

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
October 15, 2018 -- 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 7:05 P.M. by Chairman Gene Kelly.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Gary Bartak	Mark Carpenter	Chris Dierks	Keith Heithoff	Ted Hughes
Gene Kelly	Michael Moser	Aaron Rice	Roy Stewart	
Chip Whitaker (arr. 7:12 PM)				

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Curtis Gotschall	Jim Keller	John Meuret
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**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dennis Schueth, General Manager  
Joslynn Vanderslice, Water Resources Manager  
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician  
Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician  
Andrea Fisher, Administrative Secretary  
Beth Walsh, Information & Education/Chemigation Coordinator

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Brandon Peterson – NRCS – O'Neill, NE  
Kevin Blair – Brunswick, NE  
Sarah Nevison – Milford, NE

**AGENDA:**

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

**MINUTES:**

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

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM – INPUT / COMMENTS:**

None

Whitaker arrived at 7:12 PM

**AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:**

**NARD Report:** Gene Kelly attended the NARD board meeting following the annual conference. Gene reported that they reviewed the audit report which noted that due to the size of the NARD staff it was difficult to segregate certain duties regarding internal control. He also noted that a deposit in transit to the bank is missing or has been lost. NARD is requesting replacement checks at this time and discussing how this can be avoided in the future. Otherwise there were no issues with the audit. Following the board meeting, the Risk Pool held its meeting. The number of members in the plan last year was 721 and is currently 735. The program balance at this time is approximately \$5 million. The NARD Foundation has a total equity of approximately \$490,000 and almost \$24,000 was raised during the annual conference. Orville Gigstad also reported on attending the NACD conference.

**DNR Report:** No Report.

**NRCS Report:** Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Since NRCS is operating under a new budget, Brandon gave an update on the program numbers from the past year for EQIP, CSP and CRP. Pheasants Forever has interviewed and hired a replacement for Ryan Lodge and they will be starting later this month. The job announcement for the Soil Conservationist closed in September and they hope to fill this position by the end of the year.

**Holt County Extension Agent – Amy Timmerman:** Amy is planning to attend the meeting in November.

**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 Director's packets. Beth reported that reminder ads have gone out for the expansion of groundwater irrigated acres signup.

**Water Resources Report and ELM Update:** Joslynn Vanderslice, new Water Resources Manager, was introduced and she gave a brief description of her background. Sarah Nevison's reported that the Phase III informational meetings have been scheduled for October 23 & 24. October 23 at 1:00 PM in Bassett; October 23 in O'Neill at 5:30 PM; and, October 24 at 1:00 PM in Neligh. They will consist of a short Powerpoint presentation and question and answer. The public hearing for the UENRD Voluntary Integrated Management Plan is scheduled for November 28.

**Bazile Management Area:** Phil Steinkamp's report was mailed out in the director packets. Joslynn handed out comments from the recent BGMA meeting held October 10. They discussed upcoming events and the set up and plan for the meeting with the crop consultants, NRD and agency personnel. This meeting will take place October 30 at the LENRD in Norfolk.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Legislative, Budget and Finance Committee:** The Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee met prior to the Board meeting. The Committee reviewed the current bills, bank statements and accounts receivable. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall, Keller & Meuret. MOTION CARRIED.** Discussion was also held on the Big Red Motorsports bill, weed barrier order, investments and their security.

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

- 1. Voluntary Integrated management Plant (V-IMP) Update:** Dennis Schueth reported that he has received the draft V-IMP which includes the comments/edits from the NDNR. Dennis reviewed the document with the board and noted that there were a lot of formatting changes, statutory corrections, comments regarding DNR's portion of the plan and clarification as to following the LPRBC plan where necessary. However, the overall intent of the plan as far as the UENRD is concerned was not changed. The tracking and reporting of the water uses was also presented. ⇒ **It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Mark Carpenter to accept the changes to the draft V-IMP, submit UENRD tracking reporting and controls, send letter to NeDNR and move forward to the Public Hearing on November 28, 2018. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall, Keller & Meuret. MOTION CARRIED.** The public hearing will be held November 28, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the O'Neill Community Center.
- 2. 2018-19 Groundwater Acre Expansion – Update:** Mark Carpenter reported that the UENRD has received 11 applications for 476 acres. Of the applications received, 6 are for less than 15 acres; while 5 are for greater than 15 acres. The larger applications are for 32, 79, 79, 96 and 136 acres respectfully.
- 3. Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues-Update:** None
- 4. Water Quality Phase III Information Meetings:** Dennis Schueth reviewed the Phase III draft, comments and change suggested by the district attorney. Discussion was held again regarding the triggering levels in the draft. ⇒ **It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Ted Hughes to change the initial triggering amount to 40 pounds per acre and adjust the levels accordingly. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser & Stewart. NAY: Rice & Whitaker. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall, Keller & Meuret. MOTION CARRIED.** ⇒ **It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Mark Carpenter to accept the changes submitted by Blankenau Wilmoth Jarecke LLP. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall, Keller & Meuret. 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 reported that the ELM model has been completed and he will invite Steve Pederson, USGS, to present the model to the board.

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that the Alliances application to the WSF was denied. The Alliance will be looking for ways to improve their chances of receiving funds from the Water Sustainability Fund.

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

**Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition:** Dennis Schueth reported that due to the retirement of Mike Onnen, the Little Blue NRD Assistant Manager will fill in as Secretary/Treasurer of the group until Mike's replacement is found.

**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 reported that he has received a request from the Village of Chambers for a donation for a Splashpad; however, it is not an item the NRD would normally help fund. He also informed the board of the NPAIT scholarship program available for members of the program.

**NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING:**

The next regular board meeting of the Upper Elkhorn NRD will be held November 26, 2018 at 2:30 PM at the O'Neill office.

⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Mark Carpenter to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:11 PM. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Gotschall, Keller & Meuret. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 P.M.

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 October 15, 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