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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 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 15, 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 June 7, 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	Kevin Oligmueller

Absent: Dave Kadlecek

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	Craig Eddie, Natural Resources Coordinator
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Coord.	Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist
Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension Office	Kevin McAdoo, Werner Construction
Terrence Wilhelms, Werner Construction	Thad Kuntz, ARI

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Robin discussed budget cuts and reorganization within NRCS and USDA, noting that Travis Reeves, a contract worker in the Chadron Office, would be leaving for a full time position July 15th. Kaitlin Pedersen, former NRCS Intern, is converting to a full time employee for the Chadron office.

June 19-25 is pollinator week; Robin attached a bag of pollinator seeds to her report for everyone.

Robin also discussed the need for replacement livestock pipelines for many local producers and encouraged the Board to consider providing cost share on this practice.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
June 15, 2017

Nebraska Forest Service

None

**UNL Extension
Jack Arterburn**

Jack discussed his written report, including upcoming events promoted by UNL Extension.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat had nothing to add to his written report until the committee reports were given.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn had nothing to add to his written report until the water committee report is given.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- ACE Camp was a success but UNWNRD did not have any campers able to attend this year.
- Sheri is working on Awards and will meet with the Information and Education Committee soon.

**Office Manager
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen discussed budget preparation, NSWCP applications, fiscal year-end tasks, and expense reports.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- The two monitoring wells were installed last week. Haley will measure the baseline static water levels as soon as the wells settle.
- Haley discussed the Basin Tour in Norfolk that she attended.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- The tree cooler was shut off on June 2nd with less than 3% of the total inventory remaining.
- UNWNRD sold 107,000 trees this year.
- The remaining trees were potted and will be kept in the slat house to be sold this fall and/or next spring.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin had nothing to add to his written report.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion.
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK*

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Tod Dorshorst

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- The NARD Annual Conference will be September 25th – 27th in Kearney, NE.
- The NARD Board voted on the use of foundation dollars including NET Sponsorship, scholarships, donations and the 2020 Envirothon.
- The National Envirothon was approved and funding is being discussed.
- Director Dorshorst discussed award nominations including Hall of Fame, Director of the Year and other conservation awards that will be presented Annual Conference in September.
- Health Insurance Premiums will increase 5% and Dental Premiums will increase by 2.9%.

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:

- JES Farms, working with Werner Construction, is requesting a variance for a new water well construction permit for a 150 gpm well. Werner Construction will utilize the well to supply water to a mobile concrete plant for new pavement for the highway 385 project south from Alliance, NE. JES Farms long term intent would be to maintain the well as a low capacity (less 50 gpm) livestock well when the concrete plant is removed from the site, after project completion. The water pumped from the well will be metered and tracked by the Natural Resources District in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, as required by the Integrated Management Plan. The estimated usage has been identified as 2.1 million gallons in 2017 and 1.2 million gallons in 2018. A variance for the water well construction permit and the application for a permit to construct a water well have been completed. Both of these applications will require the NRD's Board approval and may be subject to conditions and/or restrictions set by the Board.

Rich Zochol moved to approve the JES Farms variance as presented with condition that Werner Construction provide an offset for any water pumped above the 3.3 million gallon requested amount, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK.

Aquifer Life Analysis Adaptive Resources Inc. Thad Kuntz

Thad presented information on the Aquifer Life Analysis that used years as an evaluation tool rather than static water level or percent saturated thickness. The analysis showed areas and the time it would take to reduce the percent saturated thickness 25%, 50% and 75% based on actual groundwater pumping. Thad also discussed the conversion of the model to a Graphical User Interface (GUI) Format which should allow for use of the model by UNWNRD staff and quicker results by ARI.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Kevin Oligmueller

Director Oligmueller Reported on the following:

- Kristy Dietrich has submitted a bid for the UNWNRD FY 2016-2017 Audit for \$4,800. Pat discussed the services Kristy provides UNWNRD with throughout the year including budget support and accounting support as needed.

Kevin Oligmueller moved to allow Kristy Dietrich to conduct the FY 2016-2017 Audit, Tod Doshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK.

- Pat discussed the insurance quote from Gregory's Insurance in Chadron. The quote is slightly less this year with the same company than it has been in years previous.

Rich Zochol moved to accept the Insurance quote from Gregory's Insurance for FY 2017-2018, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK.

- Director Oligmueller discussed the NRD Salary census across all NRD's. UNWNRD is on the lower end of employee salaries across the state for some job classifications. The OPP committee discussed the value of the staff and that they should be compensated for the work they do and the service they provide to UNWNRD. The committee will recommend a \$18,000 to be distributed, at Pat's discretion, to the staff and a 4% raise for the General Manager.

Rich Zochol moved to approve the FY 2017-2018 salaries as presented, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK.

Budget Committee

Pat discussed the first draft budget noting a few of the changes proposed including adding line items for Public Education events like the Range Day and Water Issues Meeting to better track income and expenses. A hand out was provided that compared the budgets since 2003-3004, total expenses, tax asking and tree program income.

Pat also discussed the option of getting new carpet in the UNWNRD office as the current carpet is old and very worn in several places. Morford's Decorating provided two options and quotes on carpet for the office. The Directors requested that Pat look at other retailers in the district for more options.

Pat discussed the need for a three-quarter ton pick up to more safely and efficiently tow the No Till Drill and enclosed trailer.

The budget committee will meet in early July to further discuss the 2017-2018 budget after FY-16-17 income and expenses are finalized.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

Kevin Oligmueller moved to excuse Dave Kadlecsek from the meeting, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: DK.

Public Comment

Fred Hagman of Marsland discussed some concern he had over PRIDE using drones to fly over the Niobrara River to survey the encroachment of yellow flag iris. Mr. Hagman indicated that they did not have permission from land owners adjacent to the river to conduct these studies. Nevin Price, PRIDE member and UNWNRD Technician, agreed to look into the issue.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board

Date Signed 7/13/17



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager