UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 27, 2026 -- 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 noted at 7:06 P.M. by Chairman Trevor Gotschall.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Cody Frank	Curtis Gotschall	Allen Schueth

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

GUESTS PRESENT:
Aaron Romesser – NRCS, O'Neill Office
Alexa Davis – NeDWEE, Lincoln, NE

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

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

TREASURERS REPORT:
The June treasurers report was reviewed by the Directors. ⇨**It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Bruce Anderson to approve the June Treasurers Report. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Dierks, Fritz, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Frank, C. Gotschall & Schueth. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman T. Gotschall not voting.**

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT OR COMMENTS:

Alexa Davis, Soil & Water Programs Coordinator - NeDWEE: Alexa Davis attended the board meeting to present the One Red program information to the UENRD Board. The One Red program is based on developing an Ag Data Bank and Grants program which will have multiple funding opportunities for farming operations. NeDWEE would like to have all the NRDs participate in promoting the program and its incentives for federal cost share funds. There is also grant money for the NRDs to promote and discuss the different practices with cooperators within their district and help them sign up if they are interested. The One Red grant program consists of corn nitrogen management, soil health, equipment and technology. Participants in the One Red program will be asked to join an Ag Data Bank which collects data from the producers farming practices to receive the One Red grant monies. One Red is building on the strengths of Nebraska agriculture by supporting voluntary producer-led efforts. ⇨**It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Chris Dierks for UENRD staff to develop a plan to move forward with support for the One Red program in the UENRD. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Dierks, Fritz, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Frank, C. Gotschall & Schueth. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman T. Gotschall not voting.**

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Gene Kelly reported that the board has not met since June. The NARD fall conference is scheduled for September 28 & 29 in Kearney, Nebraska. Beth has put information in the Director's folders regarding the golf outing and the tentative agenda. The NARD Board will meet following the conference.

NeDWEE - Natural Resources Commission: Chris Dierks reported the scoring of the WRF applications has been completed and returned. The Commission will be meeting tomorrow (July 28) to review the Water Sustainability Fund and a full meeting on Wednesday. Dennis Schueth reviewed a letter received from Jesse Bradley, NeDWEE Director, regarding the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund. Due to the Governor's attempt to balance the states budget, he has transferred NET funds into the Soil and Water Conservation Fund and now an injunction has been filled to prohibit the transfer and expenditure of these funds. This will tie up the 2026 allocated funds for payments and the 2027 NSWCP new funding allocations. The UENRD and NeDWEE met in June to review the Voluntary IMP plan. They reviewed what occurred over the past year, the goals and if there were any changes to address in the upcoming year.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Aaron Romesser from the O'Neill office reviewed Brandon's report. NRCS has wrapped up EQIP contracts for the year and they were able to fund 31 contracts on 7,000 acres worth approximately 1.9 million dollars. Three contracts were funded through the NWQI in the BGMA fund pool. NRCS was able to fund 4 CSP contracts and several CRP contracts. Carly Sutherland is detailed to the easement team, staff were able to attend the Back to Our Roots Field training and some staff completed Area Technology training.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Marv Fritz reported that they he believes that they have finished hauling tires from the O'Neill Recycling center. The tire amnesty event brought in 550 tons of tires, Marv noted that it looked like a lot more than that came in the facility. They are already preparing a grant for next year in Brown county for approximately 400 tons of tires. The RC&D attended the Sandhills Ranch Expo where they held a battery collection and collected 400 to 450 pounds of batteries to recycle. The RC&D has received two benches from the tire amnesty events and are planning to use one to honor our veterans and the other will go to one of the RC&D members. The North Central RC&D will also be hosting a paper shredding event this fall.

Loup Basin RC&D: No Report.

Northeast RC&D: Art Tanderup reported that they met last month and are still working on the bylaws for the group, the NET weed management grant, a household hazardous waste grant and researching other grant opportunities. The grant workshop that they held was well attended. The Northeast RC&D is also looking in to another area tour in Know or Dixon County. They have also started a quarterly newsletter.

Information & Education Report: Beth Walsh's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Beth reported that the NARD Annual Conference in Kearney is scheduled for September 28-29. There was a tentative agenda and golf registration in the director's folders. Beth passed around a sign-up sheet for the event.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn VanDerslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported on the Rock County nitrate-nitrogen flyer that was presented during the Sandhills Expo. All 4 NRDs which make up Rock County submitted data for the flyer to show the water quality of Rock County. Joslynn printed off the Rock County maps for the NRD tent which drew interest from Rock County residents. Water sampling continues with both UENRD staff and cooperators submitting water samples for their Phase II and nitrogen certification requirements. Joslynn encouraged the Directors to watch their email for the Rules and Regs update and review them when they receive the document.

Bazile Management Report: Marcus Blunck-BGMA Coordinator's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn VanDerslice reported that 70 individuals attended the Field Day at Junior Pfanstiel's. The UNL Field Day held near Atkinson was also well attended. There is also a Bus Tour scheduled for August 5th - 7th in North and South Dakota. Anyone who is interested should plan to sign up right away.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee:

1. **Action on Current Bills and Cost share Requests:** The committee met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the current bills, accounts receivable and bank statements. Marv Fritz noted that the accounts receivable were mostly outstanding tree bills. Some of the higher bills this month included the tire amnesty bill, stream gauge at Ewing bill and insurance. **⇨It was moved by Marv Fritz and seconded by Gene Kelly to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Dierks, Fritz, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Frank, C. Gotschall & Schueth. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman T. Gotschall not voting.** Discussion was also held on the quote from Allo Business for an update to the UENRDs cyber security. The UENRD firewall is outdated and needs to be replaced as well as updates to our computer, internet and email security. **⇨It was moved by Marv Fritz and seconded by Tony Sanderson to approve the quote from Allo Business for the upgrade to the UENRDs cyber security. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Dierks, Fritz, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Frank, C. Gotschall & Schueth. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman T. Gotschall not voting.**
2. **2026-2027 Budget Workshop – week of August 17:** Dennis Schueth will review the calendar and contact the Directors for a date the week of August 17. The Committee may also want to discuss the current cost share rates for the upcoming fiscal year.

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

1. **Update on Groundwater Rules and Regulations:** The Committee is reviewing the updated GWMP Rules and Regulations. The Directors should watch their email for the draft copy for their review.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Niobrara River Basin Coalition: No Report.
Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: No Report.
Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover): No Report.
Nebraska Groundwater 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. These items were discussed under previous agenda items.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting date for the UENRD would be August 24, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

⇨**It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by John Vogel to adjourn at 8:52 PM. AYE: Anderson, Beckman, Blair, Dierks, Fritz, Kelly, Rice, Sanderson, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Frank, C. Gotschall & Schueth. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman T. Gotschall not voting.**

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 July 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.

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Gene Kelly, Secretary