to approve using the monitoring wells line item to purchase data loggers for the five named wells after receiving several quotes; Jim Irwin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sanberg.

Old or New Business

Rich Zochol moved to change the July board meeting to July 19, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.; John Burke seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays and (1) absent – Steve Sandberg.

Excused Absences

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

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Jim Lees, Chairman of the Board

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Date Signed _____