

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
February 26, 2018 -- 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 2:38 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	Ted Hughes	Gene Kelly
Michael Moser	Aaron Rice	Chip Whitaker		

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Curtis Gotschall	Keith Heithoff	Jim Keller	John Meuret	Roy Stewart
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**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Brandon Peterson – NRCS O'Neill  
Amy Timmerman – UNL Extension  
Garry Anderson – NRC Representative, Dixon  
Tim Gragert - Creighton

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

**MINUTES:**

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

**MINUTES – February 6, 2018 Special Water Issues Meeting:**

The minutes of the February 6, 2018 Special Water Issues Meeting were reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Mark Carpenter to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2018 Meeting. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **TREASURERS REPORT:**

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

### **PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:**

Tim Gragert, candidate for the Nebraska Legislature District 40, attended the board meeting and introduced himself, gave an overview of his background and his objectives if elected to the Nebraska Legislature.

### **AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:**

**NARD Report:** Ted attended the board meeting following the NARD Legislative Conference in Lincoln. He reported that UNL budget cuts have affected the 4-H Camp near Halsey which is where ACE camp is held. The Foundation will be donating \$3,000 to cover the counselors needed for the camp. Russ Callan has been appointed to the Native Vegetation and Forestry Committee. Ted also reported that they will be working on the budget and it looks like the health insurance program will be in the positive for this year.

**NARD Legislative Conference – January 23-24 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 2018 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 Ted Hughes and seconded by Chris Dierks to adopt the NARD positions taken on the Legislative Bills packet during the 2017 NARD Legislative Conference. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.**
- **NARD Washington D. C. Trip, March 17-21, 2018:** Information regarding the annual NARD Washington D.C. trip was included in the Directors packets. Anyone interested should contact the office.

**DNR Report:** Garry Anderson, Elkhorn Basin Representative to the Natural Resources Commission, attended the meeting. Garry reported that the Commission reviewed applications for the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) and made their allocations. He also noted that with the budget shortfall, some are noticing the balance in the WSF. It is important to note that the funds are allocated for projects; however, they are paid out as the project progresses not all at once. This is why there is a balance in the fund; and, why the Commission is looking at ways to speed up the process. Garry also reviewed the rules for voting on projects and noted that since he is no longer on the NRD board he is free to vote on all projects.

**NRCS Report:** Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out prior to the board meeting. Brandon reported that they are in the process of writing EQIP contracts. No funding has been allocated for NWQI or SWQI as of this report. The CSP signup deadline for applications is March 2, anything received after the deadline will be ranked next year. CRP is on hold until they authorize additional acres for FY 2018. NRCS is currently operating under a continuing resolution; and, will not be hiring any new employees at this time unless they are Pathways students or contract employees. Brandon noted that with some offices having little or no staff they are relying on their partnership with the NRDs to maintain the secretary positions. The North Central Range Judging contest is scheduled for this area in September; and, the Local Work Group meeting is scheduled for March 8.

**Holt County Extension Agent:** Amy Timmerman reported that she met with the L&CNRD regarding the Innovative Youth Corn Challenge and they are in favor of supporting the program; however, they would like to see it opened up to any group within the 4 Bazile NRDs. Amy will proceed with the program which is designed

to encourage youth to pursue an agricultural career; then, we will review it for any future changes. The LNNRD, L&CNRD and LENRD have all agreed to participate in the TAPS program. The goal of the program is to promote efficiency and profitability while giving a chance to learn from those who grow corn profitably, a peer to peer structure. Members from each Board have been asked to participate in an effort to learn more about the program in hopes of starting it in the Bazile Groundwater Management area. There was a good deal of discussion regarding how being involved in a program with its focus in southwestern Nebraska would benefit anyone in our area. There was no motion by the board to support or not support this project. So at this time the UENRD will not participate in this project.

