

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
April 25, 2022  
O'Neill, Nebraska**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Vice Chairman Aaron Rice. 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:**

Kevin Blair	Chris Dierks	Cody Frank	Marv Fritz	Curtis Gotschall
Gene Kelly	Aaron Rice	Roy Stewart	Art Tanderup	John Vogel
Chip Whitaker				

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Gary Bartak	Keith Heithoff	Jim Keller	Michael Moser
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**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dennis Schueth, General Manager  
Beth Walsh, Information & Education Coordinator  
Joslynn Vanderslice, Water Resources Manager  
Krissy McClintic, Administrative Secretary

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Brandon Peterson – NRCS – O'Neill, NE

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

**MINUTES:**

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

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM- INPUT:**

None

## **AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:**

**NARD Report:** Gene Kelly reported that the Directors should have received the NARD draft budget for review. They will be taking action on the budget at the next NARD Board Meeting. Marv Fritz commented on the increase in staff compensation. It was noted that Marty Graff, Board member at MNDRD, proposed the increase in an effort to retain the current employees due to salary competition with the private sector. ⇒ **It was moved by Art Tanderup and seconded by Cody Frank to support the proposed NARD budget. AYE: Blair, Frank, Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: Dierks, Fritz, Stewart & Whitaker. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Heithoff, Keller & Moser. MOTION CARRIED.**

**DNR Report:** No report.

**NRCS Report:** Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the board members. Brandon reported that they have been busy working on EQIP contracts. The deadline for CSP is May 6 and the deadline for CRP is May 13. The NRCS offices are currently staffed at 50% and their doors are open to the public. Brandon reported that the Soil Conservationist in Neligh has resigned; and, they are still waiting for the Resource Conservationist candidates list from Human Resources for the open position in Neligh.

## **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 also reminded the Directors of the electronic recycling event scheduled for O'Neill on Saturday April 30.

**Water Resources Report:** Joslynn Vanderslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that the Nitrogen certification cards have been mailed out; and, noncompliant letters will be sent out to those with expired Nitrogen Certification Cards. The static water level readings have been completed and the report should be ready next month. We are still missing 254 Phase II reports and a list of the landowners/operators is in the Directors folders. A map of the Phase III 2021 triggering locations is in the Director folders. Brett provided a breakdown of the current Phase III triggers which Joslynn shared with the Board.

**Bazile Groundwater Management Area-Report:** Jeremy Milander's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported the group is starting to prepare for this years field day which is scheduled to be held in the Upper Elkhorn NRD. The BGWMA Coordinator position is still open.

**Holt County Extension:** No Report.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMENDATIONS:**

**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.

- 1. Action of Current Bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee reviewed the current bills. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Art Tanderup to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Heithoff, Keller & Moser. MOTION CARRIED.** Roy Stewart also reported that the insurance bid deadline is in mid-May and the committee will review the bids at their next committee meeting.

**Water Resources and Watershed Committee:** The Committee met prior to the board meeting. Aaron Rice reported that the committee is working on the expansion and transfer criteria and will be bringing recommendations to the full board when they have completed their review.

- 1. Groundwater Acre Expansion-Transfer Application Request or Issues:** None.

**Personnel, Equipment, Promotion & Education Committee:** The Committee met prior to the board meeting and discussed the Senior Scholarship applications, equipment recommendations and salary review.

- 1. UENRD Scholarship Recipients and Alternate:** ⇒ **It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to award Senior Scholarships to Dillon Moser (Summerland), Sadie Jarecke (West Holt), Cameron Sattler (Stuart); and, Ryan Steinhauer (Stuart) as the alternate. AYE: Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Heithoff, Keller & Moser. MOTION CARRIED.**
- 2. Equipment/Salaries Update:** Chris Dierks reported that the committee discussed the possibility of replacing a side by side during the upcoming budget process.

### **COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:**

- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that the public notice for transferring NPPDs surface water appropriation to the NRBA was published April 14<sup>th</sup> and any comments are due to NDNR by May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources has been meeting with the Nation Parks Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding future groundwater and surface water development. The NRBA members believe it would be a good idea to also meet with these organizations to convey their thoughts on the future of the Niobrara Basin.
- **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** They met April 19<sup>th</sup> and discussed the next 5 year increment. Most of the NRDs are leaning toward a more conservative approach to managing the next 5 years. Dennis Schueth reported to the group that the UENRD is looking at ways to continue new groundwater irrigated acre development.
- **Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover) Alternate Representative:** The annual meeting was held April 11<sup>th</sup> and there may be a new threatened or endangered species added to the list. Research on a minnow is being conducted and they have not yet identified if this will affect the Platte River.
- **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 passed out the updated Drought Monitor map and noted the extreme area within the UENRD. He also reported that 13 state senators will be term limiting out of the legislature, 4 are running for other offices so there is the potential of one-third of the legislature being new next year.

There is a legislative resolution to look into eminent domain and the consumptive use tax. Dennis attended the NARD Risk Pool meeting. He also reported on the Tri-Basin NRDs efforts to define sustainability. This is in response to other organizations defining sustainability to promote their products or practices. This is something the NRDs should monitor. The UENRD has received its trees and have started planting. Due to the dry conditions, there have been some landowners wanting to cancel their tree orders; which, is why we require a non-refundable 50% down payment.

**MAY BOARD MEETING:**

The next regular board meeting date is May 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM with committee meetings scheduled prior to the board meeting.

⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Gene Kelly to adjourn at 7:56 PM. **AYE:** Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Stewart, Tanderup, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak, Heithoff, Keller & Moser. **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 April 25, 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.

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Gene Kelly, Secretary/Treasurer