

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 27, 2026
O'Neill, Nebraska**

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Trevor Gotschall. 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.

DIRECTOR'S PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

The March treasurers report was reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Cameron Smith to approve the March Treasurers Report. **AYE:** Beckman, Blair, Dierks, Frank, C. Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Anderson, Fritz & Smith. **ABSENT:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman T. Gotschall not voting. John Vogel asked about the budget versus actual report.

PUBLIC FORUM- INPUT:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NeDWEE Report: Chris Dierks reported that they will be meeting April 29, 2026 in Kearney.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the board members. Chairman Gotschall asked if the board members were receiving Brandon's report since the mail can be unpredictable. Most acknowledged that they are receiving his report.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Marv Fritz reported that they met around the first part of April. They are getting ready for the Tire Amnesty event and planning to have a booth at the Sandhills Expo in June. They are also looking into battery and electronics recycling.

Loup Basin RC&D: No Report.

Northeast RC&D: Art Tanderup reported that he attended the March meeting. They did not receive the grant for recycling electronics; they are working on the bylaws for the group; and, they will be holding a grant writing workshop in Plainview in May. Their monthly meeting is tomorrow, April 28, 2026.

Information & Education Report: Beth Walsh's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Beth gave an update on the Chemigation and water well decommissioning programs.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn VanDerslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that the non-compliance letter for Phase II has been sent out. There are still 736 fields to be reported on from approximately 430 landowners. This has generated lots of phone calls to the office. Spring static water levels have been completed and this information is being compiled. There have been 30 requests for staff to take nitrate samples for the RO costshare program and they are working through the process with the landowners. Joslynn has also been working on the updates to the Groundwater Management Plan Rules and Regulations. A draft from the WRWS Committee should be ready in the next couple of months for the board to review and discuss. Joslynn reviewed the LPRBC annual report with the board. Discussion was also held on the effect of going from surface water to groundwater and how it could affect the reporting.

Bazile Groundwater Management Area-Report: Marcus Blunk's, Bazile Groundwater Management Area Coordinator, report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Pablo Duart Hernandez's report was handed out in the Directors folders.

Holt County Extension: No Report.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

None

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 on Current Bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee reviewed the current bills. ⇨ **It was moved by Marv Fritz and seconded by Tony Sanderson to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman T. Gotschall not voting.** Fritz noted the weed barrier and survey equipment bills which are being paid this month; and, the majority of the accounts receivable are from the tree program. There was one cost share application which met all the requirements. As of now, the UENRD cost share funds are earmarked for the tree program and the new NSWCP allocation will be released in July.

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

Water Resources and Watershed Committee: The Committee met prior to the board meeting. John Vogel reported that they are working on updates to the Groundwater Management Plan rules and regulations.

1. **Groundwater Irrigated Acre Certification and Groundwater Acre Transfers:** None.
2. **Groundwater Rules and Regulations Update:** The Committee continues to review the GWMP rules and regulations. Once the draft review is completed, the board will receive a copy for their review, discussion and comments.

Personnel, Equipment, Promotion & Education Committee: The Committee met prior to the board meeting.

1. **UENRD Scholarship Award:** The Committee reviewed the Senior Scholarship applications for 2026 and discussed the applicants and the scholarship process. ⇒ It was moved by Art Tanderup and seconded by Cody Frank to award Senior Scholarships to Shaylie Kester (Summerland Public Schools), Clair Krysl (Summerland Public School), Kayde Ramm (Stuart High School); and, Jenna Funk (Summerland Public School) as the alternate. **AYE:** Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman T. Gotschall not voting
2. **Equipment Update for FY 26-27 Budget:** Dennis Schueth updated the Committee regarding equipment and vehicle budget requests for fiscal year 26-27.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** No Report
- **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** This was covered under the Water Resources Manager's report.
- **Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover) Alternate Representative:** The annual meeting was held at the Central Platte NRD in Grand Island. This meeting is held annually to keep the Coalition active. At this time, there are no new endangered species being labelled and no new critical habitat being established.
- **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 reported that the Legislature has concluded this year's session. There will be 13 senators leaving do to term limits or by their own choice. There were 500+ bills submitted this year including budget bills; however, there was not a lot of impact to the NRDs this year. The tree planting is going well. They should be finished and starting weed barrier in the next week. We have had two individuals apply to help with the summer programs. The UENRD hosted the NARD Risk Pool meeting April 20 and the new set up with the tables and chairs worked out very well. Dean Edson, will be negotiating the new premiums for the upcoming fiscal year based on the projections from Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

- Gene Kelly reviewed the agenda for the upcoming basin meeting scheduled for June 8 & 9 in the South Platte NRD area.

MAY BOARD MEETING:

⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Bruce Anderson to hold the May Board Meeting on May 26, 2026. **AYE:** Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman T. Gotschall not voting. Due to the Memorial Day holiday in May, the next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 7:00 PM with committee meetings scheduled prior to the board meeting.

⇒ It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Matt Beckman to adjourn at 8:13 PM. **AYE:** Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Dierks, Frank, Fritz, C. Gotschall, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman T. Gotschall not voting

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 27, 2026 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