UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING: FY 26-27 BUDGET WORKSHOP
August 18, 2026 - 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 by Legislative, Budget and Finance Chair Marv Fritz. The statement of advertisement and the open meetings law posting were all noted.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Bruce Anderson	Kevin Blair	Chris Dierks	Marv Fritz	Trevor Gotschall
Tony Sanderson	Allen Schueth	Cameron Smith	Art Tanderup	John Vogel

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Matt Beckman	Cody Frank	Curtis Gotschall	Gene Kelly	Aaron Rice

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

GUESTS PRESENT:
None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:
⇨**It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Trevor Gotschall to adopt the agenda. AYE: Anderson, Blair, Dierks, Fritz, T. Gotschall, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Beckman, Frank, C. Gotschall, Kelly & Rice. MOTION CARRIED.**

EXCUSED ABSENCES:
⇨**It was moved by John Vogel and seconded by Chris Dierks to excuse the absence of Matt Beckman, Cody Frank, C. Gotschall, Gene Kelly & Aaron Rice. AYE: Anderson, Blair, Dierks, Fritz, T. Gotschall, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Beckman, Frank, C. Gotschall, Kelly & Rice. MOTION CARRIED.**

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 sets the maximum rate and maybe it should be higher. It was noted that the per diem rate is set by state statute and would have to be changed by the legislature. 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. This item will be included on the August regular board meeting agenda. It takes 75% of the full NRD Board to pass this issue.

PREPARE FY 26-27 BUDGET-COMMITTEE AND BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS (JUNE 22, 2026):

- **Cornerstone Aerial Fly Over of UENRD:** The flyover is currently being flown and will cost $84,770 when completed. These funds were in the FY 25-26 budget.
- **Nitrate Water Treatment Program:** Dennis Schueth reviewed the water treatment cost share from last fiscal. There was approximately $30,000 expended. The consensus was to keep the program at $200,000.
- **Equipment – Recommended:**
  - Replacing 2005 Ford Pickup - $75,000
  - 2003 JU90X Case International Tractor - $84,000: Cab & Loader/buckets
  - Cement: $4,000 for materials and labor for back two sheds
  - Gutters: $3,854: Back shops for drainage issues on back two sheds

REVIEW PROPOSED FY 26-27 BUDGET NARRATIVE:

Dennis Schueth briefly reviewed the cash on hand and valuations. Dennis has not received the county valuations from Rock and Wheeler, so he could not report the actual UENRD tax asking or mill-levy. He will have this information for the board meeting. The Directors present reviewed the proposed budget and budget narrative. Additional items discussed included the reallocated FY 25-26 NSWCP cost share and NET grant funds transferred by Governor Pillen; ONE RED program; and Tree program for FY 26-27. The reallocation of the cost share and grant funds has now gone to court because they were not designated to balance the Governors budget. This court battle could go on for some time and keep these funds unavailable. Since Governor Pillen reallocated funding from the NSWCP program, we have an obligated balance of $81, 000 from this year's tree program. The question remains, should taxes be raised to pay the cost share owed to this years recipients? If the UENRD pays off the current NSWCP for trees and the funds are re-instated and the state pays the landowners, how would the NRD get their money paid back? The board members present requested Dennis check into possibly having a contract with the landowners to pay the funds back to the NRD if they receive the state funds. The ONE RED program is a chance to help cooperators participate in nitrogen management practices and provide conservation equipment to monitor nitrogen movement. This would be an In and Out program for the budget. The FY 26-27 Tree Program is facing challenges with the loss of NSWCP cost share and lack of other funding to help promote tree planting.

RECOMMENDATION TO PREPARE FY 26-27 DRAFT BUDGET FOR AUGUST 24, 2026 BOARD MEETING AND SETTING PUBLIC HEARING AND BOARD MEETING DATE OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2026:

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 24, 2026 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.

NARD FALL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 28-29, KEARNEY, NE:

The NARD Fall Conference is scheduled for September 28 & 29 in Kearney. We will need to appoint voting delegates for the conference at the August 24, 2026 board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

⇨It was moved by John Vogel and seconded by Chris Dierks to adjourn the budget workshop at 8:05 PM. AYE: Anderson, Blair, Dierks, Fritz, T. Gotschall, Sanderson, Schueth, Smith, Tanderup & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Beckman, Frank, C. Gotschall, Kelly & Rice. 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 18, 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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Marv Fritz, Chair – Legislative, Budget and Finance Committee