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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 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 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 December 6, 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 3:00 p.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

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

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.
Haley Anders, NRD Water Resources Manager	Nevin Price, NRD Resource Technician
Tricia Goes, NRCS Secretary	Kristy Dietrich, Dietrich & Sautter CPAs
Kortni Burnett, NRCS	Doak Nickerson, NFS
Senator Steve Erdman, District 47	Seth Peterson, NFS
Erin Divine, BCR NGPC	Zach Peterson, Middle Niobrara NRD
Mike Murphy, Middle Niobrara NRD	John Axtel, KCSR
Don Grein	Wayne Fisher
Gary Fisher	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

**Senator Steve Erdman
District 47**

Senator Erdman discussed his efforts with property tax relief including his opposition to the LB 98 which extends the 3 cent levy authority for NRDs with fully and over appropriated river basins. The senator indicated he was willing to revisit funding for state required surface and ground water management in the future if current sources are impacted by legislation. He further discussed his plans for tax relief and answered questions from Directors, Staff and Public.

**Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Audit
Kristy Dietrich**

Kristy discussed the FY 2016-2017 Audit noting that everything had gone smoothly and there were no significant changes to the budget or accounting practices last year.

Tod Dorshorst moved to accept the FY 2016-2017 Budget as presented and submit said budget to the Nebraska State Auditor, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

**NRCS
Tricia Goes**

Tricia presented Robin's report noting some of the upper level Department of Agriculture appointments that have been approved.

NRCS staff has also been busy with spot checks.

Pat noted that the Government was able to avert a shut down, meaning that NRCS and other Federal agencies were able to continue operating as normal.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson & Seth Peterson**

Seth discussed the fires in California and Custer, South Dakota and noted that fire seasons are becoming year-round events in some areas of the country. He also discussed advances in safety training for fire prevention workers across the country as a result of the recent fires in other areas.

Doak discussed the Ponderosa Pine Stock trials that have been conducted over the last year. Four different sizes of Ponderosa Pine soil plugs were planted in various locations across the district. NFS is working to complete survival checks but so far, the medium sized soil plug has had the highest rate of survival at 60%.

**UNL Extension
Jack Arterburn**

No report given.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat noted several upcoming meetings and encouraged the Directors to attend if possible.
- The IRS mileage rate has changed from .535 to .545 starting January 1st, 2018.
- The Board will need to elect new officers for the next two years at the January 2018 meeting. If a board member wishes for any new committee assignments, let Pat know.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed the Fall hydrographs, noting that all of the levels are up from the fall to fall readings.

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri was not present but provided a written report.

**Office Manager
Kylan Armstrong**

Kylan discussed the Legislative Conference, W-2 Tax Reporting, and Director Expenses.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- The Water Issues Meeting will be held in Alliance on March 1st, 2018 at the Eagles.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig provided a verbal report:

- There will be no potted Red Cedar this year.
- The 10 foot No Till Drill has been very busy this fall and recently broke down and was out of commission for one day. Trees Are Us Welding was able to fix it very quickly.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin has been working on Electric Use Reports for meters that have failed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Steve Sandberg moved to approve the consent agenda, Scott Berndt seconded the motion.

Roll call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst reported on the following:

- Pat mentioned the need to appoint voting Delegates for Legislative conference.

Steve Sandberg moved to appoint Tod Dorshorst as the voting Delegate for the 2018 Legislative Conference and Scott Berndt as the Alternant, Rich Zochol seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

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 had nothing to report.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat discussed some of the changes that have been made to the Operating, Personnel and Safety Policies.

Dave Kadlecek moved to approve the Operating, Personnel and Safety policies as amended, Kevin Oligmueller seconded the motion. Roll Call: (11) ayes, (0) nays.

Old or New Business

John Burke was honored as a 20 year UNWNRD Director.

Excused Absences

None

Public Comment

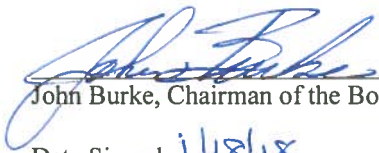
None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.



John Burke, Chairman of the Board
Date Signed 1/18/18



Patrick O'Brien, General Manager