

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 22, 2023 – 7:30 PM
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 7:34 P.M. by Secretary/Treasurer Gene Kelly. 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 | Matt Beckman | Chris Dierks | Cody Frank | Marv Fritz |
| Curtis Gotschall | Trevor Gotschall | Gene Kelly | Tony Sanderson | Roy Stewart |
| Art Tanderup | John Vogel | | | |

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------|
| Kevin Blair | Keith Heithoff | Aaron Rice |
|-------------|----------------|------------|

STAFF PRESENT:

Dennis Schueth - General Manager
Joslynn VanDerslice - Water Resources Manager
Kelly Kloppenborg – Water Resources Technician
Wayne Frederick - Water Resources Technician
Beth Walsh - Information & Education Coordinator
Jeff Langan – Administrative Secretary
Kayla Vondracek – Natural Resources Technician

GUESTS PRESENT:

Amy Timmerman – Holt County Extension, O’Neill

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

The minutes of the April Meeting were reviewed by the Directors. ⇒It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Chris Dierks to approve the minutes of the April Meeting. **AYE:** Bartak, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Beckman. **ABSENT:** Blair, Heithoff & Rice. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TREASURERS REPORT:

The April treasurers report was reviewed by the Directors. ⇒It was moved by Marv Fritz and seconded by Trevor Gotschall to approve the April Treasurers Report. **AYE:** Bartak, Beckman, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Beckman. **ABSENT:** Blair, Heithoff & Rice. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Gene Kelly reported that the next meeting is scheduled for June 12 & 13 in conjunction with the Basin Tour in the Central Platte region. Dennis Schueth reported that he attended the Risk Pool meeting in Lincoln earlier in the day. They discussed the premiums for the upcoming fiscal year. Due to the reduction in lasers and other medical claims, the Risk Pool is recommending a 0% increase for 2023/2024 fiscal year.

DNR Report: No Report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Marv Fritz reported that they are working on electronic and tire amnesty recycling projects

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. Right now Beth is busy with the Chemigation program. Radio reminders are airing now until the June 1 deadline. The winter/spring newsletter has also been completed and will be coming out in the district newspapers.

Water Resources and Other Department Reports:

- Kayla Vondracek, Natural Resources Technician, handed out a report on the 2023 UENRD Tree Program and reviewed it with the Directors. There were 23,314 trees sold in the UENRD with 8,030 machine planted. A total of 10.7 miles of weed barrier was also installed in the UENRD. We also contract with the Lower Niobrara NRD to machine plant their trees and install weed barrier. The UENRD crew planted 6,284 trees and installed 7.92 miles of weed barrier in the LNNRD.
- Joslynn VanDerslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reviewed the fall and spring static water level results and corresponding graphs and maps with the Board. Joslynn presented a map from the LENRD showing their static water level differences from 2022 to 2023; and, also created one for the UENRD. The data from 2022 to 2023 is showing a decrease in all six sub-districts while the 20 year trend is still showing an increase for the six sub-districts. However, the 20 year trend increases are becoming smaller. Joslynn reported the SW Holt sub-district levels indicate the sub-district at the 2ft above the lowest level which triggers Rule 16 in the Groundwater Management Plan which indicates implementing an Information and Education campaign for the sub-district. She also reported that Nitrogen Certification cards have been mailed out to cooperators who completed their certification and those cooperators who did not re-certify received a letter letting them know that they are not in compliance. There are still 107 Phase II reports that have not been submitted with 43 of those having never been filed. June 20 there will be a Zoom meeting for the UENRD Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (V-IMP) at 11:00 AM and will be open to any Directors who would like to attend. There was also discussion held on the nitrogen/uranium information Joslynn sent out to the Directors.

Bazile Management Area: Lisa Lauver, Project Coordinator, and Jeremy Milander, BGMA Assistant Extension Educator, reports were mailed out in the Director's packets. Amy Timmerman, Holt County Extension Educator, reported that she and Jeremy will be presenting their data from the demo sites next month. There is one NET grant coming to an end and they are working on a new grant to promote cover crops using a Highboy interseeder.

UNL Holt County Extension: Amy Timmerman, UNL Extension Educator, reported that she is working with Nebraska Water for Food Institute to further develop the Know Your Well program. They would like to work with the BGMA area NRDs to locate teachers and schools that would like to participate in the program. If the grant is approved there will be money for a stipend for the teacher and supplies for the schools to participate in the sampling program. Amy also handed out information regarding the Atrazine Label Change which EPA is currently taking comments on until October 7, 2023. She highlighted some of the changes and reviewed how it could effect the NRDs in the future.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

⇒ It was moved by John Vogel and seconded by Art Tanderup to excuse the absence of Kevin Blair, Keith Heithoff and Aaron Rice. **AYE:** Bartak, Beckman, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Blair, Heithoff & Rice.

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 Tony Sanderson and seconded by Matt Beckman to approve the current bills for payment. **AYE:** Bartak, Beckman, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Blair, Heithoff & Rice. **MOTION CARRIED.** Marv Fritz reported that the Committee reviewed 6 costshare applications submitted by Alan Carpenter – 2 applications, Marty Hollenbeck – 2 applications, James Wilson and James Burtwhistle. ⇒ It was moved by Marv Fritz and seconded by Roy Stewart to approve the costshare applications presented pending any clarifications noted by the LFP Committee and pending funding. **AYE:** Bartak, Beckman, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Blair, Heithoff & Rice. **MOTION CARRIED.** Since there were some cooperators with more than one application, the limit per cooperator was discussed. The current policy is a limit of \$7,000 per cooperator per fiscal year.

Water Resources and Watershed Committee: The Committee met prior to the board meeting. Curtis Gotschall reported that the Committee discussed a situation where a landowner who transferred irrigated acres and did not request a new well at that time has now applied for a new well. The transfer was approved without the new well, so is he obligated to put a flowmeter on the original well? The staff has been instructed to get more information. Dennis Schueth reported that he has been contacted by a landowner who would like to use his irrigation well to maintain a wetland area on a field that he has certified irrigated acres on. The district has had other requests from landowners who have wanted to use their irrigation well for uses other than irrigation and they have been denied. The staff has been instructed to get more information on this request. Curtis also reported that the Committee has begun discussing Rule 16 and its triggering mechanisms. They will be reviewing and discussing this rule so if anyone has any suggestions please contact the staff or a Committee member.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** No Report
- **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 and a copy is kept on file in the NRD office. The time for the next board meeting was discussed because it was different from the time in the Operations Policy. Dennis explained that there is a motion from May 2014 that changed the time from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM so that is the time of record for now.

The next board meeting will be held June 26, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to adjourn the board meeting at 9:28 PM.**
AYE: Bartak, Beckman, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Stewart, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Blair, Heithoff & Rice. 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 May 22, 2023 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