

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 24, 2017 -- 7:00 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. The statement of advertisement in the Holt County Independent, Rock County Leader and Neligh News were noted; and, the open meetings law posting were all noted at 7:05 P.M. by Chairman Gene Kelly.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Gary Bartak	Mark Carpenter	Chris Dierks	Jake Dvorak	Curtis Gotschall
Keith Heithoff	Ted Hughes	Jim Keller	Gene Kelly	John Meuret
Michael Moser	Aaron Rice	Roy Stewart	Chip Whitaker	Dale Wiles

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Myra Richardson – NRCS, Ainsworth
Colin Nemec - O'Neill, NE
Clint Bordovsky - O'Neill, NE
Joe Sayer – Inman, NE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT OR COMMENTS:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the fall conference September 25 & 26, 2017. A sign-up sheet was passed around to get a head count for the conference and hotel reservations.

DNR Report: No Report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Myra Richardson attended the meeting from the Ainsworth NRCS office. Myra reported that they have been working obligating EQIP contracts; CSP contracts; CRP contracts; and, the Long Pine State Water Quality Incentive program. She also noted the Conservation Field Day July 26 and Weed Barrier Field Day July 28.

Holt County Extension: No Report.

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. An update on the website development was asked. Beth reported that she submitted the information to the designer approximately 3 weeks ago and they are working on the project. She also reported that they are working on updating the logo.

Water Resources Report and ELM Update: Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah reported that she attended the Keystone XL pipeline hearing in Norfolk. Wayne Frederick and Jake Morten have been conducting Chemigation inspections; and, Collin Nemec and Clint Bordovsky are continuing to collect water samples. The Chambers weather station has been removed while the Newport and Brunswick stations are on the schedule to be removed. Sponsorship is being solicited for the Elgin weather station.

Bazile Management Report: The group is still looking into the joint NRD/NRCS position for the project.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee:

- **Action on Current Bills and Cost share Requests:** The committee met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the current bills, accounts receivable and bank statements. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.** Stewart noted that the accounts receivable looked good and that the Baker account has been paid. Gene Kelly reported that he met with Donita Pokorny, Dana F Cole, during the District audit and the district accounting procedures are in order.
- **Budget Workshop:** The Budget Workshop meeting for the 2017-2018 fiscal year will be held August 15, 2017 at 4:00 PM.

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

- **Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** None.
- **October 2017 GW Irrigation Acre Expansion – Allow/Suspend:** John Meuret reported that the Committee has been reviewing static water levels and trend data regarding groundwater levels throughout the district. ⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Ted Hughes to approve the expansion of groundwater irrigated acres up to 1000 acres for the 2018 growing seasons. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: Dvorak & Gotschall. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.**
- **Risk Communication Seminar – Divots, Norfolk, August 22-23:** This is a two day seminar being promoted by farm groups and NDEQ. The seminar is usually a 5 day seminar but has been modified to two days. It would be beneficial to have a director from the Bazile area attend; or, any director that would have time in their schedule.
- **ELM Update-Final Report (October 2017):** The final report for the ELM model is expected to be available in October 2017.

Personnel, Equipment, Promotion and Education Committee:

- **2017-2018 Equipment/Building Discussion:** The Committee met prior to the board meeting and discussed equipment requests for the upcoming fiscal year; the roof issues on the warehouse; and, the Traverse. ⇒ **It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Chris Dierks to include \$6,200 for grapple forks in the 2017-2018 draft budget. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED. ⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Jake Dvorak to include \$25,000 to address the warehouse roof issues in the 2017-2018 draft budget. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED. ⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Aaron Rice to include \$8,400 for a vehicle lift in the 2017-2018 draft budget. AYE: Dvorak, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Keller, Meuret, Moser & Wiles. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED. ⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Aaron Rice to sell the Traverse and put the proceeds into the sinking fund. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.**
- **NRD-NRCS Shared Staff Member for the Bazile GW Management Area:** Dennis Schueth reported that the agreement for this shared staff person is being worked out by all the parties. It would be a 75/25 split between NRCS and the BGMA participating NRDs.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: There is a meeting scheduled for September 5 at the Lower Platte North NRD.

Niobrara River Basin Coalition: The group is moving forward with the project. Right now they are waiting on the agreement from NPPD.

Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover): No Report.

Nebraska Groundwater Management Coalition: No Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Dennis Schueth's report was mailed out in the Director's packets a copy is kept on file at the NRD office.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting date for the UENRD would be August 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Dennis Schueth noted that there is Community Forum scheduled for August 28 in Norfolk, "Whose Water Is It Anyway" from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM that would be good for the Directors to attend. The LENRD has offered to host the August board meeting. ⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Michael Moser to hold the August 28, 2017 Board meeting at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk with committee meetings starting at 2:30 PM and the board meeting convening at 3:00 PM. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Wiles. NAY: Dvorak, Keller & Whitaker. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.**

⇒ **It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Jake Dvorak to adjourn at 8:10 PM. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Dvorak, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. 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 July 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