

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 27, 2017 -- 2:30 P.M.
O'Neill, NE**

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; and, the open meetings law posting were all noted at 2:35 P.M. by Chairman Gene Kelly.

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	Dale Wiles		

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Roy Stewart

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brandon Peterson, NRCS Office – O'Neill
Donita Pokorny – Dana F Cole
John Engel – HDR – Omaha, NE
Dustin Wilcox – NARD – Lincoln, NE
Phil Steinkamp – Bazile Groundwater Management Project Coordinator

AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

⇒ It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to approve the October Treasurers Report. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:

None

DANA F COLE UENRD 2016-2017 AUDIT REPORT:

Donita Pokorny, Dana F Cole, attended the board meeting to review the audit with the Directors and answer any questions. Donita reviewed the audit report explaining the different aspects of the audit. She reported that they did not find any significant issues while conducting the audit. ⇒ **It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Keith Heithoff to accept the 2016-2017 Audit. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.**

LOWER PLATTE RIVER BASIN COALITION – BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN – JOHN ENGEL, HDR:

John Engel reviewed the list of members to the coalition; the basin areas; the purposes of the project and its activities; the plan components and recommendations; and, the tools used to put the plan together. The plan has been developed to be pro-active in the management of groundwater and surface water. The original funding for the project is still available for implementation and the cost to the district would be in reporting the activities we have already implemented. If approved the plan would be in effect for five years at which time the plan could be re-evaluated and updated. ⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Ted Hughes to enter into the Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition Interlocal Cooperative Agreement. AYE: Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser & Whitaker. NAY: Bartak & Wiles. ABSTAIN: Rice. ABSENT: Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.**

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Ted Hughes attended the November 6th meeting in Beatrice. He reported on the NARD Foundation requests for the upcoming year and employee benefit changes. Upcoming meetings include the NARD Legislative Conference January 23-24, 2018; NACD Annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee January 27-31, 2018; and, the Annual Washington D.C. Conference March 17-22, 2018. Following the NARD meeting the Risk Pool met. Ted reported that the risk pool is approximately \$180,000 to the positive after the first quarter.

DNR Report: Dennis Schueth distributed Garry Anderson's report to the Directors. The report addressed the scoring recommendations for Water Sustainability Fund applications and recommendations for funding the projects.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that the EQIP deadline was November 17 and they will begin ranking applications. They received 173 EQIP applications between the three offices serving the UENRD. They are working on finishing up 25 re-enrolled CSP contracts; and, Brandon reviewed the CRP contract numbers for the UENRD.

Holt County Extension Agent – Amy Timmerman: No Report.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that the RC&D is focusing on recycling efforts at this time.

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 reported that the UENRD has received certification information from the Secretary of State's office for the 2018 elections. Directors whose term will expire in 2018 include; Jim Keller, Dale Wiles, Chip Whitaker, John Meuret, Aaron Rice, Michael Moser and Chris Dierks. Filing forms were provided for those Directors who will need to file for another term by February 15, 2018. Directors will be responsible for filing their election forms. Beth reminded the board that the Legislative Conference will be held January 23-24, 2018 at the

Embassy Suites in Lincoln. A sign-up sheet was distributed. Attendees will be confirmed at the December meeting.

Water Resources Report: Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Director's packets. Sarah reviewed the public hearing information with the Directors as well as the informational meetings. Kelly Kloppenborg and Wayne Frederick have been busy working on measuring static water levels and flowmeter readings. Sarah distributed information regarding the Nebraska Public Service Commission's approval of the Alternative Keystone XL pipeline route. Approximately 50 miles of the pipeline would be within the UENRD.

Bazile Management Area: Phil Steinkamp, new Project Coordinator, attended the board meeting and introduced himself and reviewed his background. Phil distributed a flyer promoting the project and Best Management Practices eligible for cost share funding. He is also working with the area consultants to spread the word on the project and generate interest in the cost share programs.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Budget and Finance Committee: The Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the current bills.

1. **Action on Current Bills and Cost share Requests:** ⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Dale Wiles to pay the current bills. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

1. **Groundwater Acre Certification/Acre Transfers Issues:** None.
2. **October 2017 Groundwater Irrigation Acre Expansion-Applications:** The Committee reviewed the Expansion of Groundwater Irrigated Acre applications and ranking. John Meuret provided an overview of the applications and the map of where the acres were located. ⇒ It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the Expansion of Groundwater Irrigated Acre Applications which ranked over the minimum score of 140 points for a total of 699 new groundwater irrigated acres. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.**
3. **UENRD Rule 27-Static Water Triggering and Info Meetings. Public Hearing-December 18, 1:30 -2:30 PM O'Neill Community Center-Hearing Officer:** There will be a Public Hearing December 18, 2017 at 1:30 PM at the O'Neill Community Center regarding Rule 27 in the UENRD Groundwater Management Plan. There will be 3 informational meetings prior to the public hearing and Directors are encouraged to attend the meetings in their area. ⇒ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Jim Keller to appoint Gene Kelly Hearing Officer for the December 18, 2017 Public Hearing and John Meuret Alternate. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Moser, Rice, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Kelly & Meuret. **ABSENT:** Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **2017 Groundwater Nitrate Results:** Maps depicting the average nitrate results from 2017 were distributed and reviewed. The 20 year trend line was also discussed.
5. **GMDA Conference-Baton Rouge, Louisiana January 17-19, 2018:** Information regarding the conference was distributed. Anyone interested in attending should contact the office.

COALITIONS UPDATE:

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: This item was covered earlier in the agenda.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance: Dennis Schueth reported that the final agreement is ready for review and they will be scheduling a meeting. Instream flow information was also distributed to the board.

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 directors packets prior to the board meeting. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office. Dennis' report was covered under the previous agenda items.

UENRD MONTHLY BOARD MEETING -DECEMBER 18, 2017:

The next regular meeting of the UENRD will be held December 18, 2017 at the O'Neill Community Center at 2:30 PM.

⇒ **It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Ted Hughes to adjourn the board meeting at 4:25 PM. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 P.M.

I, the undersigned Secretary 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 November 27, 2017 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, Secretary/Treasurer