

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
May 22, 2017 – 7:00 PM  
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 7:03 P.M. by Chairman Gene Kelly. 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	Curtis Gotschall	Keith Heithoff
Ted Hughes	Jim Keller	Gene Kelly	John Meuret	Michael Moser
Aaron Rice	Roy Stewart	Chip Whitaker	Dale Wiles	

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Jake Dvorak

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

John Ludwig, NRCS O’Neill

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

**MINUTES:**

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

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

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

## **PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:**

None

## **AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:**

**NARD Report:** The next board meeting is scheduled for June 12 in York in conjunction with the basin tour. The Basin Tour will be held June 12 & 13 and focus on Northeast Nebraska. Dennis Schueth reported that LB 98, which would extend the 3 cent levy authority for fully or over-appropriate districts, will not be moving forward in this year's session. Hopefully it will be discussed again next session. This year the legislature focused on the budget and predicted shortfalls in state funding.

**DNR Report:** No Report.

**NRCS Report:** Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. John Ludwig, O'Neill NRCS Office, reported that they are currently in the process of obligating funds for EQIP contracts; ranking CSP contracts; and, developing new and tree re-enroll CRP contracts. The NRCS, FSA and RMA will be going through a re-organization and they are not sure what the impacts will be at this time. John also reported that he and a coworker have been doing compliance reviews out in the field using the new LiDAR maps developed.

**Holt County Extension:** No Report.

## **RC&D Report:**

**North Central RC&D:** No Report.

**Loup Basin RC&D:** No Report.

**Northeast RC&D:** Dennis Schueth passed out information regarding the upcoming Pollinator's Picnic Tour; and, the minutes of the Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Area.

**Information & Education Report:** Beth Walsh's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Beth reported on the current Chemigation program; and, the remaining applications that are due June 1. To date the district has received approximately 1300 applications out of the 2500 plus that are expected. Discussion was held on the requirements for applications and our inspecting program. Work is also beginning of the new UENRD website. Directors were asked to submit any comments or recommendations regarding the new website to Beth as soon as possible to discuss during the developmental stages.

**Water Resources Report and ELM Update:** Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah handed out a compilation of the spring static water levels and reviewed the findings with the Board. This included the any changes in the sub-districts static water levels and the 20 year trend for the UENRD sub-districts.

**Bazile Management Area:** Tanner Jenkin's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Tanner reported on the 2016 AEM flight data which is available on-line; the May 9<sup>th</sup> Bazile Project committee meeting; and, his activities to promote the cost sharing opportunities for the project. A copy of the letter sent out to producers in the area including the areas noted for the greatest cost share opportunities was handed out. Discussion was held regarding how to promote the funds for beneficial uses within the Bazile area.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee:** The committee met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the current bills, bank statements and accounts receivable.

- **Action on Current Bills and Cost-share Requests:** ⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to pay the current bills. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Dvorak. **MOTION CARRIED.** Roy noted the accounts receivable looked good; and, that the district had received a payment on a long past due account. The committee also discussed the alternate staff person designated as a signer on the district checking account. Since the retirement of Don Caouette there has not been another staff member designated. Digital check signing was also offered as a possibility. This will be addressed at the next board meeting.

**Water Resources & Watershed Committee:** The committee met prior to the board meeting. John Meuret reported that the committee reviewed the static groundwater level report; additional Bazile staff; McCrometer request to make a presentation; detailed list of Phase II issues for Beehive to finalize their quote; ELM will be publishing the Phase III portion of project; Lower Platte River Basin Coalition will be meeting June 19 in Ord; Dennis will be attending the NRBA meeting June 5 & 6 to discuss the project.

**Personnel, Education, Promotion and Equipment Committee:** The committee met prior to the board meeting.

- **UENRD Website Restructuring Update:** Discussed earlier in the agenda.
- **NRD/NRCS-Shared Staff Member for Bazile Management Area:** Dennis Schueth reported that there may be an opportunity to partner with other NRDs and NRCS to fund a position to help out on the Bazile Project. This would be an additional person to promote the cost share incentives in the project area with possible reimbursement through the NRCS. This is in the early stages of possible development and the Bazile NRDs were being asked for their opinion on the possibility. No formal agreement has been developed at this time. Discussion was held on the importance of this project on a local, state and national level.

## **COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:**

- **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** There will be a meeting June 19 in Ord.
- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that he has been asked to make a presentation on June 5 regarding the NRBA project.
- **Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover):** No Report.
- **Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition:** No Report. Dennis Schueth reported that the District has been questioned by cooperators regarding not complying with the GWMP Rules and Regulation. He discussed a potential project for the Coalition which would create a summary document containing lawsuits filed by NRDs and the outcome. This will be discussed at the upcoming managers meeting to see if other districts find it a worthwhile project. The projected cost would be approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

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

The next board meeting will be held June 26, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the NRD office in O'Neill.

⇒ **It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Dale Wiles to adjourn the board meeting at 8:23 PM.**  
**AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Dvorak. 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 May 22, 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.

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Dale Wiles, Secretary/Treasurer