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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, July 13, 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 July 5, 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	Dave Kadlecek
Rich Zochol	Kevin Oligmueller

Absent: Steve Sandberg

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	Fred McCartney, NFS District Forester
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Coord.	Robin Foulk, NRCS Conservationist

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

NRCS
Robin Foulk

Craig Dericksen is on detail as the Acting Regional Conservationist for the southeast state. Myron Taylor will be the Acting State Conservationist in Nebraska.

Robin also discussed the CRP Emergency Grazing that has been authorized in portions of the district due to the drought conditions north of us.

Robin mentioned the Federal Budget cuts, noting that they would hopefully be held to about 5% for the USDA budget, as well as the Farm Bill and how conservation programs may be affected by these proposed budget cuts.

Robin also noted that Nebraska ranks towards the top in their ability to apply conservation to acres.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
July 13, 2017

**Nebraska Forest Service
Fred McCartney**

Fred discussed the local saw log market growth, noting a new market in Nebraska that is accepting timber to be used to make shavings.

UNL Extension

None

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- He and Lynn met with Congressman Smith recently to discuss the upcoming Farm Bill and federal budget cuts. Congressman Smith did not foresee significant cuts to Conservation Programs but noted that there may be more conservation compliance checks.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn noted that the NSWCP allocation should be distributed from DNR soon. Once received, the distribution the practice allocations will be presented to the board for approval at the August Board Meeting.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Range Judging will be held in the UNWNRD on September 20th.

**Office Manager
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen discussed budget preparation, NSWCP, and Fall Conference reservations.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley did not have anything to add to her written report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig was no present and did not provide a written report.

Pat reported on the upcoming Forestry Workshop July 26th-27th that is being hosted by UNWNRD.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- PRIDE is hosting a Range/Weed Tour on July 25th and 26th.
- Nevin noted that he has seen more interest from producers to install soil moisture probe equipment.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Tod Dorshorst moved to approve the consent agenda, Dave Carlson seconded the motion.

Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: SS

Agency Reports

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Tod Dorshorst

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Director Dorshorst reminded the board of the dates for fall conference.
- Pat asked that any resolutions the Directors may have will need to be brought to his attention soon so they can be discussed before fall conference and submitted to NARD.

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:

- Pat discussed the two proposals UNWNRD received for Water Meter Self reporting. One from GIS Workshop for \$88,500 with an additional \$45,000 to \$60,000 for the development on a mobile application with up to \$15,000 in annual maintenance. and one from Phoenix Webgroup for \$35,000 to \$55,000. UNWNRD is looking at a two year payback for these services to develop the website necessary for producers to self report. Discussion was held on the need for more information and a detailed scope of work prior to committing to the process.

Rich Zochol moved to allow UNWNRD staff to initiate development of a detailed scope of work with Phoenix Web Group for the Meter Self Reporting, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: SS.

Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee Dave Kadlecek

Director Kadlecek had nothing to report.

Budget Committee

Pat discussed some of the proposed changes to the FY 2017-2018 budget including the need for a three-quarter ton pick-up and new carpet for the UNWNRD office.

Pat expects the Tax Asking to stay the same for the 4th consecutive year meaning that the levy should drop depending on property tax valuations.

Old or New Business

Rich Zochol moved to change the date of the August Board meeting to August 17th, Mike Strasburger seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: SS.

Excused Absences

Dave Carlson moved to excuse Steve Sandberg from the meeting, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: SS.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

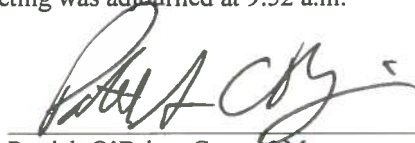
None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed 8/17/17