#### **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.

**Water Resources Report:** Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah reported that two Nitrogen Certification classes have been held and went well. A handout regarding the LiDAR project was reviewed and measurement of elevations. The data is still waiting to be analyzed. Sarah discussed the Bazile Management Area open house held in Osmond on February 7. Approximately 70 people attended and 15 surveys were completed. Dennis Schueth reported that due to budget cuts affecting UNL, they may be closing the Haskell Agricultural Laboratory (Northeast Research and Extension Center) at Concord. Sue Lackey, Conservation and Survey Division, was re-located to that facility toward the end of 2017 and we are not sure what her status will be if the center closes. Lower Elkhorn NRD has offered the possibility of housing Sue in their new offices; however, the NRDs in support of her position will be asked to fund the office space. Dennis also updated the Director on Phil Steinkamp's health condition.

**Bazile Groundwater Management Area Report – Phil Steinkamp:** Phil's reports for January and February were handed out to the Directors.

#### **EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Ted Hughes to approve the absence of Curtis Gotschall, Keith Heithoff, Jim Keller, John Meuret & Roy Stewart. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. **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 Michael Moser and seconded by Ted Hughes to approve the current bills for payment. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.** The committee also reviewed the accounts receivable and bank statements.
- **Secretary/Treasurer Position Regarding Check Signing:** Since the resignation of Dale Wiles, the District is without a primary signature for signing checks. ⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Mark Carpenter to appoint Gene Kelly primary signature for UENRD checks. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Kelly. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.**

⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Mark Carpenter to appoint Chris Dierks alternate signature for UENRD checks. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Kelly. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

- **Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** The Committee reviewed the request for one groundwater irrigated acre certification. The Committee requested that staff ask for further documentation. The Committee reviewed the requests for acre transfers. ⇒ It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Ted Hughes to approve the groundwater irrigated acre transfer for February pending completion of all paperwork. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Kelly. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- **Mid-Month Meeting:** The Water Resources & Watershed Committee will begin holding a mid-month meeting to address upcoming water issues.
- **Voluntary IMP:** Dennis Schueth reviewed the MOA between the UENRD and DNR to develop a voluntary integrated management plan. The cost of developing the IMP would be split 50/50 between the UENRD and NDNR. ⇒ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Mark Carpenter to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement between the UENRD and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. **AYE:** Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. **NAY:** Bartak. **ABSTAIN:** Kelly. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.** After reviewing the previous Scope of Work submitted by HDR Inc, DNR noted that it did not include facilitating any meetings with the stakeholders. HDR updated the scope of work and a copy was distributed to the Directors for their review. Because it did not previously include facilitating stakeholder meetings the cost did increase which will still be split between UENRD and DNR. ⇒ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Chip Whitaker to approve the Scope of Work submitted by HDR for the UENRD voluntary IMP plan with DNR. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Kelly. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- **Bazile Area UNL/NRD:** No Report.
- **Water Quality Phase III Discussion:** Sarah Nevison reported that there were some good ideas shared at the special water issues meeting on February 6 and the committee will be discussing them as they move forward on the Phase III rules and regulations.

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

- **Letter of Resignation:** Joy Knapp, NRCS Secretary in Neligh, submitted her resignation to Dennis Schueth February 15, 2018 with her last day being March 3. ⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Mark Carpenter to accept Joy Knapp's resignation. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Kelly. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Neligh NRCS Secretary has been a very important position for the UENRD since it coordinates a lot of our programs in Antelope County. Dennis Schueth noted that we will begin advertising for the position within the next couple of weeks.

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

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

**Niobrara River Basin Coalition:** Dennis Schueth reported that he has received a request for a joint meeting between the Niobrara river basin NRD Directors to discuss different issues each NRD is facing. This would be primarily for water committees but would be open to all Directors.

**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' report was covered under the previous agenda items.

**MARCH BOARD MEETING:**

The next Upper Elkhorn NRD Board Meeting will be held on March 26, 2018 at 2:30 PM.

⇒ **It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Chris Dierks to adjourn at 4:55 PM. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Hughes, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Kelly. ABSENT: Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret & Stewart. 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 February 26, 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