

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 24, 2017
O'Neill, Nebraska**

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Chairman Gene Kelly. The meeting was advertised and a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted for public review.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Gary Bartak	Mark Carpenter	Jake Dvorak	Curtis Gotschall	Ted Hughes
Jim Keller	Gene Kelly	John Meuret	Michael Moser	Aaron Rice
Roy Stewart	Dale Wiles	Chip Whitaker (7:10 PM)		

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Chris Dierks Keith Heithoff

STAFF PRESENT:

Dennis Schueth, General Manager
Beth Walsh, Information & Education Coordinator
Sarah Nevison, Water Resources Manager
Andrea Fisher, Administrative Secretary
Jake Morten, Forestry, Wildlife & Resource Conservationist
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician
Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician
Tanner Jenkins, Bazile Groundwater Management Project Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT:

Joel Klammer – NRCS Office – Ainsworth
Amy Timmerman – UNL Extension – Holt County

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

⇒ It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Dale Wiles to adopt the agenda. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dvorak, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Dierks, Heithoff & Whitaker. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

The minutes of the March Meeting were reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the minutes of the March Meeting. **AYE:** Carpenter, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Whitaker, White & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Bartak & Dvorak. **ABSENT:** Dierks, Heithoff & Whitaker. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TREASURERS REPORT:

The March treasurers report was reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the March Treasurers Report. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dvorak, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Dierks, Heithoff & Whitaker. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC FORUM- INPUT:

None

Whitaker arrived at 7:10 PM.

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Ted Hughes reported that the next board meeting would be held June 12 in Norfolk, NE in conjunction with the basin tour, which is scheduled for June 12-14. Anyone interested in attending the Basin Tour should contact the office. Dennis Schueth reported that the 2020 National Envirothon budget for Nebraska has been updated and the UENRD portion has been lowered from \$5,797 to \$3,036. Dennis also discussed the current legislative session and that they continue working on budget issues and property tax relief. He also gave an update on LB 98 to extend the 3 cents levy for fully and over appropriated basins.

DNR Report: Dennis Schueth handed out Garry Anderson's written report and reviewed it with the directors. It noted the reductions being proposed by the Governor for Nebraska's state agencies and proposed future budget cuts. This will affect the Soil and Water Conservation Fund, the Resources Development Fund and the Water Sustainability Fund.

NRCS Report: Joel Klammer, NRCS office in Ainsworth, reviewed the NRCS report sent out by Brandon Peterson. Joel also reported on the EQIP and CSP contracts generated in the Ainsworth field office. NRCS is currently operating with a continuous resolution which is scheduled to end April 29, 2017. Hopefully the resolution will be extended. The hiring freeze has also been lifted; however, they will be doing targeted hiring and not every position will be filled at this time.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: No Report.

Loup Basin RC&D: No Report.

Northeast RC&D: No Report.

Information & Education Report: Beth Walsh's report was mailed out in the Directors packets.

Water Resources Report: Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah reported that due to landowners submitting well applications we have discovered acres which have not been certified. As of May 1, 2017, no well permits will be issued if landowners have not completed their acre certification based on the updated GWMP Rules and Regulations. Flowmeter readings and static water level measurements have been completed and the report will be ready next month. Sarah also reviewed the proposed changes in the safe levels of Blue-Green Algae. EPA is proposing going from 20 ppb (parts per billion) to 4 ppb. This is an issue in the Willow Creek watershed and affects the Willow Creek State Recreational Area reservoir near Pierce. Levels in the past have closed the reservoir to swimming in the late summer months. If the EPA lowers the current Blue-Green Algae levels as proposed, this could mean an earlier closure to swimming at the rec area. Sarah also noted Earth Day; and, that K&W (Kurt & Wayne) Farms of Stuart won the 2017 Nebraska Leopold Conservation Award.

Bazile Management Area-Report: Tanner Jenkins reported that the new 319 funding was received March 31. The grant covers 50% of the salary of the project coordinator; and, provides \$180,000 for cost share. Tanner will be working closely with NRCS to hopefully use some of these funds as incentives for best management practices in conjunction with EQIP and NWQI. Tanner also reviewed best management practice incentives for the Bazile area and the tier structure for cost share.

