

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING: FY 25-26 BUDGET WORKSHOP
August 20, 2025 - 6:30 P.M.
O'Neill, Nebraska**

CALL TO ORDER, STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT AND OPEN MEETING LAW NOTIFICATION:

The special budget workshop meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 6:30 PM. The statement of advertisement and the open meetings law posting were all noted by Personnel, Equipment, Promotion & Education Committee Chair Art Tanderup.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Bruce Anderson	Matt Beckman	Kevin Blair	Curtis Gotschall	Trevor Gotschall
Gene Kelly	Aaron Rice	Allen Schueth	Cameron Smith	Art Tanderup
John Vogel	Tony Sanderson (arr. 6:32 PM)			

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Chris Dierks	Cody Frank	Marv Fritz
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STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

None

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

⇒ It was moved by Kevin Blair and seconded by Allen Schueth to excuse the absence of Chris Dierks, Cody Frank & Marv Fritz. **AYE:** Anderson, Beckman, Blair, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Sanderson, Dierks, Frank & Fritz. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Tony Sanderson arrived at 6:32 PM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PER DIEM:

The current per diem for UENRD directors is \$65.00 per day. The maximum allowed is \$70.00 per day. Discussion was held regarding who set the rate and maybe it should be higher to promote more individuals wanting to participate on NRD boards. Another comment that was made is that people shouldn't join a NRD board for the per diem. The consensus was to leave the Directors per diem at \$65.00.

DISCUSSION ACTION ON ADDITIONAL 1% TAXING AUTHORITY:

Dennis Schueth reviewed the 1% taxing authority and what it would mean to the UENRD budget. Since there were 3 Directors absent, this item will be included on the August regular board meeting agenda. It takes 75% of the full NRD Board to pass this issue.

NORTHEAST WEED MANAGEMENT AREA REQUEST: 3-YEAR COMMITMENT FOR \$18,000 TOTAL:

Dennis Schueth reviewed the request that the board received at their July meeting. The Northeast Weed Management Area will be applying for a grant and they are requesting matching funds from the NRDs who are in the area. This request would be for \$6,000 per year for 3 years. Discussion was held regarding taxing ability, overlapping areas to be funded by the NRDs and should one taxing entity be requesting funds from another. ⇒ **It was moved by John Vogel and seconded by Trevor Gotschall to approve \$6,000 for three years as matching funds for the Northeast Weed Management Area grant proposal if it is approved. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: Kelly & Rice. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Dierks, Frank & Fritz. MOTION CARRIED.**

NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION (JASON THIELE)-PARTNERSHIP: DAMS, WILDLIFE ETC:

Dennis Schueth reviewed with the Directors Jason Thiele's presentation discussion various ways the UENRD and Game & Parks could partner to offer joint programs to cooperators. Game & Parks did not request any specific amount of funding. Discussion was held regarding possible cost share programs that the NRD could fund and it was noted that if the Directors would like to develop a cost share program this should be discussed at the Policy Issues Meeting in February.

FY 25-26 TIRE AMNESTY GRANT – O'NEILL - \$160,000:

Dennis Schueth reported that the North Central RC&D has applied for another Tire Amnesty grant for the O'Neill area. Since the Directors have already voted in support of this program, \$160,000 will be included in the budget.

PEPE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS (JULY 21, 2025):

The Personnel, Equipment, Promotion and Education Committee met back in July to discuss equipment needs for the upcoming budget and made these recommendations.

- **Reverse Osmosis:** Dennis Schueth reviewed the request by Marv Fritz to fund a reverse osmosis program in the district even though we did not receive the Water Sustainability Fund grant. He would like to see \$200,000 put into the budget to show that the UENRD is making an effort to provide safe drinking water with the district.
- **Cornerstone Aerial Fly Over of UENRD:** Dennis Schueth reviewed the funding for the aerial flyover. The board voted last year to include funding in the amount of \$92,000 for the flyover in the budget so these funds will be included in the FY 25-26 budget. Holt and Boyd counties are still planning to contribute to the project.
- **Weather Station & Gotschall Monitoring Wells-Telemetry:** The equipment ordered by the UENRD has been delivered to UNL and we are awaiting its installation. The test hole has been drilled and we are now waiting for bids from the well drillers to move forward with the monitoring wells and \$25,000 will be included in the budget for this project.
- **Equipment – Recommended:** Dennis Schueth reviewed the equipment recommendations from the Personnel, Equipment, Promotion and Education Committee which will be included in the FY 25-26 budget. He noted that he is still waiting on quotes to install heat in the back shop.
- **Gopher Machines:** Dennis Schueth explained that staff is recommending getting rid of the gopher machines. The price of replacement parts and maintenance have grown exponentially over the years and is costing the NRD more than it is taking in on the program.

If we want to keep the gopher machines we would need to consider raising the daily rates considerably to cover maintenance costs. ⇒**It was moved by Trevor Gotschall and seconded by Aaron Rice to dispose of the gopher machines. AYE: Beckman, Blair, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Anderson. ABSENT: Dierks, Frank & Fritz. MOTION CARRIED.**

REVIEW PROPOSED FY 25-26 BUDGET NARRATIVE:

The Directors present reviewed the proposed budget. Dennis Schueth briefly reviewed the cash on hand and valuations. It was noted that if the UENRD requests more in property taxes it will be noted what they are being used for in the budget.

RECOMMENDATION TO PREPARE FY 25-26 DRAFT BUDGET FOR AUGUST 25, 2025 BOARD MEETING AND SETTING PUBLIC HEARING AND BOARD MEETING DATE THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2025:

Dennis Schueth will make the additions and corrections to the draft budget discussed at this meeting and have an updated draft budget for the August 25, 2025 board meeting. A recommendation and motion will need to be made at the board meeting to proceed with the budget and set the public hearing date. ⇒**It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by John Vogel to prepare the FY 25-26 draft budget for the board meeting. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Dierks, Frank & Fritz. MOTION CARRIED.**

NARD FALL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 23-24, KEARNEY, NE:

The NARD Fall Conference is scheduled for September 29 & 30 in Kearney. We will need to appoint voting delegates for the conference at the August 25, 2025 board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

⇒**It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Bruce Anderson to adjourn the budget workshop at 8:19 PM. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Dierks, Frank & Fritz. MOTION CARRIED.**

I, the undersigned Director 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 August 20, 2025 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