

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
November 17, 2025 -- 2:30 P.M.  
O'Neill, NE**

**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 in the Holt County Independent and the open meetings law posting were all noted at 2:30 P.M. by Chairman Chris Dierks.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Bruce Anderson	Kevin Blair	Matt Beckman	Chris Dierks	Cody Frank
Marv Fritz	Curtis Gotschall	Trevor Gotschall	Gene Kelly	Tony Sanderson
Allen Schueth	Camerson Smith	Art Tanderup	John Vogel	

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Aaron Rice

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dennis Schueth - General Manager  
Joslynn VanDerslice - Water Resources Manager  
Kelly Kloppenborg – Water Resources Technician  
Grant Mathis – Water Resources Technician  
Wayne Frederick - Water Resources Technician  
Beth Walsh - Information & Education/Chemigation Coordinator  
Jeff Langan – Administrative Secretary

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Brandon Peterson – NRCS Office – O'Neill  
Ken Quandt, McCrometer – Aurora, NE  
Tom Thiele – Clearwater, NE  
Charlotte Reifert, Culligan – Norfolk, NE

**AGENDA:**

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

**MINUTES:**

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

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

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

## **PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:**

**Tom Thiele – Acre Expansion/Transfer:** Tom Thiele attended the board meeting to discuss an issue he has on the SE 14-26-8. Tom purchased the E1/2 SW and SE 14-26-8 and would like to expand the irrigated acres on the SE portion. Since the previous owner transferred 19.45 irrigated acres off of the SE 14-26-8 these acres cannot be transferred back or be replaced with expansion acres. Mr. Thiele feels that he has additional acres on this parcel and would like to expand the difference between the certified acres he believes there is on the SE 14-26-8 minus the acres that were transferred. Based on the UENRD certification records there are no additional acres to be expanded within the pivot in the SE 14-26-8. ⇒ **It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by John Vogel to table Tom Thiele’s request for additional irrigated acres on the SE 14-26-8 until further information he discussed can be reviewed. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Rice. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman Dierks not voting.**

**Charlotte Reifert – Culligan Water Representative (Reverse Osmosis):** Charlotte had met with Marv Fritz previously and discussed the cost of reverse osmosis systems. Charlotte attended the meeting to explain to the UENRD Board how their systems work, the equipment needed and cost of the different systems.

**Ken Quandt – McCrometer Market Development Manager (Flowmeters):** Ken Quandt attended the meeting to discuss McCrometer’s line of flowmeters and how they work. Ken brought several flowmeters with him so the Directors could see the equipment. Ken explained the flowmeters that he brought along and their differences. The company began in 1955 and they continue to evaluate their equipment and make improvements. Ken reported that he has also been successful in writing grants to implement flowmeter programs.

## **AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:**

**NARD Report:** Gene Kelly reported that the NARD Board met in Scottsbluff at the NPNRD office November 10, 2025. Gene reported that as of October 31, the balance on the office loan is \$66,491.51. The Executive Committee reported that the Foundation has approved requests from Nebraska FFA for \$5,000, Nebraska Ag Institute for \$3,000, \$350 for the Nebraska Women in Ag Conference and the NARD will have a booth at the Woman in Ag Conference. Thad Kunz from Longitude 103 gave a presentation on the Producer Connect program for the board. It was moved and approved by the Board to move forward with the contract. The Hydro Data will be individual to each NRD. Executive Travel is planning to support the tree program again this year in the amount of \$50,000 with each NRDs share being based off of tree sales. The Stop Loss Committee has approved the adding of the Blue Vision #130 program which can be changed from year to year. ⇒ **It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Cody Frank to participate in the Blue Vision #130 program. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Rice. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman Dierks not voting.** The Benefits Committee also recommended adding an amendment to the 457 deferred compensation plan to add a Roth elective deferral option, which would allow voluntary contributions with after tax dollars. ⇒ **It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Cody Frank that the UENRD approve the Roth amendment to the 457 deferred compensation plan to allow participants to defer pre-tax elective subject to the limit defined by code 402(G). AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Rice. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman Dierks not voting.** Marty Graff also touched on the Washington DC trip and would like to see a representative from each NRD attend.

**DNR Report:** No Report.

**NRCS Report:** Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon noted that not much has changed since the government shutdown. He reviewed the EQIP contracts which included 19 contracts amounting to \$1.9 million on 10,457 acres. There were 3 Bazile contracts worth \$397,739 on 1,706 acres. The cutoff for EQIP contracts is November 21 but this may change due to the furlough. There were 4 CSP contracts funded for \$303,448 on a total of 15,973 acres. The deadline to sign up for CSP is also November 21 which may change due to furlough. There were 120 CRP grassland contracts which will need to be written before the end of December so they are busy working on them. Hopefully they will get caught up with everything before the end of the year.

**RC&D Report:**

**North Central RC&D:** Marv Fritz reported that they met on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The paper shredding event was successful and they are looking into more recycling events which may include oil collection, chemical waste collection, electronics and battery recycling. They should find out in December if they will receive the tire amnesty grant.

