

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 19, 2021 -- 2:30 P.M.
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. The statement of advertisement and the open meetings law posting were all noted at 2:34 P.M. by Chairman Michael Moser.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Gary Bartak	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	Chip Whitaker

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Dennis Schueth, General Manager
Beth Walsh, Information & Education Coordinator
Joslynn Vanderslice, Water Resources Manager
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician
Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician
Brett Sholes, Agronomy Resources Technician
Aron Lewis, Forestry, Wildlife & Resource Conservationist - Zoom
Andrea Fisher, Administrative Secretary - Zoom

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brandon Peterson – NRCS – O'Neill
Jeffrey Steffens – Healthy Soils Task Force

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

ELECTION OF UENRD BOARD OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES:

Election of Chairman: In the past the Vice Chairman has moved into the Chairman position; however, Vice Chairman Aaron Rice declined. Keith Heithoff nominated Michael Moser. There being no further nominations, ⇒ It was moved by Gary Bartak and seconded by Keith Heithoff to close nominations and elect Michael Moser Chairman. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Moser. **ABSENT:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Election of Vice-Chairman: Chris Dierks nominated Keith Heithoff for Vice Chairman. There being no further nominations, ⇒ It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by John Vogel to close nominations and elect Keith Heithoff Vice Chairman. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Heithoff. **ABSENT:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Election of Secretary/Treasurer: ⇒It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Jim Keller to nominate Gene Kelly for Secretary/Treasurer of the Upper Elkhorn NRD Board of Directors; and, Marv Fritz as the Alternate. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Fritz & Kelly. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Election of NARD Representative: Since the retirement of Ted Hughes, NARD Representative, it is necessary to elect a new NARD Representative and Alternate. ⇒It was moved by Marv Fritz and seconded by Chris Dierks to nominate Gene Kelly for NARD Representative. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Kelly. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Election of NARD Alternate: ⇒It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Gene Kelly to nominate Chris Dierks for NARD Alternate. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Dierks. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Election of RC&D Representatives: Discussion was held regarding keeping the same RC&D representation; however, with Ted Hughes retiring his position on the Northeast RC&D would need to be filled. ⇒It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Jim Keller to have the RC&D Representation for the UENRD remain the same with the exception that Cody Frank will be the Northeast RC&D Delegate. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Northeast RC&D: Delegate – Cody Frank Alternate – Kevin Blair

North Central RC&D: Delegate – Jim Keller Alternate – Curtis Gotschall

Loup Basin RC&D: Delegate – Chris Dierks Alternate – Gary Bartak

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT OR COMMENTS:

None

HEALTHY SOILS TASK FORCE UPDATE – JEFF STEFFENS:

Jeffrey Steffens, Healthy Soils Task Force member, attended the meeting to update the board regarding the work of the task force. He reviewed the task force members and goals. He also discussed how he has implemented a healthy soils program on his own farm. The report will be going to the Governor for his review and possible implementation.

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: The NARD Legislative Conference is scheduled for January 25 & 26 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Due to the directed health measures in place by the City of Lincoln, the Embassy Suites is limited to 25% capacity for the conference. There will be in-person and virtual options for the conference. Since the conference will be proceeding voting delegates will be needed. ⇒ **It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Jim Keller to appoint Gene Kelly as the UENRD voting delegate; and, Chris Dierks alternate for the 2021 NARD Legislative Conference. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.** Dennis Schueth handout a list of the current legislative bills and reviewed the ones that pertain to the NRDs for board input.