Holt County Extension Amy Timmerman, Irrigation Field Day August 30-Financial Request: Amy Timmerman, Holt County Extension Educator, attended the meeting to request sponsorship for the 2017 Irrigation Management Field Day August 30. The field day will again be held at Richard Uhrenholdt's in

southern Antelope County and feature various speakers. A new component of the event will be the addition of a demonstration field. Demonstrations scheduled at this time include drones and an infield demo on irrigation sprinklers. There are various levels of sponsorship from \$250 to \$5,000. The sponsorship deadline is May 15th so they can get started on all the promotional and outreach materials for the event.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

⇒ It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Michael Moser to excuse the absence of Chris Dierks and Keith Heithoff. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dvorak, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Dierks & Heithoff. **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee: The committee met prior to the board meeting to review the current bills.

1. The Committee reviewed the current bills. ⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the current bills for payment. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dvorak, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Dierks & Heithoff. **MOTION CARRIED.**
2. **Discussion on monthly UENRD Board and Committee schedules:** Discussion was held last month as to the starting time of the UENRD Board meetings. This item was placed back on the agenda to allow further discussion if needed.

Water Resources and Watershed Committee: The Committee met prior to the board meeting.

1. **Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** None
2. **Beehive-Cost of Updating Water Quality PHASE II Online Reporting:** Sarah Nevison and Kelly Kloppenborg have been working with Beehive to resolve issues with the online program and changes which would make the submission process simpler for cooperators. The Committee discussed these changes and Beehive's proposal to update the database for online entry. ⇒ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Aaron Rice to expend up to \$20,000 from the Water Quality Enhancement Fund for the updates to the online Phase II Beehive program. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dvorak, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Dierks & Heithoff. **MOTION CARRIED.**
3. **2017 Irrigation Field Day Sponsorship Request:** The Committee reviewed the request. ⇒ It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Mark Carpenter to sponsor the 2017 Irrigation Field Day in the amount of \$500. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dvorak, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Dierks & Heithoff. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Personnel, Equipment, Promotion & Education Committee: The Committee met prior to the board meeting.

1. **UENRD Senior Scholarships-Awards:** The Committee reviewed the Senior Scholarship applications. ⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by John Meuret to award Senior Scholarships to Jake Judge, Tyler Masat, Trisha Fox; and, Tyler Regan as the alternate. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dvorak, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Stewart. **ABSENT:** Dierks & Heithoff. **MOTION CARRIED.**
2. **UENRD Website Restructuring Update-Cost:** Ads for the UENRD website update were run for two weeks in the local papers and the Norfolk Daily News. The Committee reviewed the 4 proposals. ⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Jake Dvorak to accept the proposal from Power Pages to update the UENRD Website. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dvorak, Gotschall, Keller, Kelly, Meuret,

Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Hughes. ABSENT: Dierks & Heithoff. MOTION CARRIED.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

- **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** Dennis Schueth reported that the Coalition partners are waiting for the final version of the plan from HDR for review.
- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that the instream flow request that the NRBA and NGPC submitted to the NDNR has been updated. Alliance members reviewed the request and sent comments back to NGPC.
- **Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover):** A meeting was held April 18, 2017. This was the annual meeting to keep the Coalition functioning.
- **Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition:** No Report. Dennis Schueth discussed a potential project for the Coalition which would create a summary document containing lawsuits filed by NRDs and the outcome. This could potentially be a good resource for all the NRDs.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Dennis Schueth's report was mailed out in the Director's packets. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office.

- Dennis handed out minutes from the Northeast Nebraska Weed Management. Kelly Kloppenborg attended the meeting since the UENRD allocated matching funds for the Yellow Flag Iris detection and control on the Elkhorn River grant. Kelly discussed their plans for spraying along the river with an aquatic labelled spray and a potential tour of the project area.
- Dennis discussed the need for a building on the UENRD property for the storage of vehicles and equipment to keep them under cover. This will be discussed further during the budget period.
- Dennis reported on the Eastern Red Cedar meeting he attended on April 13 with various other state agencies to discuss the future of eastern red cedar in Nebraska. Don Caouette had been involved in this group and will be replaced by Jake Morten. The concern with ERC is its ability to spread; and, how it may be spreading. Is it spreading naturally or from landowner neglect? The group is discussing other species to replace the ERC; however, the suggested species may not be suitable in all areas.

The next regular board meeting will be held May 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Ted Hughes to adjourn at 8:20 PM. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dvorak, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Dierks & Heithoff. MOTION CARRIED.**

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Board of Directors on April 24, 2017 that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting, the minutes of the Chairman and the Board were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body, that all news media requesting notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Dale Wiles, Secretary/Treasurer