

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 25, 2025 -- 7:00 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 7:04 P.M. by Chairman Chris Dierks.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Bruce Anderson	Matt Beckman	Kevin Blair	Chris Dierks	Cody Frank
Curtis Gotschall	Trevor Gotschall	Aaron Rice	Tony Sanderson	Allen Schueth
Cameron Smith	Art Tanderup			

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Marv Fritz	Gene Kelly	John Vogel
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STAFF PRESENT:

Dennis Schueth, General Manager
Beth Walsh, Information & Education Coordinator
Joslynn VanDerslice, Water Resources Manager
Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician
Jeff Langan, Administrative Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brandon Peterson – NRCS, O'Neill, NE

AGENDA:

The Agenda was reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ **It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Art Tanderup to adopt the Agenda. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith & Tanderup. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Fritz, Kelly & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman Dierks not voting.**

JULY BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of the July Meeting were reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ **It was moved by Bruce Anderson and seconded by Trevor Gotschall to approve the minutes of the July meeting. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith & Tanderup. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Fritz, Kelly & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman Dierks not voting.**

TREASURERS REPORT:

⇒ **It was moved by Trevor Gotschall and seconded by Tony Sanderson to approve the July Treasurers Report. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith & Tanderup. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Fritz, Kelly & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman Dierks not voting.**

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: The NARD Fall Conference is scheduled for September 29 & 30 in Kearney. The NARD board will be meeting following the NARD Annual Conference.

- **NARD Fall Conference Voting Delegates - September 29-30, 2025:** ⇨ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Matt Beckman to appoint Gene Kelly Voting Delegate and Art Tanderup Alternate for the NARD Annual Conference. **AYE:** Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith & Tanderup. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Fritz, Kelly & Vogel. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Dierks not voting.

DNR Report: No Report. Chris Dierks noted that they will be meeting following the NARD Annual Conference.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they ended the year with 19 EQIP contracts worth approximately \$1.9 million on 10,457 acres. NRCS has obligated 4 CSP contracts worth \$303,448 on a total of 15,973 acres. There were approximately 65 applications submitted for General and Continuous CRP and they are in the process of writing contracts. Brandon also reminded the board that Antelope County will be the host site for the Area 5 land judging competition on October 15; and, the State Range Judging contest is scheduled for September 22 in Keya Paha county. Also, due to the NRCS travel restrictions, many NRCS personnel will not be attending the NARD annual conference.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: No report

Loup Basin RC&D: No report.

Northeast RC&D: Art Tanderup was unable to attend the last meeting of the Northeast RC&D; however, they will be meeting August 26 and he is planning to attend.

Information & Education Report: Beth Walsh's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Beth reviewed the list of Directors who have signed up to attend the NARD Annual Conference. She also reported that we have received information from all of the Senior Scholarship winners and they will be receiving their first semester installment of their scholarship.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn VanDerslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that she has sent out the postcards announcing Producer Connect the new reporting platform which will be used for Phase II data. There is an Open House for Producer Connect scheduled for September 4 in Plainview hosted by the Bazile NRDs; and, a training scheduled for September 15 in O'Neill. Irrigation water sampling is also continuing.

Bazile Groundwater Management Report: Lisa Lauver-BGMA Coordinator's report was included in the Directors packets. Joslynn VanDerslice reported that the Bazile group is working on their Powerpoint presentations for the upcoming regional UNL Water Conference in Omaha. Dennis Schueth reported that Lisa Lauver has resigned from the project and has gone back to working in construction. The BGMA Coordinator's job description will be updated and they will start looking for a replacement. It was also noted the Pablo Hernandez will be starting September 2 as the UNL Extension Educator in the Bazile area.

UNL Extension: No Report.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

⇨ It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Cody Frank to excuse the absence of Marv Fritz, Gene Kelly and John Vogel. **AYE:** Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith & Tanderup. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Fritz, Kelly & Vogel. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Dierks not voting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Legislative, Budget and Finance:

- **Action on Current Bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the bills, receipts and bank statement. ⇨ **It was moved by Trevor Gotschall and seconded by Bruce Anderson to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith & Tanderup. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Fritz, Kelly & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman Dierks not voting.**
- **Northeast Weed Management Area Financial Request:** This funding was approved at the Budget Workshop for \$6,000 a year for three years if the Northeast Weed Management Area receives their grant.
- **NGPC Financial Request or New Program:** Since there was not a funding request made or a new program there will not be any funding allocated.

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

- **Groundwater Irrigated Acre Certification and Groundwater Acre Transfers:** None
- **Update on Groundwater Rules Regulations:** Curtis Gotschall reported that there were only two committee members present so they were not able to make any recommendations. They did discuss the flowmeter information from Micrometer.

FY 25-26 BUDGET WORKSHOP UPDATE AND SETTING DATE OF FY 25-26 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS:

The budget workshop was held on August 20 with the directors' present discussing equipment needs, budget and additional expenditures for FY 25-26. Dennis Schueth handed out the updated proposed FY 25-26 budget and budget narrative for the Directors review. Dennis noted that there would be a \$151,000 tax reduction in this year's budget. The proposed Reverse Osmosis costshare funding and Aerial Flyover were discussed. The UENRD would use the Reverse Osmosis costshare to provide quality drinking water to residents of the district. If approved guidelines for the project would need to be developed. Funding for the aerial flyover was approved last year but due to the wetter conditions this year, it was recommended to wait until it becomes dryer. This funding will remain in the FY 25-26 budget. It was also noted that other agencies have inquired as to why the UENRD has not done an aerial flyover. Aaron Rice brought up the funding to upgrade the tables and chairs in the UENRD boardroom. ⇨ **It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Bruce Anderson to eliminate the funding for the new tables and chairs for the UENRD boardroom. AYE: Anderson, Blair & Rice. NAY: Beckman, Frank, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith & Tanderup. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Fritz, Kelly & Vogel. MOTION FAILED. Chairman Dierks not voting.** The current furniture is 35 years old and does not conform well to changing the meeting room setup. During the discussion of the UENRD boardroom tables and chairs it was noted that other agencies do use the district's boardroom for various other meetings throughout the year. It has been used by NRCS, NeDWEE, Forest Service, Well Drillers and to host Range and Land Judging contests. ⇨ **It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Tony Sanderson to proceed with the publication of the Upper Elkhorn NRD FY 25-26 budget and set the hearings for September 22, 2025. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith & Tanderup. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Fritz, Kelly & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman Dierks not voting.**

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Niobrara River Basin Alliance: Dennis Schueth reported that the Public Hearing on who will oversee the Niobrara Scenic River is scheduled for September 19, 2025 in Lincoln.

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 to the directors prior to the board meeting in their packets. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office. Dennis Schueth reported that the Nitrogen Reduction Program is scheduled to continue this year; however, we have not received any information on this year's program.

⇒ It was moved by Matt Beckman and seconded by Cody Frank to adjourn at 8:02 PM. **AYE:** Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith & Tanderup. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Fritz, Kelly & Vogel. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Dierks not voting.

The next board meeting will be held September 22, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the UENRD office.

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 25, 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