

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
May 21, 2018 – 7:00 PM  
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 7:07 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	Keith Heithoff	Ted Hughes
Gene Kelly	John Meuret	Michael Moser	Aaron Rice	Roy Stewart
Chip Whitaker				

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Curtis Gotschall      Jim Keller

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Brandon Peterson, NRCS O’Neill  
Marv Fritz, O’Neill

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

**MINUTES:**

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

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:**

None

## **AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:**

**NARD Report:** The next board meeting is scheduled for June 11 in conjunction with the basin tour of the Lower Platte and Nemaha River Basins.

**DNR Report:** No Report.

**NRCS Report:** Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they are busy writing EQIP contracts and 21 out of the 42 pre-approved applications have been obligated. This does not include the 19 applications pre-approved in 2017 in the Bazile area, which that state is still hoping to fund. The CSP program is currently on hold and they are not authorizing any more CRP acres at this time. Brandon also reported that Nebraska will be getting 16 new hires across the state; however, this is only a portion of the current open positions. Brandon also reported that Kristen Melcher is doing well in the Neligh office and now has her fully computer access.

**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 on the current Chemigation program; and, the remaining applications that are due June 1. To date the district has received approximately 1000 applications out of the 2500 plus that are expected. Beth has received some calls regarding cooperators not permitting their bean fields because there would not be a fee penalty.

**Water Resources Report and ELM Update:** Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah discussed the bullet points she included in her report regarding the Spencer Hydro Dam purchase agreement. She also reported that the static water level data has been entered and she will be analyzing the data in the upcoming month. The Voluntary IMP meeting is scheduled for May 30 at the Community Center in O'Neill and will begin at 6:00 PM. A LiDAR training has also been scheduled for June which will aid in the analysis of groundwater data.

**Bazile Management Area:** Phil Steinkamp's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah Nevison reported that they received 31% of the surveys back and they will be analyzing the responses to generate a report. The group is also moving forward in the hopes of getting an Extension agent position to help in the Bazile area.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

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

## **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. Roy Stewart reported that they discussed the current postage meter charges and other various options considering the agreement is expiring at the end of June. Staff has been instructed to review the new agreement and get the best value. Once the agreement is

ready, Andrea will forward it to the committee for approval. Beth Walsh also reported that the NRD has received a notification from the web host regarding a secure site. The search engine Google will be updating their security and sites without a SSL upgrade will begin sending messages that say "Your connection is not private". We can upgrade our website security through our website host effective for two years for \$300.

- **Action on Current Bills and Cost-share Requests:** ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to pay the current bills, website security proposal and postage meter contract after the updated contract is confirmed by the LBF Committee. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall & Keller. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Water Resources & Watershed Committee:** The committee met prior to the board meeting

- **Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** None
- **Voluntary IMP Meeting Schedule-Stakeholders Meeting May 30, 2018:** John Meuret reported that Katie Hatfield-Edstrom with HDR, attended the committee meeting and reviewed the process for the upcoming V-IMP/Stakeholders meeting. Katie will be leading the meeting and she will give a brief overview and discuss "Why" the V-IMP is important. There will be a question period to stimulate conversation regarding the plan; and, then a 15 minute public comment period. There have been questions regarding how the stakeholders were picked. John explained that these were the names asked for by staff and submitted by the Directors. There was also a concern that the group might be weighted toward a specific water user which will hopefully be remedied once the group meets. If there is more representation needed from a certain area then it can be solicited by members of the group or interested parties. This is a public meeting so anyone may attend. The meeting will run from 6:00 PM May 30, 2018 to 8:00 PM at the O'Neill Community Center.
- **Water Quality Phase III Discussions:** The committee continues to work on the rules and regulations for Phase III of the GWMP. The committee may hold a mid-month meeting to further discuss this issue. If any of the other Directors have any ideas please contact a committee member.

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

- **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** No Report.
- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that the purchase agreement was sent out in the Directors packets for further review. Dennis reviewed the action/non-action taken to date by the other Alliance members. A couple of the members would like to meet with Game & Parks representatives to discuss their intentions regarding moving forward; however, the majority of the Alliance members continue to be supportive at this time. Discussion was again held regarding the maintenance of the facility and expenses if the purchase were to be completed. ⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Ted Hughes to support the purchase agreement for the Spencer Hydro Facility at 3% not to exceed \$100,000; with maintenance to be determined at a later date. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: Dierks & Rice. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall & Keller. MOTION CARRIED.**
- **Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover):** Dennis Schueth reported that Game and Parks is considering listing two species to the endangered list, 4 species to the threatened list; and, proposing removing the North American River Otter. The list was distributed to the Directors at the board meeting. The NHCC was formed to monitor the various threatened and endangered species and the effects it could have regarding water management in Nebraska. Mark Czaplewski, CPNRD, has been keeping the Coalition up-to-date on these issues.
- **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 in the NRD office. Dennis distributed the Nebraska Statewide Groundwater-Level Monitoring Report to the board members. He reported that John Vogel and Forrest Peetz will be vying for the Board of Director vacancy in Sub-district 2 in November general election. The Middle Niobrara NRD has planned two opportunities for staff and directors to get together to discuss various issues relating to the NRDs. The staff outing is scheduled for July 17-18 and the outing for Directors is scheduled for August 21 & 22. Anyone interested in attending should contact Dennis. Dennis also noted a handout in the Director packets showing a breakdown of obligated EQIP contracts over the past few years.

The next board meeting will be held June 25, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the NRD office in O'Neill.

⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Michael Moser to adjourn the board meeting at 8:12 PM.**

**AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall & Keller. 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 May 21, 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