DNR Report: Dennis Schueth reported that the Elkhorn River Basin Caucus was held January 12, 2021. Kent Zimmerman, DNR, was present to conduct the meeting to elect a representative for the Elkhorn River Basin to the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission. Representatives from both the Lower Elkhorn NRD and Upper Elkhorn NRD were present at the meeting. Garry Anderson from Dixon, NE was elected as the representative.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they are working on ranking EQIP applications. The deadline for CSP applications is March 26; and, general CRP sign-up deadline is February 19. There will be a meeting of the local workgroup February 10th to discuss aspects and the current ranking criteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The Unfunded Cooperative Agreement is completed and will need to be signed. ⇒ **It was moved by John Vogel and seconded by Chris Dierks to approve signing the Cooperative Agreement with NRCS. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Keller. MOTION CARRIED.**

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 reviewed the changes to the Legislative Conference; and, reviewed the directors that had originally signed up. Beth will contact those directors to confirm their plans on attendance whether it be in-person or virtually.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn Vanderslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that the dates for the Nitrogen Certification classes have been set and a list of the dates was handed out. Brett Sholes, Agronomy Resources Technician, reviewed the Phase III soil sampling results. Fifty-three out of this year's 100 sites triggered over the 40 pounds of residual nitrogen. Discussion was held regarding the sampling, auger versus probe. Brett will be following up with the landowners who triggered in Phase III. Phase II nitrogen comparison letters will be going out to cooperators who have filled their Phase II reports comparing their nitrogen use to the UNL recommendation. Joslynn also reported that we are still short Phase II reports; and, reminder letters will be going out to these cooperators.

Bazile Management Report: Connor Baldwin has been filling in for the BGMA until a new coordinator is hired. Interviews are scheduled for January 22, 2021. The new website has been launched and is up and running. They are planning 3 virtual meetings at the end of February and first part of March. These meetings will also qualify for the Nitrogen certification requirements.

UNL Extension: Amy Timmerman reported on Chemigation and Pesticide Training. All classes will require pre-registration.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning: The Committee met prior to the board meeting and selected Roy Stewart as Chairman.

- 1. Action on Current bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee reviewed the current bills. There were no cost share requests. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by John Vogel to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.** Roy Stewart also reported that the Accounts Receivable and bank statements looked to be in good standing.
- 2. Review of 2021 Legislative Bills:** The legislative bills were reviewed earlier in the agenda.

Water Resources & Watershed: The Committee met prior to the board meeting and selected Aaron Rice Chairman and Marv Fritz Vice Chairman.

- 1. Groundwater Acre Expansion/Certification/Transfer Issues:** The Committee reviewed one transfer request which met all the criteria and had all the paperwork completed. ⇒ **It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Gene Kelly to approve the Groundwater Certified Irrigated Acre transfer. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.** A request was also submitted by a landowner asking for the certification of historically irrigated acres. ⇒ **It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Gene Kelly to approve the certification of the historical acres. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.**
- 2. Full Board Policy Issues Meeting:** Transfer acres were briefly discussed and put on hold until the upcoming policy meeting.

Personnel, Equipment, Promotion and Education Committee: The Committee met prior to the board meeting and selected Chris Dierks Chairman and Curtis Gotschall Vice Chairman.

COALITIONS UPDATE:

- **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** The Managers Committee will be meeting February 3, 2021 at 9:30 AM.
- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** There are no updates at this time. Not sure why the review and transfer process is taking so long.
- **Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover):** No Report.
- **Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition:** No Report.

DIRECTOR AND STAFF RECOGNITION AND AWARDS:

Dennis Schueth recognized Directors Michael Moser, Gary Bartak, Chip Whitaker, Chris Dierks and Jim Keller for their years of service to the UENRD. Dennis also recognized staff members Andrea Fischer, Kelly Kloppenborg and Mary Zak for their years of service.

FULL BOARD POLICY ISSUE MEETING – FEBRUARY:

There will be a meeting of the full board of directors February 18, 2021 at 2:00 PM to discuss district policies, rules and regulations, etc.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Dennis Schueth's report was mailed out in the Director's packets. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office. These items were discussed under previous agenda items.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:

The next regular board meeting will be held February 22, 2021 at 2:30 pm. Committee meetings will be held prior to the board meeting.

⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Jim Keller to adjourn at 4:37 p.m. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. 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 January 19, 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