

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 28, 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:

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

GUESTS:

Brandon Peterson – NRCS, O’Neill, NE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Gene Kelly reported that he attended the Association meeting June 6, 7 & 8 in Omaha. Gene reviewed the NARD budget; NARD Foundation expenditures; and, the Risk Pool. It was noted that insurance premiums will be going up 5% this fiscal year; aspects of the Dental program will be updated; and, the flex will be changing. There was a request that Jennifer Swanson, NRD/NDEE liaison spend more office time at NDEE. This request is being worked out by both parties. The 30 x 30 plan was discussed and there may be a resolution coming forth at the NARD annual conference. Awards were announced and recognition will take place during Husker Harvest Days and the annual conference.

DNR Report: No Report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson, O'Neill NRCS office, mailed his report out to the Directors. Brandon reported that EQIP contracts have been written and are waiting for funds to be obligated. The CSP program has been highly competitive this year and they were only able to fund one contract. CRP sign up is still underway. The NRCS National Office is busy putting together a plan to re-open their offices which will have to be approved by the President. NRCS offices are currently staffed at 50% and will allow one producer in at a time.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that the RC&D had a booth at the Sandhills Expo and promoted their 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. Beth reported that she has been busy with Chemigation and scheduling this past month. She also reported that each NRD has been asked to provide 2 judges for the upcoming NCF Envirothon. Art Tanderup has agreed to be a judge for the competition, so we have one spot remaining. We have also entered into an agreement with Hollman Media for the website update.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn VanDerslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that we are at approximately 88% of Phase II reports received. There are 301 tracts still left to report with 137 of those tracts never having a report filed for them. The update to the GWMP rules and regulations is in the final draft stage. Directors should review the copy in their packets and let staff know if there are any questions or concerns. Joslynn also reviewed the Voluntary IMP meeting with NDNR; and, reviewed the handout from the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition on the annual review of water allowances.

Bazile Management Report: Whitney Gappa and Jeremy Milander submitted reports which were mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn Vanderslice reported that the cover crops are doing well and sprouting. They are also posting weekly updates of the demo sites to social media. The BGMA project will be attending the field day at Haskel Lab; and, September 9 is the date for the Bazile field day. Dennis Schueth also reported that the group has been working on the Project Implementation Plan (PIP).

UNL - Holt County Extension Agent: No Report.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

None

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 23 – NRD WRITTEN SUBMITTAL: Dennis Schueth reviewed the LR 23 request. Dennis shared his LR 23 progress report with the Directors and requested support for submission. ⇨ **It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Keith Heithoff to accept the UENRD LR 23 report and forward to the Natural Resources Committee. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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.

- **Action on Current Bills and 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.**
- **Juneteenth Independence Holiday Designated – Governor Ricketts:** Dennis Schueth noted the new federal holiday, Juneteenth, approved by President Biden. Following the federal declaration, Governor Ricketts, proclaimed Juneteenth a Nebraska state holiday. Since the UENRD does follow federal and state guidelines, should Juneteenth be added to the UENRD list of holidays? ⇨ **It was moved by Keith Heithoff and seconded by Jim Keller to observe Juneteenth as an UENRD holiday. AYE: Fritz, Kelly, Moser & Tanderup. NAY: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION FAILED.**
- **Dana F Cole Audit – To Be Conducted on July 15th:** The Upper Elkhorn NRD audit is scheduled for July 15.

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

- **Groundwater Acre Expansion - Transfer Applications, Request or Issues:** None
- **Groundwater Management Plan – Rules and Regulations Modifications & Review:** The Committee has been reviewing the GWMP rules and regulations. An updated draft is in the Directors folders. To date, there have been no comments. The Directors should review the current draft and forward any concerns on to the staff. There will be a clean copy at the July board meeting when we will need to vote to proceed with the proposed changes.
- **4R Discussion, tentative date August 5, 2021:** Dennis Schueth reported that NARD has been working with several groups regarding this program and one that is similar. There is a tentative meeting date of August 5 to discuss the issue.

Personnel, Equipment, Promotion & Education Committee: The Committee met prior to the board meeting. The Committee discussed potential future software needs to update different programs and combine those programs for combined access. The Committee also reported that they will not be meeting individually with employees this year. There will be a committee meeting in July to discuss salaries.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Niobrara River Basin Alliance: Dennis Schueth reported that they are hoping to have a final draft in July.
Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: No Report.
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 Director's packets. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office. Dennis reported that he was made aware of a cooperator who has removed NSWCP conservation practices which received cost share.

Since these practices are to remain in place for 10 years, the cooperator will need to reimburse the NRD/NSWCP program at a pro-rated amount. A letter will be going out to the cooperator explaining the issue and requesting the pro-rated amount of cost share to be returned. A resolution adopted by the Tri-Basin NRD was discussed and may be presented at annual conference.

At the end of the meeting, Michael Moser presented Andrea Fisher with a plaque and thanked her for her service to the Upper Elkhorn NRD.

JULY BOARD MEETING:

The next regular board meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on July 19, 2021 at the NRD office in O'Neill.

⇒ It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Keith Heithoff to adjourn at 7:56 PM. **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 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 June 28, 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