

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
April 23, 2018  
O'Neill, Nebraska**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:10 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:**

Curtis Gotschall	Keith Heithoff	Ted Hughes	Jim Keller
Gene Kelly	John Meuret	Michael Moser	Aaron Rice
Roy Stewart	Chip Whitaker		

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Gary Bartak	Mark Carpenter	Chris Dierks
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**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Brandon Peterson – NRCS Office – O'Neill  
Marv Fritz, O'Neill

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

**MINUTES:**

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

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM- INPUT:**

None

## **AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:**

**NARD Report:** Ted Hughes reported that the next board meeting would be held June 11 in conjunction with the basin tour, which is scheduled for June 11-12 in southeastern Nebraska. Dennis Schueth handed out the list of interim study resolutions created during this year's legislative session. There are 8 specifically relating to the NRDs and he noted the ones relating to the spread of eastern red cedar; and, water quality.

**DNR Report:** No Report.

**NRCS Report:** Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the board members. Brandon reported that they are working on EQIP contracts. Eleven of 42 contracts have been obligated. No contracts have been preapproved for the NWQI in the Bazile groundwater management area but they are ranked and awaiting approval. CSP contracts are also being ranked and they are waiting to see if any more acres will be released for the CRP program. There is a new contract employee in the O'Neill office, Ryan Johnson, who will be helping with a variety of tasks. Brandon also thanked the board for filling the secretarial position in the Neligh office.

**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. Beth reported that the State Envirothon will be held Wednesday, April 25, at Niobrara State Park.

**Water Resources Report:** Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah reported that the LPRBC met on Friday to review the first annual reports submitted by the members. She noted that approximately 9% of the available depletion has been used which is approximately 12,000 acres. Sarah attended the Spencer Hydro-Dam tour on April 11 with members of the board to get an idea of the area and dam for the Niobrara River Basin Alliance proposed purchase. Sarah also reviewed the updated maps displayed in the boardroom and reviewed their importance.

**Bazile Management Area-Report:** Phil Steinkamp's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah Nevison reported that hopefully Phil can attend the May board meeting and give his update in person. She reported that Phil has been documenting abandoned wells throughout the Bazile area and looking for a septic system to upgrade. The survey which was sent out in early April has received a 26% response which is considered to be very good. The Bazile group also met with UNL representatives on April 3 to discuss the potential of an extension agent in the Bazile area. The plan at this time is to apply for a NET grant for the first 3 three years and then assess benefits of that position.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee:** The committee met prior to the board meeting to review the current bills, cost share applications and bank statements.

1. The Committee reviewed the current bills. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Jim Keller to approve the current bills for payment plus the one for the City of Atkinson for the Community Center rental; and, the one from Stearns Constructions for labor on the warehouse roof. AYE: Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Carpenter & Dierks. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

1. **Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** None
2. **Mid-Month Meeting:** The Committee is planning to meet before the next board meeting.
3. **Voluntary IMP Meeting Schedule:** John Meuret reported that had an IMP presentation at the committee meeting with HDR and DNR. The next course of action will be to develop a list of potential district landowners to become part of the stakeholders group to help develop the IMP plan. Once names are gathered HDR will send out letters and begin holding the stakeholder meetings. The plan is to have the IMP completed and hold the public hearing at the November board meeting.
4. **Water Quality Phase III Discussion:** John reported that the LNNRD attended the committing meeting and shared their Phase II and Phase III information. The committee is still discussing possible rules and regulations for Phase III and how they will be implemented and enforced. One idea is random soil sampling to determine the residual nitrogen left in the soil which could be used as a credit. The committee will continue working on the Phase III rules and updating the board.

**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 Michael Moser to award Senior Scholarships to Justin Napier, Rhegan Shankland, William Jarecke; and, Matt Hoffmann as the alternate. AYE: Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Carpenter & Dierks. MOTION CARRIED.**
2. **Poster Contest Awards:** The Committee reviewed the cash awards for the district poster contest. Currently we award \$10 for first place, \$7.50 for second place and \$5 for third place. ⇒ **It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Michael Moser to award \$25 for first place, \$20 for second place and \$15 for third place. AYE: Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Carpenter & Dierks. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

- **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** It was reported that there will not be any dues collected this year; and, the Coalition is discussing looking into creating a database to keep track of all the data submitted by the members.
- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth, Sarah Nevison, Ted Hughes, Gene Kelly, Aaron Rice and Keith Heithoff toured the Spencer Hydro-dam April 11. A map of the area was distributed to the board of directors. The Alliance met on April 16 to discuss moving forward with the plan to purchase the dam. There are still unanswered questions regarding the dam and maintenance of the area. The reason the Alliance was formed was to protect the water rights on that portion of the Niobrara River from becoming fully appropriated and the possibility of the federal government putting restrictions on the river. The Alliance is recommending moving forward with the purchase of the dam and members have been asked to go back to their boards for formal action on proceeding with the purchase. The Directors

present decided to wait until next month to vote due to the absence of some of the Directors who have been involved with this issue from the beginning.

- **Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover):** The annual conference call was held April 17. The Coalition was formed due to the critical habitat designation for the piping plover by the Fish and Wildlife Service. This issue continues to be on hold due to budget constraints and additional reviews of species in the area.
- **Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition:** No Report.

**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 reported that tree planting has begun in Rock County. Kelly and Wayne are finishing up static water measurements and then they will also begin planting trees. Dennis also reported that weed barrier sales are up this year.

The next regular board meeting will be held May 21, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

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

I, the undersigned Chairman 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 23, 2018 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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Gene Kelly, Chairman