

UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting
October 13, 2016

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, October 13, 2016, 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 October 5th, 2016.

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:

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|------------------|----------------|
| Scott Berndt | John Burke |
| Mike Strasburger | Dave Kadlecek |
| Tod Dorshorst | Dave Carlson |
| Nancy Fisher | Steve Sandberg |
| Al Rasmussen | Rich Zochol |

Absent: Kevin Oligmueller

Others Present:

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| Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager | Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager |
| Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord. | Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager |
| Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord. | Nevin Price, NRD Resources Technician |
| Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager | Robin Foulk, NRCS District Conservationist |
| Fred McCartney, NFS | Doak Nickerson, NFS District Forester |
| Seth Peterson, NFS | Tim Buskirk, Pine Ridge Ranger District |
| Amy Seiler, NFS | Tom Brewer, District 43 Legislative Candidate |
| Andy Curd | Fred Hagman |

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

Tom Brewer
District 43 Legislative Candidate

Mr. Brewer introduced himself to the Directors, Staff and Public and gave a brief description of his background. Mr. Brewer then answered questions from the Directors and others pertaining to local control, current legislation on the Niobrara River water rights and the Endangered Species Act.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
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Mr. Brewer concluded by encouraging everyone to attend the Political Forum on October 18th and to get out and vote on November 8th.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin discussed the staffing updates in the Rushville NRCS Office. Cody Gibbons will take over as the Resource Conservationist. The Civil Engineering position at the Chadron office will be closing soon and will hopefully be filled shortly.

Robin also updated the Directors on the Landscape Restoration Program.

**USFS Pine Ridge Ranger District
Tim Buskirk**

Tim introduced himself and discussed his position with the Pine Ridge Ranger District. Tim also noted the work that the US Forest Service is doing along with partners to manage the timber primarily in preparation of future fires in the Pine Ridge.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson & Amy Seiler**

Amy discussed her position with the Nebraska Forest service as a Community Forester. She works with communities to maintain urban forests. She discussed the Re-Tree Nebraska Grant that is being used to replace trees within community forests, as well as the Environmentally Adapted Trees (EAT) Grant being used to find new tree species that will grow well in our area.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat mentioned the upcoming Water Symposium in Lincoln on October 19th -21st.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- The next Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting will be November 9th in Chadron at Country Kitchen at 6 p.m. They will be discussing integrated modeling.
- Lynn discussed the Niobrara Compact meeting that Pat and he recently attended.
- NRD staff will begin measuring static water levels next week.
- Lynn mentioned the Erosion and Sediment Control Act Rules and Regulations noting the need for more immediate compliance to get these problems resolved. The revised rules and regulations were distributed to the directors. Potential action at the November meeting will be to vote on submitting the rules and regulations to the Natural Resources Commission for consideration at the December 12th meeting.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- Sheri discussed the Hall of Fame Award that Jim Irwin was presented with at the NARD Annual Conference.

**Office Manager
Kylen Armstrong**

Kylen discussed the administrative meetings she attended at annual conference, the forestry workshop in Norfolk, Clients Day in Halsey, and the highway clean up the NRD participated in.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley had nothing to add to her written report.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- The forestry workshop in Norfolk went well, there was some discussion about the Emerald Ash Borer and how each NRD is choosing to handle it.
- The trees at Bessey Nursery all look very good this year. The only species we will have to shop elsewhere for is American Elm.
- The NoTill Drill has been used for over 100 acres this fall.
- Craig also mentioned that the NFS will be conducting some Ponderosa Pine test plots to figure out why survivability of bare root ponderosa pine is so low. Contact Craig or Doak if you have any land you would be willing to provide for test plot locations.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin is looking for some test sites for the cheat grass soil inoculant.
- The crop water use reports are done for the year. He will have a final report at the Water Issues Meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Director Dorshorst discussed the resolutions that passed at Annual Conference.
- Terry Martin is the new Secretary/Treasurer of the NARD Board.
- NARD foundation raised \$23,300 at Annual Conference with the Auctions, Golf Tournament, and Shoot Out.
- The next NARD board meeting will be in Chadron November 14th.

**Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Applications for the Water Sustainability Fund total \$45 Million while there is only \$23 Million available.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance

Dave Carlson

Director Carlson had nothing to report.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

The committee has not met and therefore there was no report.

**Operating, Personnel, and Safety Policy Committee
Dave Kadlecek**

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the updates to the customer charges list including the increase in tree planting and fabric installation prices as per the NRD contract with Trees Are Us.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the customer charges list as amended, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

- Pat discussed the issues regarding planting trees in bundles of 25 and discussed the possibility of choosing one species of shrub, hardwood, and conifer to order extra of in order to complete the windbreaks that come up short of what was planned.
- Pat and Craig discussed setting a deadline of April 1st for all machine plants to make sure we are able to fill all orders and maintain an accurate inventory for hand plant tree orders as well.

Dave Kadlecek moved to rescind the policy for planting trees in bundles of 25 and instead use three species of trees to complete machine plantings as needed and to set the April 1st deadline for machine plants, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

- Pat explained that there is an outstanding bill for trees from 2014 that has not been addressed by the customer at all. According to NRD policies, this customer needs to be sent to collections or taken to small claims court.

Dave Kadlecek moved file a claim against Terry Staman in small claims court for Invoice 8629 in the amount of \$516.95, Scott Berndt seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

- Pat and Sheri discussed a charge to land owners for additional trips on domestic water sampling. Land owners would only be charged if there is a need for 3 or more trips to test the water.

Dave Kadlecek moved to charge \$30 per trip after the third trip to conduct a domestic water sample, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

- Pat discussed issuing an RFP to advertise all of the 3-stripe fabric still in inventory in the UNWNRD, MNDRD and UENRD.

Old or New Business

Pat discussed the need to change the date and times of the next three Board Meetings. The Directors discussed changing the date of the November Board Meeting to November 15th at 9:00 a.m., the December Board Meeting to December 8th at 3:00 p.m. in Alliance at the Westside Event Center, and the January Board Meeting to January 19th, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Steve Sandberg moved to change the dates, times and locations of the three Board Meetings as discussed, Al Rasmussen seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

Excused Absences

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

Public Comment


None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board
Date Signed 11/16/16



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager