

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 25, 2018
O'Neill, Nebraska**

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:05 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 (7:33 pm)	Gene Kelly	John Meuret	Michael Moser
Aaron Rice	Roy Stewart	Chip Whitaker		

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Brandon Peterson, NRCS – O'Neill
Collin Nemec, O'Neill, NE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Ted Hughes reported that he attended the June NARD meeting on June 18. Ted reviewed the NARD awards and funds allocated for educational programs through the NARD foundation. August 17, 2018 is the deadline for resolutions to be considered at the fall conference. The risk pool met following the board meeting. There will be a 5% increase in the health insurance premiums due to an increase in the re-insurance for the risk pool. The increase is due to some higher than normal claims and to maintain the cash reserve. The re-insurance is what protects the NARD Risk Pool.

DNR Report: No report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson, O'Neill NRCS office, attended the board meeting. Brandon reviewed his report that was mailed out to the directors. They are currently obligating EQIP contracts and 33 out of the 55 pre-approved contracts have been obligated. CSP contracts have been ranked with 6 contracts being preapproved. NRCS is taking applications for the CRP program however it is limited in the number of practices available most of which do not apply to our area. Other items discussed included: SWQI and NWQI funding; LiDAR training; compliance reviews; and, filling some of the vacant NRCS positions in Nebraska.

Holt County Extension Agent: No Report.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: No report.

Loup Basin RC&D: No report.

Northeast RC&D: Dennis Schueth reported that they were able to spray for the Yellow Flag Iris and the UENRD received a bill for its portion of the project. There may be a tour of this project in the future.

Information & Education Report: Beth Walsh's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Beth reported that she has been busy with Chemigation this past month.

Water Resources Report: Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah reported that the second stakeholder meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27 at 6:00 PM at the Community Center in O'Neill. Sixteen out of the 51 stakeholders contacted have agreed to participate to date; however, all 51 will again be invited to Wednesday's meeting. Sarah reviewed the goals and objectives developed by UENRD, DNR and HDR; the statutes relating to the development of the IMP; and, IMP controls that the UENRD already has in place through the groundwater management plan. UENRD and DNR will be addressing water shortages at the next meeting. Dennis Schueth also noted that he has received calls from concerned citizens who are under the impression that we have already established this plan. He assured them that we are still in the planning process and are taking direction from the general public and board members. Sarah also handed out the results from the spring static water level measurements. A total of 351 sites were measured for their static water level and all sub-districts showed an increase; however, we have still not fully rebounded from the pre-2012 levels. Sarah reviewed the sub-district charts and discussed the new wells that were added to the static monitoring program and how they impact the current results. With the data that has been collected and reported, the board should consider at the July meeting whether or not to hold an irrigated acre expansion in October 2018 for the 2019 growing season. Sarah announced that she will be leaving the NRD in August but would consider continuing to work on the Voluntary IMP and Phase III projects.

Bazile Management Report: Phil Steinkamps report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah Nevison reported that they are still working on compiling the surveys and discussing the possibility of an extension agent working on the project.

UENRD Tree Program: Jake Morten reported that tree planting wrapped up approximately three weeks ago. In 2017 the NRD sold approximately 46,000 seedlings and installed 24 miles of weed mulch. In 2018 we sold approximately 67,000 seedlings and installed 36 miles of weed mulch. He also reported that due to the wet conditions there are still 7 sites which need to have the weed mulch installed.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: None

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:** The Committee reviewed the current bills. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

- **Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (V-IMP) Update:** The second stakeholders meeting will be held Wednesday June 27, 2018 at the O'Neill Community Center at 6:00 PM.
- **Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** There was one request to be reviewed for groundwater irrigated acre certification. ⇒ **It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by John Meuret to approve the request to certified historical irrigated acres on the NE 24-29-10. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.**
- **2018 Spring Statics Update:** Information has been presented to the Committee; and, the board during the Water Resources Managers report. Contact the office with any questions.
- **Water Quality Phase III Discussion:** The Committee continues to work on the rules and regulations for Phase III of the GWMP. Sarah Nevison and Wayne Frederick have compiled the data from the 2016 and 2017 Phase II reports submitted by the landowners within the Phase II area. Based on the data submitted regarding soil sampling the Committee is working on rules and regulations as they pertain to residual nitrogen in the soil and the depth of soil samples to be taken in a Phase III area.

Personnel, Equipment, Promotion & Education Committee: The Committee met on June 13 with staff for the FY 18-19 salary negotiations.

- **Vehicle Purchase:** Dennis Schueth reported that the district has to opportunity to purchase a pickup based on the bid received for the purchase of the pickup needed to replace the 2010 Dodge pickup totaled in the accident during tree season. Funding for this vehicle would come from FY 18-19 fiscal budget. ⇒ **It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Aaron Rice to approve the purchase of the Chevy ¾ ton pickup from Krotter's during FY 18-19 budget. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: Dierks. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED. Other equipment purchases discussed included pre-fab pallet racks to organize the back shop; computer; camera; projector; and, a portable generator to be used for the tree coolers in O'Neill and Neligh.**
- **2018-2019 Personnel Review and Salaries:** ⇒ **It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Chris Dierks to go into executive session at 8:07 PM to discuss job performances of the Upper Elkhorn NRD Staff and to protect the public interests and reputation of those from any undue harm and the impact it may have on the FY 18-19 salaries and excuse all staff from the executive session. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: Dierks. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Gene Kelly reconvened the regular board meeting at 8:42 PM. ⇒**It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by John Meuret to approve the salary recommendations of the Committee for FY 18-19 at 75% of their recommendation. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: Hughes & Kelly. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.**

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: There is a Technical Committee meeting scheduled for July 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Lower Elkhorn NRD office in Norfolk.

Niobrara River Basin Coalition: There is a meeting scheduled for June 28, 2018 at 1:00 PM in Valentine. As of now, the Upper Niobrara White NRD and Middle Niobrara NRD have not moved forward with the purchase agreement and are planning a meeting with Game and Parks to address some of their concerns.

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. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office. Dennis noted that with the salary recommendations and equipment discussion he will proceed with working on the budget; and, the district audit is scheduled for July 17, 2018.

JULY BOARD MEETING:

The next regular board meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on July 23, 2018 at the NRD office in O'Neill.

⇒**It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Michael Moser to adjourn at 8:48 PM. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: Dierks. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. 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 June 25, 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