

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 23, 2017 -- 7:00 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 were noted; and, the open meetings law posting were all noted at 7:07 P.M. by Chairman Gene Kelly.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Mark Carpenter	Chris Dierks	Curtis Gotschall	Ted Hughes	Jim Keller
Gene Kelly	John Meuret	Roy Stewart	Chip Whitaker	Dale Wiles

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Gary Bartak	Keith Heithoff	Michael Moser	Aaron Rice
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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
Andrea Fisher, Administrative Secretary
Beth Walsh, Information & Education/Chemigation Coordinator
Jake Morten, Forestry Wildlife and Resource Conservationist

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brandon Peterson – NRCS – O'Neill, NE
Brian Frey – Tilden, NE
Amy Timmerman, UNL Extension – O'Neill, NE

AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

PUBLIC FORUM – INPUT / COMMENTS:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Ted Hughes reported that the NARD board met in Kearney following the conference. They accepted the audit report and voted to change lobbyist firms. The next meeting will be held in November in Beatrice. The Risk Pool also met and accepted the audit. The account is in the positive at this time and they are planning to rebalance some of the accounts.

- **NARD Resolutions Approved-Action by UENRD:** Dennis Schueth reported that both resolutions will be moving forward.

DNR Report: No Report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported on the number of EQIP, CSP and CRP contracts for the UENRD area. There were a total of 76 EQIP contracts for \$2,148,678; 12 CSP contracts for \$190,843; and, 117 new CRP contacts.

Holt County Extension Agent – Amy Timmerman: Amy attended the board meeting to discuss the Irrigation Field Day held in September. They had approximately 50 attendees and 90 vendors attend. Amy asked for ideas to improve the attendance and noted that she will be contacting board members for their input. Some felt the poor attendance could be due to scheduling, repetitive information or the fact that so much information is available on the internet. Some of the ideas presented at the meeting to boost attendance included: free meal, new technology, hands-on demonstrations or something very unique. Amy also reported that due to the poor attendance that it will be difficult to recruit vendors for next year's event. If you have any ideas for the 2018 field day, contact Amy.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that the North Central RC&D has been busy working on recycling programs.

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. The status of the new website was discussed. Beth reported that she has submitted the revisions from the draft and they will be making the updates. It should not be much longer before the launch of the updated site.

Water Resources Report and ELM Update: Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Director's packets. Sarah reported that there have been 19 applications for the expansion of groundwater irrigated acres with four that did not meet the minimum score for 741 acres. Inspections have been completed regarding the 2016 acre expansion with all cooperators meeting the requirements. Sarah also passed out the updated Groundwater Nitrates map for the Directors to review. This will be discussed further at next months meeting.

Bazile Management Area: Phil Steinkamp has started as the new Bazile Groundwater Management Project Coordinator. There will be a meeting in November with all the participating NRDs to discuss the progress of the project. Also, Kristie Olmer, LENRD, has taken over the grant reporting portion of the project.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Budget and Finance Committee: The Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Roy Stewart reported that the committee opened the sealed bids for the sale of the Chevy Traverse. There were 9 bids. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Dale Wiles to accept the bid for \$8801. AYE: Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles.**

NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Heithoff, Moser & Rice. MOTION CARRIED.

- 1. Action on Current Bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee reviewed the current bills, bank statements and accounts receivable. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Dale Wiles to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Heithoff, Moser & Rice. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

- 1. Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** There were no requests to review.
- 2. October 2017 GW Irrigation Acre Expansion – Sign-up & Update:** The Committee reviewed two requests from Landowners regarding the designation of their expansion of groundwater irrigated acres. The first one dealt with historically irrigated ground in the quarter and how the expansion acres could be designated; and, the second was regarding whether or not the expansion could be considered finishing off a pivot. Brian Frey attended the meeting to discuss his application for the expansion of new groundwater irrigated acres; organic farming as it relates to no-till; percentage of sodbusting; on-line processing; flowmeters and cost share deadlines; water sensors; split application and nitrogen certification meetings. ⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Mark Carpenter to accept the Frey application for expanding in the N1/2 NE 28-24-5; and, reject the Soper request regarding finishing a pivot since he does not own all the land involved in the request. AYE: Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Heithoff, Moser & Rice. MOTION CARRIED.**
- 3. Advertisement to hold Public Meeting on Static Water Level Rules and Regulations Update:** The Committee discussed holding a public hearing in December regarding the static water level triggering mechanisms for the GWMP. ⇒ **It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Jim Keller to hold the Public Hearing regarding the Static Water Level Triggering Mechanisms December 18, 2017. AYE: Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Heithoff, Moser & Rice. MOTION CARRIED.**

ACTION ON 2011 CHEVY TRAVERSE: This item was covered under the Legislative, Budget and Finance Committee.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: Dennis Schueth handed out the interlocal cooperative agreement and action items list for the Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition. He reviewed the final draft of the plan and the list of goals and objectives. The Plan is to manage both ground and surface water for the future. The agreement will be for 5 years at which time it will be re-evaluated by all the parties involved.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance – Staff voting alternate: Dennis Schueth reported that there was good attendance at the meeting in September. There are still a lot of questions to be answered regarding the Spencer Hydro Dam proposal. The Alliance is proposing a meeting with DNR in November to discuss the status of the Niobrara basin; and, future plans for the Alliance. Dennis also reported that the NG&P has applied for a grant; and, DNR has approved the instream flow application on the Niobrara River.

Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover): No Report.

Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition: No Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Dennis Schueth's report was mailed out to the directors prior to the board meeting in their packets. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office. Dennis called upon Jake Morten, Forestry, Wildlife and Resource Conservationist, to report on the 2017 Tree Program. Jake reported that he went out and visited tree planting sites from the past spring. He handed out a report noting the number of trees planted and the survival rate at those sites. Dennis discussed the bids he has received regarding the warehouse roof. He would like to move forward with the warehouse roof project which was included in the 2017-2018 budget.

⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Chris Dierks to accept the bid from Beckman Lumber.**

AYE: Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Heithoff, Moser & Rice. MOTION CARRIED.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING:

The next regular board meeting of the Upper Elkhorn NRD will be held November 27, 2017 at 2:30 PM at the O'Neill office.

⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Mark Carpenter to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:45 PM.**

AYE: Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Heithoff, Moser & Rice. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 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 October 23, 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.

Dale Wiles, Secretary/Treasurer