**Loup Basin RC&D:** No Report.

**Northeast RC&D:** Art Tanderup attended the last meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>. They are in the process of reviewing and updating their bylaws. The Ghost Town tour turned out to be successful and was good public relations for the RC&D. They are also looking into various recycling projects.

**Information & Education Report:** Beth Walsh's report was mailed out in the Director's packets. Beth passed around a sign-up sheet for those who would like to attend the 2026 Legislative Conference scheduled for January 27-28, 2026 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Beth also reported that she has received notice from the Secretary of State's office that we will need to send in the UENRD election certification information. The directors who will be up for re-election are Trevor Gotschall, John Vogel, Marv Fritz, Tony Sanderson, Kevin Blair, Aaron Rice, Matt Beckmen and Chris Dierks. The Secretary of State will have filing information up on their website in December.

**Water Resources Report:** Joslynn VanDerslice's report was mailed out in the Director's packets. Grant Mathis, new Water Resources Technician, introduced himself to the board. Joslynn reported on the Producer Connect training sessions which were held to get cooperators signed up for the new information portal. The deadline for Phase II reports is December 31 and they must be done online this year. Joslynn touched on Ken Quandt's earlier presentation and noted that there may be a partnering opportunity with Ken regarding the application for a grant to get more flowmeters installed across the NRD. Joslynn also reported that the nitrate sampling has been concluded for this year and results would be completed soon.

**Bazile Groundwater Management Area Report:** Joslynn VanDerslice reported that Pablo Duarte, Extension Educator, has started and is planning attending our next meeting. Amy Timmerman and Joslynn are planning to give the Bazile presentation which was originally developed for the water conference held in Omaha. Since then, they have been asked to do the presentation at other meetings to focus on the Bazile area. This will give the board an opportunity to get an overview of the Bazile project. They will also be giving this presentation at the Northeast Nebraska Ag Conference December 16, 2025.

**UNL Extension – Amy Timmerman:** No Report.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Legislative, Budget and Finance Committee:** The Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the current bills, accounts receivable and bank statements. The Committee also reviewed the pick up bids that were submitted.

- 1. Action on Current Bills and Cost share Requests:** ⇒ It was moved by Marv Fritz and seconded by Tony Sanderson to pay the current bills. **AYE:** Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Rice. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Dierks not voting. The Committee also reviewed the pick up bids submitted to the district. ⇒ It was moved by Marv Fritz and seconded by Bruce Anderson to accept the bid from Krotters for the 2026 Dodge Ram 2500 crew cab for \$33,485 with trade in. **AYE:** Anderson, Beckman, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** Blair & Dierks. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Rice. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Water Resources & Watershed Committee:** The Water Resources & Watershed Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the groundwater irrigated acre expansions, reverse osmosis program and various other items on their agenda.

- 1. Groundwater Irrigated Acre Expansion for 2026 and Groundwater Irrigated Acre Transfers:** There were no groundwater irrigated acre transfers to review. The Committee Reviewed the 2025 Groundwater Irrigated Acre Expansion applications prior to the board meeting. The focus of this year's Expansion was pies completing the center pivot irrigation distribution system; however, they also reviewed applications that met the minimum score of 140 points. The UENRD received 10 applications. There was one application to finish a center pivot which was prioritized, 2 applications for corners and 2 applications for extending the center pivot. The other five applications did not meet the minimum number of points to qualify. ⇒ It was moved by John Vogel and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to approve the qualifying applications 25-3, 25-6, 25-7, 25-10 and 25-11 for the 2025 Expansion of Groundwater Irrigated Acres for the 2026 growing season. **AYE:** Anderson, Blair, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Beckman & Kelly. **ABSENT:** Rice. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Dierks not voting.
- 2. Setting Guidelines for the UENRD Reverse Osmosis Program:** The Board received an updated version of last month's reverse osmosis recommendations for review. After the reverse osmosis presentation from Culligan there may be some other issues to address such as ion exchange and an extra nitrate filter. The program sheet will be updated and sent out for review prior to the December board meeting.
- 3. NiRIA Discussion:** Dennis Schueth reported that there has not been much interest in this program and they are considering extending the deadline.

## **COALITIONS UPDATE:**

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that it does not look like the LR 158 hearing will be held do to calendar conflicts. Instead, written comments will be solicited and summarized for the committee.

**Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** Joslynn VanDerslice reported that we have received our grant funding for the telemetry project.

**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 prior to the board meeting. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office. Dennis briefly discussed the issue with cooperators reporting one thing to staff and then something different to the board; and, in the future when the NRD is taking bids, Dennis will notify the Directors with an email so they are aware of the process. Dennis also noted that if there is a policy issue that a board member has a concern with to please get it on the February Policy Issues meeting. Please come in with suggestions and/or solutions.

**SETTING THE DECEMBER BOARD MEETING:**

The next regular meeting of the UENRD will be held December 22, 2025 at 2:30 PM.

⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Matt Beckman to adjourn the board meeting at 5:05 PM. **AYE:** Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, T. Gotschall, Kelly, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Rice. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Dierks not voting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

I, the undersigned Secretary 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 November 17, 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.

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Gene Kelly, Secretary/Treasurer