

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 27, 2017 -- 2:30 P.M.
O'Neill, Nebraska**

CALL TO ORDER, STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT AND OPEN MEETING LAW NOTIFICATION:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 2:35 P.M. by Chairman Dale Wiles. The meeting was advertised in the Holt County Independent, the official UENRD newspaper. The Open Meetings Act was posted for public review.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Gary Bartak	Mark Carpenter	Chris Dierks	Jake Dvorak	Keith Heithoff
Ted Hughes	Gene Kelly	John Meuret	Roy Stewart	Chip Whitaker
Dale Wiles				

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Curtis Gotschall	Jim Keller	Michael Moser
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STAFF PRESENT:

Dennis Schueth, General Manager
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician
Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician
Beth Walsh, Information & Education Coordinator
Andrea Fisher, Administrative Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brandon Peterson – NRCS O'Neill
DeAnna Martensen, Oakdale, NE
Aaron Rice, Neligh, NE
James Koenig, Clearwater, NE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Due to the weather, Ted was unable to attend the NARD meeting.

NARD Legislative Conference – January 26-27 Report: Dennis Schueth reported that a copy of the NARD position on the legislative bills pertaining to the NRDs was included in the Director packets.

- **NARD 2017 Legislative Bill Positions:** The Directors received the final summary of the legislative bills the Association took action on at the Legislative Conference. ⇒ **It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Dale Wiles to adopt the NARD positions taken on the Legislative Bills packet during the 2017 NARD Legislative Conference. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: Meuret. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall, Keller & Moser. MOTION CARRIED.**

DNR Report: No Report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out prior to the board meeting. Brandon reported that they are processing the preapproved EQIP contracts for obligation. The CSP signup deadline for applications was February 3 and they are determining the eligibility of the contracts. NRCS is currently under a hiring freeze so the vacancy in the Neligh office will not be filled until the hiring freeze is over. They have received several CRP contracts for both SAFE and the new CRP Grasslands program and they are working with landowners to develop those contracts.

- **CRP Modifications and Emergency Grazing and Haying-UENRD Signature:** ⇒ **It was moved by Dale Wiles and seconded by Keith Heithoff to send notification to the UENRD NRCS offices that the Upper Elkhorn NRD grants approval of all managed haying and grazing modifications to CRP contracts and or Emergency grazing and haying released. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly & Wiles. NAY: Meuret, Stewart & Whitaker. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall, Keller & Moser. MOTION CARRIED.** The Directors also requested a monthly report from Brandon regarding these contracts.

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. Beth passed out the ACE Camp report from Logan Sanford. This is the final requirement for Logan to receive his ACE Camp grant.

Water Resources Report: Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Dennis Schueth reported that Sarah has been working on the Phase II program and getting up to speed on other aspects of her position. Sarah was unable to attend the board meeting because she was attending the Water Conference in Kearney. Dennis reported that staff from the UENRD attended a producers meeting hosted by Orchard Fertilizer. Kelly Kloppenborg was asked to speak at the meeting and go over the Phase II requirements and other aspects of the district's water quality/quantity program. It was noted that Kelly's presentation was very good and that the district might include it with the Nitrogen Certification classes. Dennis introduced the new Water Resources Technician Wayne Frederick.

Bazile Groundwater Basin Management Plan – Update: Tanner Jenkins’s report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Tanner was attending the Water Conference and Dennis Schueth reported that there will be a meeting March 15 at 3:00 PM in Creighton to review the information collected during the AEM (Airborne Electromagnetic) flights.

UENRD SUB-DISTRICT VI APPLICATIONS:

Jim Koenig, Aaron Rice and DeAnna Martensen submitted applications for the board of director vacancy in sub-district VI. Each candidate was given the opportunity to speak to the board members and talk about why they would like to be on the board. Following the candidates remarks, ⇒ ***It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Dale Wiles to appoint Aaron Rice to fill the UENRD Board of Directors vacancy in sub-district VI.*** **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Keller & Moser. **MOTION CARRIED.**

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning:

- **Action on Current bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the current bills. ⇒ ***It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Dale Wiles to approve the current bills for payment.*** **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Keller & Moser. **MOTION CARRIED.** Roy Stewart reported that the committee also reviewed the accounts receivable and bank statements. They discussed the accounts receivable and how to address past due accounts.
- **NARD 2017 Legislative Bill Positions-UENRD Action:** This item was covered in the NARD Report.
- **Wellness Program-Fitbit, Gym Fee etc:** Roy Stewart reported that they discussed the districts Wellness program and items that would be qualifying purchases for the program which included Fitbits and gym memberships. ⇒ ***It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Chris Dierks to approve 50% cost share up to \$150 to employees who would like to purchase a Fitbit or gym membership.*** **AYE:** Dvorak, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** Bartak, Carpenter & Dierks. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Keller & Moser. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Committee also discussed employee participation in annual health screenings. ⇒ ***It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Chris Dierks to approve up to \$75.00 for health screenings per employee annually.*** **AYE:** Carpenter, Dvorak, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** Bartak & Dierks. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Keller & Moser. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Water Resources & Watershed: The Committee met prior to the Board meeting.

- **Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** The Committee reviewed the request for groundwater irrigated acre certifications and acre transfer. ⇒ ***It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Chris Dierks to approve the groundwater irrigated acre transfer for February.*** **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Keller & Moser. **MOTION CARRIED.** ⇒ ***It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Chris Dierks to approve the groundwater irrigated acre certifications for LeRoy Becker and Bill Kuester.*** **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker &

Wiles. NAY: Dvorak, Heithoff & Whitaker. ABSTAIN: Stewart. ABSENT: Gotschall, Keller & Moser. MOTION CARRIED.

- **Set Public Hearing-Groundwater Quality Rules & Regulations March 22 or March 27:** The UENRD will hold a public hearing March 27, 2017 regarding updates to the Groundwater Management Plan Rules and Regulations.
- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance Update:** Dennis Schueth reported on the meeting with DNR and how future basin appropriations would be determined. It was also noted that some NRDs, coalitions and alliances are working on the voluntary IMP plans.
- **Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Update:** They have not had a meeting.

Personnel, Equipment, Promotion & Education: The Personnel, Equipment, Promotion & Education Committee was scheduled to meet prior to the board meeting but only 1 member was present so there was no action taken by the committee.

- **Water Resources Technician Position – Wayne Frederick:** The new Water Resources Technician was introduced.
- **UENRD Webpage Development:** John Meuret requested this agenda item for discussion. Beth Walsh reported that she met with Will Hayes from the UNANIMOUS group prior to the NARD Legislative Conference to discuss their proposal for updating the UENRD website. UNANIMOUS has worked with NARD and a couple of the other NRDs to update their websites and had reached out to the UENRD as another possible client. The board reviewed the proposal and felt it was a good beginning but would like staff to explore some other options. Beth will contact the other NRDs regarding website developers they have contracted with and costs.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: They have not held a meeting.
Niobrara River Basin Coalition: Discussed under the Water Resources and Watershed Committee Report.
Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover): No Report.
Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition: No Report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Dennis Schueth's report was mailed out in the Director's packets and a copy is kept on file at the NRD office. Dennis discussed the current legislative session and how the budget issues are taking priority.

MARCH BOARD MEETING:

The next Upper Elkhorn NRD Board Meeting will be held on March 27, 2017 at 2:30 PM.

⇒**It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Jake Dvorak to adjourn at 4:11 PM. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall, Keller & Moser. 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 February 27, 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