

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 18, 2022 -- 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 2:38 P.M. by Chairman Michael Moser.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Gary Bartak (arr. 2:39)	Kevin Blair	Chris Dierks	Cody Frank
Marv Fritz (arr. 2:39)	Curtis Gotschall	Keith Heithoff (arr. 2:39)	Gene Kelly
Michael Moser	Aaron Rice	Roy Stewart	
Art Tanderup	John Vogel	Chip Whitaker	

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jim Keller

STAFF PRESENT:

Dennis Schueth, General Manager	Joslynn VanDerslice, Water Resources Manager
Beth Walsh, Information & Education Coordinator	Krissy McClintic, Administrative Secretary
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician	
Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician	

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brandon Peterson – NRCS – O'Neill
John Engel – HDR Engineering – Omaha, NE
Amy Timmerman – UNL Extension – O'Neill, NE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

ELECTION OF UENRD BOARD OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES:

Election of Chairman: ⇒ It was moved by Marv Fritz and seconded by Gary Bartak to elect Keith Heithoff Chairman and Aaron Rice Vice-Chairman. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Kelly, Moser, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Heithoff & Rice. **ABSENT:** Keller. **MOTION CARRIED.** Michael Moser turned the meeting over to Keith Heithoff. **Remaining Current Officers and Representatives:** ⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by John Vogel that the remaining UENRD Officers, Representatives and Alternates remain the same. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Kelly. **ABSENT:** Keller. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Secretary/Treasurer: Gene Kelly	Alternate: Marv Fritz
NARD Rep: Gene Kelly	Alternate: Chris Dierks
Northeast RC&D Rep: Cody Frank	Alternate: Kevin Blair
North Central RC&D Rep: Jim Keller	Alternate: Curtis Gotschall
Loup Basin RC&D Rep: Chris Dierks	Alternate: Gary Bartak

HDR-JOHN ENGEL, LOWER PLATTE RIVER BASIN COALITION UPDATE:

John Engel from HDR Engineering attended the board meeting to update the Directors on the Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition basinwide plan. John reviewed the goals and objectives of the previous five year increment of the plan; and, reviewed the next five year increment recommendations being brought forth to the Coalition Board of Directors. The LPRBC Board of Directors will meet in April to discuss and take action.

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT OR COMMENTS:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: The NARD Legislative Conference is scheduled for January 25 & 26 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. The City of Lincoln is under a mask mandate which is addressed in Dean Edson's legislative report handed out at the board meeting. Dennis Schueth reviewed the list of the current legislative bills and reviewed some of the ones that pertain to the NRDs for board input. There will be further discussion on these bills during the legislative conference with the Association announcing their position on each of the bills pertaining to the NRDs.

DNR Report: No report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they have received the EQIP allocations for the upcoming year. The UENRD will receive \$663,716 in EQIP funding and \$751,876 in NWQI funding is earmarked for the Bazile area. They are in the process of assessing the EQIP contracts at this time; the CSP cutoff is set for May 6th; and, there are several CRP contracts to be reviewed. NRCS is hoping that they will be able to announce their new State Conservationist in January. The advertisement for the Resource Conservationist in Neligh closed on January 13th and they are now waiting for the candidates list from HR. Due to the surge in Covid-19 numbers, the Neligh office is operating at 25% while the O'Neill office is currently at 50%.

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 reported that the Directors attending conference received their hotel information in their folders. Information for those Directors who will be up for election was also included in their board folders. After contacting the

Secretary of States office, it was reported that it is the Directors responsibility to file for election with the Secretary of State and that the filing information is available on their website; and, was included in the directors folders. The deadline for incumbents to file is February 15, 2022 and nonincumbents is March 1, 2022.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn VanDerslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that there are approximately 20 soil sampling sites remaining. A list of the dates for the Nitrogen Certification classes was handed out. Joslynn also handed out the list of noncompliant phase II sites and the list of sites that have never been reported on for Phase II.

Bazile Management Report: Whitney Gappa and Jeremy Milanders reports were mailed out in the Directors packets. Reminder that the Bazile area Winter meeting is scheduled for March 16.

UNL Extension: Amy Timmerman reported on Chemigation and Pesticide Training. Amy also reported that the data from the Bazile area demonstration projects has been collected and is being analyzed. They are planning to report on this data to each of the participating NRDs in February; and, it will also be shared at the Bazile winter meeting.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning: The Committee met prior to the board meeting.

- 1. Action on Current bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee reviewed the current bills and bank statements. There were no cost share requests. ⇒It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the current bills for payment. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Keller. **MOTION CARRIED.** Since the board meeting is early this month due to the Legislative Conference, Krissy McClintic will e-mail a list of the end of the month bills to the committee for their review, question and comment. ⇒It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Gary Bartak to approve that Gene Kelly do a final review the end of the month bills for payment when signing the checks. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Kelly. **ABSENT:** Keller. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

- 1. Groundwater Acre Certification and Transfer Issues:** The Committee reviewed one transfer request which met all the criteria; but, was missing the title search, lienholders agreement and had a couple of compliance issues. ⇒It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Gene Kelly to approve the Groundwater Certified Irrigated Acre transfer pending completion of paperwork and compliance issues. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Keller. **MOTION CARRIED.**

COALITIONS UPDATE:

- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that DNR has requested additional information from NPPD. A copy of this information was included in the Directors packets.

- **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** John Engel, HDR, gave an update on the Coalition at the beginning of the board meeting.
- **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. These items were discussed under previous agenda items. Dennis Schueth reported that he contacted Doug Hallum regarding the LiDAR data. Doug indicated that it would cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000 to compile the data. This item will be discussed further at the February 3.

Full Board Policy Issues Meeting: The WRWS Committee discussed dates for this meeting and have scheduled it for February 3, 2022 at 1:30 PM. This meeting will be advertised and open to the full board.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:

The next regular board meeting would fall on February 28 which is also the same time as the Water Conference. ⇒ **It was moved by Keith Heithoff and seconded by Michael Moser to hold the February board meeting on the 22nd at 2:30 PM with committee meetings being held prior to the board meeting. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: Dierks. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Keller. MOTION CARRIED.** The next meeting of the UENRD Board will be February 22, 2022 at 2:30 PM at the Upper Elkhorn NRD office in O'Neill.

⇒ **It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Marv Fritz to adjourn at 3:58 p.m. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Keller. 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 18, 2022 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