

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 22, 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 2:30 P.M. by Chairman Keith Heithoff.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Roy Stewart Chip Whitaker

STAFF PRESENT:

Dennis Schueth - General Manager
Joslynn Vanderslice - Water Resources Manager
Kelly Kloppenborg - Water Resources Technician
Beth Walsh - Information & Education Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT:

Don Shearer – Stuart, NE
Lynn Sobotka – O'Neill, NE
Brandon Peterson – NRCS O'Neill
Amy Timmerman – UNL Extension - Zoom

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

FEBRUARY SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

NORTH CENTRAL RC&D HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COLLECTION FINANCIAL REQUEST – LYNN

SOBOTKA: Lynn Sobotka and Don Shearer attended the meeting on behalf of the North Central RC&D to request funding for an upcoming household hazardous waste collection. The North Central RC&D has received a grant to conduct a household hazardous waste collection project across their area; and, they are requesting funds to match the grant. If the RC&D does not acquire the matching funds they will not receive the grant. They are contacting cities and organizations within the area to help fund these events. The RC&D is requesting \$1,000 for each site within the UENRD which would include Stuart and O’Neill. ⇒ **It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Jim Keller to approve \$2,000 in matching funds for the North Central RC&D Household Hazardous Waste Collection project. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Stewart & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.**

HOLT COUNTY SUB-DISTRICTING ISSUES:

The Upper Elkhorn NRD has been contacted by the Holt County Clerk regarding our sub-district voting boundaries regarding how they divide their voting precincts and the City of O’Neill Voting Wards. After being in contact with the Secretary of State, they would consider this a clerical error regarding the information provided and allow the UENRD to re-evaluate their voting sub-districts based on the new information. When our sub-districts were developed we did not have the current City of O’Neill Ward boundaries; and, there were other concerns from the Holt Count Clerk regarding other areas of the NRD and how they were divided. The City of O’Neill was contacted and provided their new ward boundaries and those were forwarded on to our vendor for review and possible changes. Our vendor was able to adapt our voting sub-districts to the City of O’Neill Ward boundaries but due to our statutory responsibilities it was still necessary to divide one of the wards. We have made every effort to follow the voting precincts in Holt County but due to our statutory responsibilities and population shifts it was not always possible. ⇒ **It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to approve the updated Upper Elkhorn NRD Voting Sub-Districts. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: Rice. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Stewart & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Gene Kelly attended the NARD board meeting following the NARD Legislative Conference. Gene reported that there was good media exposure at the conference kicking off the NRDs 50th anniversary. He reported that the Land and Range judging dates have been set; the regional competitions will be starting and the State Envirothon is April 27 at Camp Comeka. Award nominations for NARD awards are due May 1 and Master Conservationist nominations are due June 1. NARD benefits program and Risk Pool look good. There has been a mandate regarding the supply of covid test kits which will be updated in our insurance program. Funding has been received from Executive Travel regarding cost share for the NRDs tree programs. The NARD board will be reviewing the draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

DNR Report: Garry Anderson’s report was included in the Directors folders at the board meeting.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out prior to the board meeting. Brandon reported that they are in the middle of ranking EQIP contracts; the CSP cut-off is scheduled for May 6th; FSA has announced signups dates for their programs; and, Robert Lawson has been named the new State Conservationist. Since Covid 19 numbers seem to be decreasing they may be easing up on office restrictions in the near future. They have held interviews for the open RC position; however, they have not hired anyone and have elected to re-advertise the position. The Local Work Group will be meeting at 10:00 AM, March 24 at the NRD office in O'Neill.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Jim Keller pointed out the North Central RC&D annual report included in the Directors folders. This report highlights all their activities over the past year.

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 buck knives have arrived and can be picked up after the meeting.

Water Resources Department Reports: Joslynn VanDerslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that the Nitrogen Certification meetings were held February 16 & 17 and over 100 cooperators attended with 114 surveys returned. A copy of the survey results were included in the directors folders. They had good comments from the class which included three presentations from Rebecca Ravenkamp, Lewis and Clark NRD Bow Creek Watershed Coordinator; Brett Sholes, UENRD; and, Joslynn. Joslynn also passed out the non-compliant list for Phase II and noted that they are still missing approximately 600 Phase II reports. A copy of the Draft Lower Platte River Basin Coalition report was handed out for the Directors to review; and, the post card promoting the Winter Bazile meeting next month.

Bazile Groundwater Management Area Report: Reports were included in the Director packets from Whitney Gappa, Project Coordinator, and Jeremy Milander, UNL Extension. Amy Timmerman, UNL Extension – Holt County, handed out the Bazile Groundwater Management Area Project 2021 Demonstration Plot Data. Amy then reviewed the data with the board members which included soil health, nitrogen data and cropping systems. For more detailed information, please attend the Bazile Winter meeting on March 16, at the Plainview Library beginning at 10:00 AM.

Holt County Extension Agent: Amy Timmerman reported that Chemigation training is ongoing; and, reported on the webinars that were conducted regarding aspects of water contamination including nitrates.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning:

- **Action on Current bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the current bills and bank statements. ⇒ It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the current bills for payment. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Stewart & Whitaker. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

- **General Discussion:** Aaron Rice reported that the committee reviewed two transfer applications. One is complete and the other needs to comply with Phase II requirements. ⇒ **It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Cody Frank to approve the Groundwater Irrigated Acre Transfer requests pending completion of all the paperwork. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Stewart & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.** The Committee also reviewed a request for the certification of historically irrigated corners. ⇒ **It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Cody Frank to approve the certification of 12.45 Historically Irrigated Groundwater Acres from the 2004 Groundwater Irrigated Acre Certification documentation. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Stewart & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.** Joslynn also reported that Brett Sholes still has two sites left to sample; and, so far 65 sites have triggered over the 40 parts per million out of the 170 sampled. Once all the samples are done and the results are received the directors will receive a complete report.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Niobrara River Basin Alliance: No report.

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: Coalition members have been working on the drought mitigation portion of their voluntary IMPs. The UENRD does not have a drought mitigation plan. The next meeting is scheduled for April 19 in Lincoln.

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 and a copy is kept on file at the NRD office. Dennis reported on the current UENRD Director Filings for the 2022 election. As of the board meeting, there were no filings for Sub-district 1 or 2. Marv Fritz has filed in Sub-district 3, Tony Sanderson has filed for Sub-district 4, Kevin Blair has filed for Sub-district 5, Aaron Rice has filed for Sub-district 6, Matthew Beckman has filed for Sub-district 6 and Chris Dierks has filed for the At-Large position. Dennis reported on the situation surrounding Senator Groene; and, handed out information from Nebraska Magazine and Zulkoski & Weber.

MARCH BOARD MEETING:

The next Upper Elkhorn NRD Board Meeting will be held on March 28, 2022 at 2:30 PM.

⇒ **It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by John Vogel to adjourn at 4:16 PM. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: Heithoff. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Stewart & 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 February 22, 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