

Serving Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux Counties

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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, May 10th, 2018, 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, The Chadron Record and Alliance Times Herald on May 2nd, 2018.

Open Meeting Law Act

Chairman Steve Sandberg pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act that was present in the meeting room.

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken with the following Directors present:

Scott Berndt	Dave Carlson
Mike Strasburger	Dave Kadlecik
Tod Dorshorst	John Burke (9:07 a.m.)
Nancy Fisher	Steve Sandberg
Rich Zochol	Al Rasmussen

Absent: Kevin Oligmueller

Others Present:

Pat O'Brien, NRD General Manager	Lynn Webster, NRD Assistant Manager
Haley Anders, Water Resources Manager	Nevin Price, NRD Resource Technician
Kylen Armstrong, NRD Office Manager	Craig Eddie, NRD Natural Resources Coord.
Robin Foulk, NRCS DC	Sheri Daniels, NRD Conservation Prog. Coord.
Jack Arterburn, UNL Extension Office	Shelley Steffl, NGPC
Troy Gilmore, UNL Extension	Carrie Wiese, DNR
Beth Eckles, DNR	

Emergency Agenda Additions

None

UNL Conservation and Survey Division Troy Gilmore

Dr. Gilmore provided an overview of the Watershed Curriculum that was being developed to assist in the education of non-technical staff and directors. Dr. Gilmore thanks the directors who participated in the review of the pilot modules.

**Department of Natural Resources
Voluntary Integrated Management Plan
Carrie Wiese**

Ms. Wiese provided a presentation explaining the Voluntary IMP process and some of the options that the UNWNRD will have moving forward.

**NRCS
Robin Foulk**

Robin discussed the proposed rescission of funds previously obligated however not spent including several conservation funds. Robin also noted that the LiDar data has been received and there will be some additional staff training needed to better utilize the data.

**Nebraska Forest Service
Doak Nickerson**

Doak shared a few different videos of the Worman planting crews that completed the Ponderosa Pine Reforestation Project for the Nebraska Forest Service. Doak continued to discuss the hand planting crew noting that they planted nearly 50,000 trees in three days.

**ULN Extension
Jack Arterburn**

Jack discussed the Range Short Course and the Summer Grazing Tour.

**General Manager
Pat O'Brien**

Pat added the following to his written report:

- Pat inquired about any interest from the Directors in touring the Box Butte Dam while it is under repair. Brett Skinner will be contacted to see if a tour can be arranged following the June Board
- The NARD Basin Tour will be held June 11th and 12th.
- The first draft of the 2018-19 budget will be completed for the June Board Meeting.
- Manager evaluations will need to be completed by the June Board Meeting as well.

**Assistant Manager
Lynn Webster**

Lynn added the following to his written report:

- Lynn discussed monitoring well site locations.
- The static water level hydrographs have been completed for the spring levels and were distributed

**Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sheri Daniels**

Sheri added the following to her written report:

- The Conservation Festival went well. There were almost 250 5th graders in attendance.
- Sheri and Nevin organized a field trip to Walgren Lake for the Gordon/Rushville elementary school children.
- There will be a Soil Health Day in Murdo, SD on June 26th. A flyer on the event was circulated.

**Office Manager
Kysten Armstrong**

Kysten discussed property tax collections coming into the end of this fiscal year as well as a breakdown of remaining accounts receivable.

**Water Resources Manager
Haley Anders**

Haley added the following to her written report:

- The first chemigation inspection of 2018 will be conducted May 11th.

**Natural Resources Coordinator
Craig Eddie**

Craig added the following to his written report:

- There have been 98,000 trees sold this year.
- Craig discussed the no till drills and repairs so far this season.
- Craig also discussed a meeting he attending at the Halsey National Forest regarding Eastern Red Cedar use and management noting the need for more Western Nebraska representation at meetings held by the Eastern Red Cedar Task Force. Craig also noted the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee will be conducting an interim study on Eastern Red Cedar this summer or fall.

**Resources Technician
Nevin Price**

Nevin added the following to his written report:

- Nevin discussed ET Gages, crop water use reports and his work on the groundwater hydrographs.
- Nevin also provided an update on the cheat grass soil inoculants test plots.

Approval of Consent Agenda

*John Burke moved to approve the consent agenda, Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion.
Roll call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.*

Agency Reports

**Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Tod Dorshorst**

Director Dorshorst had nothing to report other than he will not be able to attend the June NARD Board Meeting. NARD Alternate, Scott Berndt will attend in his place.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

No report was given.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance
Dave Carlson**

Director Carlson reported on the following:

- Pat distributed and discussed the Spencer Dam Hydro Facility Purchase Agreement noting the Nebraska Game and Parks Commissioners had voted to sign the Agreement. Discussion was held regarding the Purchase Agreement and the NGPC's intentions for future operation and management. It was suggested that an in person meeting with Director Jim Douglas of NGPC be held to allow the board to ask questions.

John Burke moved to invite Jim Douglas to a future Board Meeting to discuss the partnership between the NRBA and NGPC as well as the Purchase Agreement of the Spencer Dam Hydro Facility. Tod Dorshorst seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

**Water Committee Report
Rich Zochol**

Director Zochol reported on the following:

- Lynn discussed the Groundwater Management Sub Area 3 moratorium adjustment to the Rules and Regulations with regards to future allocations and variances. Other changes to be discussed by the committee include allocations and hearing and variance procedures.

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

Director Kadlecek reported on the following:

- Pat discussed the possible need for an adjustment to our property insurance. There is a discrepancy in the square footage that is covered in our current insurance policy compared to the actual square footage of the building. The Directors discussed the issue further, agreeing to increase coverage if necessary.

Old or New Business

None

Excused Absences

Rich Zochol moved to excuse Kevin Oligmueller from the meeting, Dave Carlson seconded the motion. Roll Call: (10) ayes, (0) nays. Absent: KO.

Public Comment

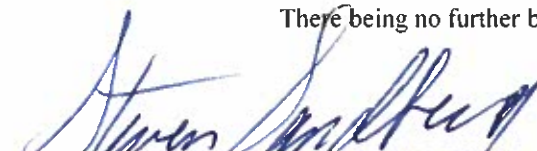
None

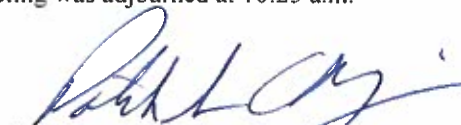
Executive Session

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.


Steve Sandberg, Chairman of the Board


Patrick O'Brien, General Manager

Date Signed _____