

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 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 2:35 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:

Gary Bartak	Mark Carpenter	Chris Dierks	Curtis Gotschall	Keith Heithoff
Ted Hughes	Jim Keller	Gene Kelly	John Meuret	Michael Moser
Aaron Rice	Chip Whitaker			

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Roy Stewart

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

PUBLIC FORUM – INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Gene Kelly reported that he attended the quarterly NARD board meeting. He reported that they reviewed the financial records and discussed the proposed budget. Final action on the budget will be taken at the June board meeting. NARD is in the process of developing an ad to air on NET during the Nebraska Husker baseball games. There were not any poster contest winners from Nebraska this year; the State Envirothon is scheduled for April 25 at Niobrara State Park; there will be an Envirothon session at ACE Camp this year; the spring staff I&E meeting will be held April 16-17 in Columbus; NARD award deadline is May 1; and; Master Conservationist nominations are due by June 1. Gene also reported that the Risk Pool elected officers and Larry Reynolds is President, Jim Eschilmann is Vice-President and Milt Schmidt is Secretary/Treasurer. The group also toured Memorial Stadium and Hawks fieldhouse.

DNR Report: No Report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was handed out at the board meeting, Brandon was unable to attend. Dennis Schueth reported on the Local Workgroup EQIP meeting. They discussed some of the cost share items and using local costs versus regional costs when figuring the cost share for a practice.

Holt County Extension: Dennis Schueth briefly reviewed the TAPS program that was discussed at the last board meeting. At that time, the board voted not to participate in the program; however, Gene Kelly has shown interest in finding out more about the program.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that they are working on recycling programs for the area.

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. There was discussion held regarding the scholarship program and water well decommissioning program.

Michael Moser departed at 3:00 PM.

Water Resources Report: Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah discussed the UNL Extension Education modules on their website (NebraskaWatershedScience.org); and, encouraged the board to explore these educational activities and offer feedback. Kelly and Wayne spent time this past month installing the new corkboard and trim. They will now be focusing on measuring static water levels. Sarah handed out a copy of her PowerPoint presentation regarding the districts first Lower Platte River Basin coalition Report. She reviewed the background of the coalition; the goals; what the basin plan means to the UENRD; and, the information submitted in the first annual report.

Bazile Management Area: Sarah Nevison reported that the Bazile management group is still looking into the possibility of a UNL Extension person working on the project; and, that Kristie Ohlmer, LENRD, has been coordinating the grant information required for the project.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning:

- 1. Action on Current bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee met and reviewed the current bills, cost share, accounts receivable, bank statements and bonus for Joy Knapp. ⇒ **It was moved by Gary Bartak and seconded by Keith Heithoff to approve the bonus for Joy Knapp. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Rice & Whitaker. NAY: Dierks. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Moser & Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.** ⇒ **It was moved by Gary Bartak and seconded by Ted Hughes to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Rice & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Moser & Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.** Gary Bartak reported that the accounts receivable and bank statements were in order; and, that the committee reviewed remaining cost share applications that will be approved based on the districts priority ranking and remaining NSWCP funds.
- 2. Monthly Board Meeting Time and Schedule:** Beginning in April the monthly board meeting will move to its evening schedule and begin at 7:00 PM with committee meetings prior to the board meeting.

Water Resources & Watershed: John Meuret reported that the Committee met prior to the board meeting and discussed Phase III rules; they are working on the IMP and will be looking for stakeholders to develop the plan; and, the NRBA future plans. A tour of the project area was also discussed. The LNNRD has requested a meeting between the two districts to discuss water related issues which may be held in April. April 16 there will be a NRBA meeting in Valentine.

- 1. Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** None
- 2. Mid - Month Meeting:** There is nothing scheduled at this time.
- 3. Voluntary IMP Meeting Schedule:** A list of possible stakeholders is being developed.
- 4. Water Quality Phase III Discussion:** The Committee is working on this issue and will bring forth the information as it is developed.

Gary Bartak departed at 3:30 PM.

Personnel, Equipment, Promotion & Education Committee: The Committee met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the resumes for the NRCS Secretary position in Neligh. They have selected 4 candidates to interview which will be done in April.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: Dennis Schueth reported that since Dale Wiles has resigned we need to appoint someone to replace him on the Coalition. ⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Keith Heithoff to appoint Chip Whitaker to represent the UENRD on the coalition. AYE: Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret & Rice. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Whitaker. ABSENT: Bartak, Moser & Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.**

Niobrara River Basin Alliance: Dennis Schueth reported that the group is waiting to hear back from Game and Parks regarding management questions raised while reviewing the agreement. The Alliance members will also be deciding whether or not to proceed with the purchase. A meeting is scheduled for April 16 in Valentine and the public is welcome.

Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover): Dennis Schueth reported that there is a meeting scheduled for April 17 in Grand Island.

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 reported on a phone call he received regarding the Elkhorn River encroaching onto someone's property and potentially threatening a house; however, the property was not in the UENRD. He also received a call regarding a drainage issue. The landowner is concerned with water draining from a golf course on to his pasture ground and being high in nitrates affecting his cattle. Dennis also reported on another issue with a landowner regarding the management of certain soil types within the district.

APRIL BOARD MEETING:

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Ted Hughes to adjourn at 4:00 PM. **AYE:** Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret & Rice. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Whitaker. **ABSENT:** Bartak, Moser & 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 March 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.

Gene Kelly, Chairman