

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 26, 2021
O'Neill, Nebraska**

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Michael Moser. The meeting was advertised in the Holt County Independent, the official NRD newspaper, and a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted for public review.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Kevin Blair	Chris Dierks	Cody Frank	Marv Fritz	Curtis Gotschall
Keith Heithoff	Jim Keller	Gene Kelly	Michael Moser	Aaron Rice
Roy Stewart	Art Tanderup	John Vogel		

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Gary Bartak Chip Whitaker

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brandon Peterson – NRCS – O'Neill, NE
Kris Cornell – Newport, NE
Tammy Cline – Newport, NE
Brandon Loughrin – Miller & Associates - Kearney, NE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

⇒ It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Keith Heithoff to adopt the agenda. **AYE:** Blair, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak, Frank & Whitaker. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

The minutes of the March Meeting were reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Jim Keller to approve the minutes of the March Meeting. **AYE:** Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak, Rice & Whitaker. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TREASURERS REPORT:

The March treasurers report was reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Art Tanderup to approve the March Treasurers Report. **AYE:** Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak, Rice & Whitaker. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC FORUM- INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: No report.

DNR Report: No report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the board members. Brandon reported that they have been busy writing EQIP contracts which are due May 21. April 16 was the CSP deadline and they are waiting to see if any of these contracts get approved. The NRCS offices are currently staffed at 50% with limited producer access. Brandon also read a statement issued by Acting Nebraska State Conservationist Jeff Vander Wilt regarding the President's executive order known as 30X30.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that they are gearing up for their electronics recycling program.

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.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn Vanderslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that static water level readings have been completed and the report will be ready next month. Eighty-three percent of the Phase II fields are in compliance and a list of non compliant fields were included in the director folders. A Phase II reporting reminder letter will be mailed out shortly. Joslynn also referenced the new acre expansion summary map and flowmeter readings map.

Bazile Groundwater Management Area-Report: Whitney Gappa and Jeremy Milander's reports were mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that work is beginning on the demo sites; they are injecting wood chips to study carbon sequestration; and, the field day is scheduled for September 9.

Holt County Extension: No Report.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

⇒It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Cody Frank to excuse the absence of Gary Bartak and Chip Whitaker. **AYE:** Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak & Whitaker. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEWPORT FLOOD PROJECT: MILLER & ASSOCIATES: BRANDON LOUGHRIN:

Brandon Loughrin from Miller and Associates in Kearney attended the meeting on behalf of the Village of Newport to review their flooding issues. The Village of Newport is requesting financial help to conduct a study regarding the drainage and flooding occurring within the Village. The survey and report are projected to cost \$20,000. There are 70 households in Newport that would benefit from the study. This request will be reviewed by the WRWS Committee for a recommendation at the next board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMENDATIONS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee: The Committee met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the list of current bills to be paid, accounts receivable, bank statements and cost share requests.

- 1. Action of Current Bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee reviewed the current bills. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Jim Keller to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.**
- 2. Automatic-Direct Deposit:** The Committee reviewed the procedure regarding payroll/per-diem direct deposit. Roy Stewart reported that the fees to do direct deposit would be more than it costs now printing and sending out checks. The Committee recommended no changes to payroll at this time.

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

- 1. Groundwater Acre Expansion-Transfer Application Request or Issues:** The Committee reviewed a request from a landowner regarding a discrepancy in their groundwater certified irrigated acres. ⇒ **It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Gene Kelly to approve 4.41 additional certified irrigated acres N1/2 NW 1-25-9. AYE: Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Moser. ABSENT: Bartak & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.** The Committee also reviewed a request for the addition of historically irrigated acres. ⇒ **It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Chris Dierks to approve the historical acres requested for the NW 7-28-9 and SW 6-28-9 at 95%. AYE: Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.** The Committee also discussed the request to change the irrigation distribution system on a previously approved Expansion of Groundwater Irrigated Acres piece of ground. ⇒ **It was moved by Keith Heithoff and seconded by Aaron Rice to approve the irrigation distribution system change from drip irrigation to a center pivot on NW NE 15-26-7 and NW NW 14-26-7. AYE: Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Tanderup. NAY: Vogel. ABSTAIN: Stewart. ABSENT: Bartak & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.**

Personnel, Equipment, Promotion & Education Committee: The Committee met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the Senior Scholarship applications, website issues and vehicle recommendations.

- 1. Administrative Secretary Update:** Dennis Schueth reported that Krissy McClintic was hired and will begin training with Andrea Fisher May 3.
- 2. UENRD Scholarship Recipients and Alternate:** ⇒ **It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to award Senior Scholarships to Kirsten Krebs (Pope John XXIII Elgin), Brooke Ehlers (Chambers), Morgan Erhardt (Summerland); and, Emily Fischer (Plainview) as the alternate. AYE: Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.**
- 3. UENRD Website:** Since the company that developed and hosted the UENRD website has gone out of business, the NRD will need to make other arrangements regarding the website. There are different options available and Beth Walsh will compile some different options and present them to the Committee next month.
- 4. UENRD Vehicle Replacement:** Wayne Frederick reviewed the options for cycling out the 2012 Dodge Ram 2500 Crew Cab (111,000 Miles) and replacing it with a new vehicle funded through the fertilizer fee and the trade-in allowance. ⇒ **It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to authorize UENRD staff to go up to \$32,103 of the fertilizer fee and trade in allowance for a new pickup; and, look outside the NRD if necessary. AYE: Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.**

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** The Alliance met April 1 in Ord. The final documents should be coming. Also, the NG&Ps grant has been awarded a one-year extension.
- **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** They will be a meeting held April 27 in person at the LLNRD and by Zoom.
- **Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover) Alternate Representative:** No Report.
- **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 that the UENRD has received its trees and have starting planting.
- Dennis has received a request to support a NG&Ps grant for controlled burns through the RCPP program. The grant would be distributed through the Lewis and Clark NRD. More discussion will be held on May 24, 2021.
- Discussion regarding the Newport drainage study was brought up again. ⇒ **It was moved by Keith Heithoff and seconded by Jim Keller to allocate \$5,000 to the Village of Newport toward the study. AYE: Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: Blair. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.**
- Dennis reported that he has been made aware of a situation within the district. It seems as though a cooperater has a tile system which is draining into an upright riser which is then mechanically discharging into a ditch. It is unknown at this time if this activity is in the best interest of the natural resources and the area.

MAY BOARD MEETING:

The next regular board meeting date is May 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM with committee meetings scheduled prior to the board meeting.

⇒ **It was moved by Keith Heithoff and seconded by Gene Kelly to adjourn at 8:20 PM. AYE: Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.**

I, the undersigned Secretary/Treasurer 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 April 26, 2021 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