CALL TO ORDER:
The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by Chairman Michael Moser. The meeting was advertised and a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted for public review.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:
Gary Bartak  Kevin Blair  Mark Carpenter  Chris Dierks  Marv Fritz
Curtis Gotschall  Keith Heithoff  Jim Keller  Gene Kelly  Michael Moser
Aaron Rice  Roy Stewart  John Vogel  Chip Whitaker

DIRECTORS ABSENT:
Ted Hughes

STAFF PRESENT:
Dennis Schueth, General Manager
Beth Walsh, Information & Education Coordinator
Joslynn Vanderslice, Water Resources Manager
Andrea Fisher, Administrative Secretary
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician
Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician

GUESTS PRESENT:
Brandon Peterson – NRCS Office – O’Neill

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:
⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Keith Heithoff to adopt the agenda. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Hughes. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES:
The minutes of the March Meeting were reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Gene Kelly to approve the minutes of the March Meeting. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Hughes. MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURERS REPORT:
The March treasurers report was reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Aaron Rice to approve the March Treasurers Report. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Stewart. ABSENT: Hughes. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC FORUM- INPUT:
None
AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Dennis Schueth reported that he e-mailed the NARD Legislative Summary to the Directors. Dennis also reported that LB 243 to Create a Healthy Soils Task Force has been signed by the Governor. Marv Fritz has shown interest in serving on the task force; and, once Dennis receives the request for members he will submit the names of all those who are interested. The legislature continues to work on the property tax issues; and, Dennis noted that LB 177 regarding bonding for NRDs is moving forward. Registration information for the GMDA meeting was passed out and any directors interested in attending should contact the office.


NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson’s report was mailed out to the board members. Brandon reported that they are working on obligating EQIP contracts. He also reported on their special initiative regarding livestock disposal and cover crops due to the flooding. CSP sign-up is underway with some of the previous contracts being extended. Producers selected in counties declared a disaster area this year for random compliance reviews will receive a waiver and be inspected next year. Brandon also reported that Caitlyn Smith, the new secretary in the Neligh office is doing very well.

RC&D Report:
  - North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that they are continuing with their recycling efforts. There is an electronics recycling in O’Neill April 27.

Information & Education Report: Beth Walsh reported that due to the weather the Natural Resources Festival for this year was cancelled. We received 13 scholarship applications which were reviewed by the PEPE committee. The State Envirothon will be held this Wednesday April 24, at the Pibil Lake near Ericson, NE. Beth also reported that there has been an increase in Water Well Decommissioning applications from the BGWMA since Phil Steinkamp sent out letters notifying landowners of abandoned wells on their property.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn Vanderslice reported that letters have gone out notifying cooperators regarding their nitrogen certification and Phase II requirements. April 1 & 2, Joslynn attended the Geocloud training in Lincoln on how to utilize the cloud regarding data sharing. Wayne Frederick and Kelly Kloppenburg are continuing to collect static water level readings. A handout was included announcing the new Extension Educator for the Bazile Groundwater Management Area. The BGWMA will also be looking for individuals to participate in demonstration projects in the upcoming growing season. The UENRD demonstration project will focus on nitrogen inhibitors. Joslynn also reported that due to the flooding we have received approximately 60 samples to screen for bacteria.

Bazile Groundwater Management Area-Report: Phil Steinkamp’s report was included in the Directors packets.

Holt County Extension: No Report.

Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Agency: No Report.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:
It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Keith Heithoff to excuse the absence of Ted Hughes. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Hughes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee:** The committee met prior to the board meeting to review the current bills, cost share applications and bank statements.

1. The Committee reviewed the current bills. **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Gene Kelly to approve the current bills for payment.** **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Hughes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There were no cost share applications; and, the accounts receivable and bank statements appeared to be in order.

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

1. **Groundwater Transfer Rules and Regulations/Criteria Update:** No report.
2. **Staffing/Equipment to Implement Phase III:** The Committee discussed the implementation of the new Phase III Rules and Regulations. **It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by John Vogel to hire someone with an agronomy background to help implement the new Phase III GWMP Rules and Regulation with a salary range of $35,000 to $55,000.** **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Hughes. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Committee would like to have someone with an agronomy background to work with the landowners and have some practical experience. This position’s primary responsibility would be the implementation of Phase III; however, they would also help with other district programs. The soil sampling protocol was also discussed and Kelly Kloppenborg explained that we would follow the universities standard operating procedures when collecting the soil samples and develop a Standard Operation Policy (SOP).

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

1. **UENRD Senior Scholarships-Awards:** The Committee reviewed the Senior Scholarship applications. **It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Aaron Rice to award Senior Scholarships to Sydney Beed (Chambers), Ethan Sattler (Stuart), Amaya Dinslage (O’Neill); and, Elle Schmaderer (Stuart) as the alternate.** **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Hughes. **MOTION CARRIED.**
2. **Equipment Updates:** The Committee reviewed the status of the districts computers. Seven out of the eight office computers are running on the Windows 7 operating system. By the end of the year Windows 7 will no longer be supported so upgrades will need to be made. It has also been recommended while upgrading the operating system that we consider upgrading the computers that are between 5 and 10 years old. **It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Chip Whitaker to update the 4 oldest computers this fiscal year and upgrade the remaining 3 during FY 19-20.** **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Hughes. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Committee also reviewed bids for a new UTV to be used for collecting static water levels, water samples, flowmeter readings; and, collecting soil samples for phase III. **It was moved by Chris Dierks and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to accept the bid for the John Deere Gator in the amount of $23,512; and, look into the extended warranty package.** **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Hughes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:**
• **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that Don Blankenau is working to set up a meeting May 8, 2019 to discuss moving forward with purchasing the water right on the Niobrara River. Since the failure of the Spencer Dam there are a lot of questions to be addressed by the parties involved.

• **Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** No Report

• **Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover):** The annual meeting was held to elect new officers. John Shadle was elected Chair and Lyndon Vogt as Vice-Chair. A copy of the minutes were distributed to the board.

• **Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition:** No Report.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Items were covered under the previous agenda items.

**MAY BOARD MEETING:** Since Memorial Day falls on the next regular board meeting date, it was proposed to hold the next meeting either May 20 or 28. It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Roy Stewart to hold the next regular meeting of the UENRD Board of Directors May 28. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Whitaker. ABSENT: Hughes. MOTION CARRIED. The next regular board meeting will be held May 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Roy Stewart to adjourn at 8:23 PM. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Hughes. MOTION CARRIED.

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 22, 2019 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