

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 28, 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 at 2:31 P.M. by Chairman Keith Heithoff. The public notice and Open Meetings Act were all noted by the Chairman.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Gene Kelly

STAFF PRESENT:

Dennis Schueth - General Manager
Joslynn VanDerslice - Water Resources Manager
Beth Walsh - Information & Education Coordinator/Chemigation Coordinator
Kelly Kloppenborg - Water Resources Technician
Wayne Frederick - Water Resources Technician
Brett Shoes - Agronomy Resources Technician
Krissey McClintic – Administrative Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brandon Peterson – NRCS O'Neill Office
Amy Timmerman – UNL Holt County Extension

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

PUBLIC FORUM – INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Gene Kelly submitted his report in writing due to his absence. Dennis Schueth highlighted Gene's report regarding some of the action taken by NACD regarding the 30x30 resolution; converted cropland exemption; and, feral animal damage for disaster relief. The NARD draft budget was also distributed to the board for their review, as well as the I&E committee report and risk pool updates. Dennis also reported that NPPD made a presentation at the Managers regarding broadband infrastructure within the state of Nebraska; and, that they are looking for support of the project. The Twin Platte NRD has drafted a resolution in support of broadband infrastructure development between the State of Nebraska and NPPD; and, are encouraging other districts to support the project. The UENRD Board declined to take any action.

DNR Report: No Report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they are busy working on EQIP contracts. The cutoff for CSP is tentatively scheduled for May 6th and NRCS has started assessing high priority applications. The Local Workgroup meeting was held March 24 at the UENRD. There were three issues discussed which the group asked to be passed on to the state committee. These included additional costshare for the use of a highboy to plant cover crops; possibly extending cover crop costshare from 3 to 5 years; and, keeping the NRCS nitrogen recommendation in line with UNL's algorithm. Brandon also reported that Nebraska NRCS offices are now open to the public with 75% staffing requirements. This is not an issue since NRCS is now working out in the field. Since there were no viable candidates for the Neligh office Resource Conservationist position after the first advertisement, NRCS is advertising again. Hopefully this will generate a good pool of candidates for the position.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that the RC&D is currently working on a tire amnesty project and are planning for an Electronics Recycling Collection across north central Nebraska.

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 Personnel, Equipment, Promotion and Education Committee will need to meet in April to review the scholarship applications and select the 2022 UENRD Senior Scholarship recipients.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn VanDerslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that Phase II non-compliant lists were available in the Director folders for their review. There are 377 Phase II fields which have still not been reported on and another non-compliant letter has been sent out. Joslynn distributed the UENRD's report for the annual Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Basin Wide Water Management Plan report and reviewed it with the Board. The annual meeting will be held in April. Brett Sholes, Agronomy Resource Technician, provided a summary for the 2021 Phase III soil sampling program. He noted that the main causes of repeat triggers are high organic matter and nitrogen applications directly before sampling. There were 38 new triggers from this year. Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician, presented the Phase II Data Trends from 2015-2020. This PowerPoint was an overview of the information submitted on the Phase II forms by either the landowners, operators or their agronomy personnel as it pertains to nitrogen use.

Bazile Management Area: Jeremy Milander's and Whitney Gappa's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Amy Timmerman, UNL Holt County Extension, reported that they had a good turnout for the BGMA Winter Meeting. There were 50 people in attendance and 25 participated via zoom. There were good comments on the evaluation and the topic of manure seemed to be a big hit. It was also announced that Whitney Gappa, BGMA Coordinator has resigned.

UNL - Holt County Extension: Amy Timmerman reported that she has a new product that is available for anyone willing to do test strips in their field. She would like to have multiple trials of the product if possible which would be at no cost to the cooperator. Contact Amy if you are interested. She also announced that there are a few more Chemigation Training dates for this area on March 29, March 31, April 6 and April 12.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning:

- 1. Action on Current bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the current bills, bank statements and accounts receivable. ⇒ 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, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Kelly & Moser. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- 2. Preparing Ad for District Insurance Coverages:** Roy Stewart also reported that the last time the district solicited for insurance bids was 2012; and, the committee felt it was time to request bids again. The Committee did not feel that a large cumbersome ad was needed but something more concise requesting bids and to contact the office for further information. ⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Art Tanderup to advertise for insurance bids. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Kelly. **MOTION CARRIED.** Bids should be placed in the Holt County Independent, Antelope County News, Rock County Leader, Atkinson Graphic and Elgin Review.

Water Resources & Watershed: Aaron Rice reported that the committee met prior to the board meeting to discuss possible changes to the UENRD expansion and transfer process.

- 1. Groundwater Acre Expansion/Certification/Transfer Applications:** None

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Niobrara River Basin Alliance: No Report

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: The annual Coalition meeting will be held in April. The UENRD board representatives for the Coalition are Curtis Gotschall and Chip Whitaker. Dennis Schueth reported that he has spoken with Chip Whitaker regarding his representation on the LPRB Coalition. Since Whitaker did not file for re-election this might be a good time to appoint a replacement for him on the Coalition. It was noted that Gene Kelly has shown interest in this position; and, there was no other interest expressed by any other board members. ⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Gary Bartak to appoint Gene Kelly as one of the UENRD representatives to the Lower Platte River Basin Water management Plan Coalition. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Kelly. **MOTION CARRIED.**

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE: continued

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 handed out the latest U.S. Drought Monitor map for the Directors review and noted that we will have a director participating in the Mid-Plains Ag program. Dennis also pointed out that the NRDs could be put in a unique position if the STARWARS project received funding and moves forward. Since the State of Nebraska can not use eminent domain to condemn property for the project, it may require NRDs to play a roll in the project. In the past, NRDs have not been looked upon favorably when using eminent domain. It has also come to Dennis' attention that there may be a resident of the UENRD running for Governor on the Independent ticket if they can raise enough signatures for a write-in campaign.

APRIL BOARD MEETING:

There was a typo on the agenda and the next regular board meeting for the UENRD is scheduled for April 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM not 2:30 PM. There was some discussion regarding changing the date of the meeting due to planting season; however, this suggestion did not produce a motion for the change. The next regular board meeting of the UENRD will be held April 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM with Committee meetings scheduled prior to the board meeting.

⇒It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Jim Keller to adjourn at 4:06 PM. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Keller, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: Heithoff. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Kelly. 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 March 28, 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