

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 27, 2018 -- 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	Curtis Gotschall	Ted Hughes
Jim Keller	Gene Kelly	John Meuret	Michael Moser	Aaron Rice
Roy Stewart	Chip Whitaker			

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Keith Heithoff

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Kevin Blair – Brunswick, NE
Marv Fritz – O'Neill, NE
Brandon Peterson – NRCS, O'Neill, NE
Sarah Nevison – Milford, NE

AGENDA:

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

JULY BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

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

AUGUST 16, 2018 BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES:

The minutes of the August 16, 2018 Budget Workshop were reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Jim Keller to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2018 budget workshop meeting. AYE: Bartak, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Carpenter, Gotschall, Hughes, Meuret & Rice. ABSENT: Dierks (passed and vote was never recorded) & Heithoff. MOTION CARRIED.**

TREASURERS REPORT:

⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Roy Stewart to approve the July Treasurers Report.

AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker.

NAY: None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Heithoff. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: The NARD Fall Conference will be held September 24-25 in Kearney. Dennis Schueth reported that there will be a hearing on LR 387, August 31. The hearing is to discuss cedar trees and the aspects they bring to Nebraska. There are management issues with cedar trees; however, the UENRD considers them a viable species in the area for windbreaks. Dennis Schueth and Curtis Gotschall are planning to attend the hearing on August 31.

DNR Report: No Report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that 52 of the 63 preapproved contracts have been obligated. All CSP contracts have been submitted to the area office for review. Adam Nolan has been named Resource Conservationist for the Neligh office; and, Ryan Lodge has been selected as the new Working Lands Coordinator for Nebraska. Pheasant's Forever will be advertising to fill the vacancy left by Lodge. The area 5 Range Judging contest is scheduled for September 11 in Holt County.

Holt County Extension: No Report.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that the RC&D continues working on recycling projects.

Loup Basin RC&D: No report.

Northeast RC&D: No report.

Information & Education Report: Beth Walsh's report was mailed out in the Director's packets. Beth confirmed Directors attending the annual conference and noted that the last day to cancel to receive a refund is September 16.

Water Resources Report: Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Director's packets. Sarah reported that the nitrate water sampling is continuing. The last stakeholders meeting for the UENRD voluntary IMP plan will be Wednesday, August 29 at 6:00 PM at the O'Neill Community Center. Directors are encouraged to attend. Sarah reviewed the draft goals, objectives and action items that have been developed as part of the voluntary IMP plan. The action items portion of the draft is new information for the Directors to review. Sarah also gave an update on the LiDAR program. LiDAR is mapping the surface of the ground at ground level. This information combined with our static water measurements will give the district a better understanding of the elevation of groundwater levels across the district. Sarah also mentioned a documentary that she recently watched called "Follow the Water" on NET (Nebraska Public Television). Basically it gave an overall view of the Platte River from the beginning to the end.

Bazile Management Report: Phil Steinkamp's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. It was noted that Phil is planning to host a meeting involving consultants, retailers and UNL extension to discuss nitrogen issues and get some feedback from these groups. Results from the Bazile survey have been compiled and the report completed. A copy of the report summary was mailed out in the directors packets. The report summary and complete results will be available on-line.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Legislative, Budget and Finance:

- **Action on Current Bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the bills, Visa charges, fuel receipts and bank statement. ⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Heithoff. MOTION CARRIED. Clarification was requested on the bill from the USGS regarding the gauging station.
- **August 16, 2018 Budget Workshop Update and Recommendations:** ⇒ It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Roy Stewart to go into executive session at 7:46 PM to discuss the budget of the Upper Elkhorn NRD and to protect the public interests and reputation of those involved from any undue harm and the impact it may have on the FY 18-19 budget and excuse all staff from the executive session. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Heithoff. MOTION CARRIED. The board meeting was reconvened at 8:07 PM by Chairman Kelly. Discussion was held regarding the NPAIT account and cash reserve for the UENRD.
- **Budget Lin Items:** Dennis Schueth reviewed the changes to the proposed budget which were updated following the August 16 Budget Workshop.
- **Setting of FY 2018-2019 Budget Hearing, September 10, 2018:** ⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Chris Dierks to hold the public hearing for the FY 18-19 Budget on September 10, 2018 in conjunction with the UENRD regular board meeting. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Heithoff. MOTION CARRIED.

Water Resources and Watershed Committee Report & Recommendations:

- **Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (V-IMP) Update:** The final stakeholder's meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2018 at the O'Neill Community Center beginning at 6:00 PM.
- **Groundwater Acre Certification Issues and Update:** None
- **Water Quality Phase III Discussion:** The draft Phase III Controls regarding soil sampling and the regulations were presented and reviewed for the UENRD board members. The rules and regulations for Phase III have been forwarded on to the attorney for review. The Committee is planning to take formal action on the Phase III recommendations at the September board meeting and set the public hearing for the adoption of the Phase III regulations. Discussion was held regarding the phase III designations, soil sampling protocol and penalties.

Personnel, Education, Promotion & Equipment Committee: The UENRD received 6 applications for the Water Resources Manager position; and, will be interviewing the top three candidates. Interviews will be held the first week in September.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: No Report.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance: Dennis Schueth, Keith Heithoff and Roy Stewart attended the basin meeting in Valentine August 21 & 22. Stewart reported that the facility was very nice and he felt the meeting was worthwhile. He also reported that the nitrogen updates from the other NRDs were interesting. Dennis Schueth reported on the various other state agency representatives at the meeting and some of the issues they discussed. An Alliance meeting was also held the afternoon of August 22; and, the group is proceeding forward with the Spencer Hydro Dam Agreement.

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

Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition: Dennis Schueth reported that there will be a dues request this year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Dennis Schueth's report was mailed out to the directors prior to the board meeting in their packets. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office.

The next regular board meeting will be held September 10, 2018 in conjunction with the budget hearing.

⇒ It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Michael Moser to adjourn at 9:00 PM. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Heithoff. MOTION CARRIED.

The next board meeting will be held September 10, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the UENRD office.

I, the undersigned Director 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 August 27, 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.

Gene Kelly, Chairman