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 all noted at 7:03 P.M. by Chairman Michael Moser.

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:
Roy Stewart

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

GUESTS PRESENT:
Brandon Peterson – NRCS, O’Neill, NE

AGENDA:
The Agenda was reviewed by the Directors. It was moved by Chip Whitaker and seconded by Keith Heithoff to adopt the Agenda. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.

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

AUGUST 22, 2019 BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES:
The minutes of the August 22, 2019 Budget Workshop were reviewed by the Directors. It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Marv Fritz to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2019 budget workshop meeting. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Kelly & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Hughes, Moser, Rice & Vogel. ABSENT: Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.
TREASURERS REPORT:

⇒ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Jim Keller to approve the July Treasurers Report. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:
None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:
NARD Report: The NARD Fall Conference will be held September 23-24 in Kearney. Dennis Schueuth reviewed the current resolutions which will be discussed at the fall conference. The first is from the UNWNRD regarding Natural Resources Commission members; and, the second is from the LENRDR regarding bonding authority for all NRDs. ⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by John Vogel to approve Ted Hughes as the NARD Fall Conference voting delegate; and, Chris Dierks as the alternate. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: Keller. ABSTAIN: Hughes. ABSENT: Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.


NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson’s report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they have obligated 60 EQIP contracts for 1.6 million dollars; 20 contracts for cover crops for $103,000; and, have obligated $300,000 in the Bazile Management area. They are finishing up CSP contracts; and, have cost shared approximately 1 million dollars through the Emergency Watershed Protection program on approximately 25 different sites in Holt County. NRCS has recently advertised for three positions in the area so hopefully these will be filled in the future. The State Range Judging Contest is being held in Holt County on September 25th and volunteers will be needed for this event. NRCS Civil Engineering Technician, Paul Hoefer, will be retiring at the end of September. There will be an open house for Paul September 26th from 1-4 PM at the O’Neall office. There has not been any word regarding the MOU as of Brandon’s report.

RC&D Report:
North Central RC&D: No report.
Loup Basin RC&D: No report.
Northeast RC&D: No report.

Information & Education Report: Beth Walsh’s report was mailed out in the Director’s packets. Beth confirmed Directors attending the annual conference and noted that the last day to cancel to receive a refund is September 9. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Fairfield Inn and Suites and confirmation information will be sent out prior to the event.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn Vanderslice’s report was mailed out in the Director’s packets. Joslynn reported that the NRD two summer interns collected approximately 500 irrigation water samples. Reminder letters regarding water sampling for nitrogen certification have been sent out. Joslynn noted that Phil Steinkamp and Jeremy Milander reports were included in the directors packets for the Bazile Groundwater Management Area. Jeremy is still working on setting up the Hi-Boy demonstration which is scheduled for the week of September 16. Joslynn also reported that she has been asked to attend a communications conference in Atlanta, GA as part of the BGMA and will be sponsored through the UNL. She will be one of 7 people attending the conference from the BGMA. Joslynn introduced Brett Sholes, Agronomy Resource Technician. Brett introduced himself, reviewed his background and reviewed his activities over the past month which included Chemigation inspections, irrigation well inspections and working on the Phase III grants. Discussion was also held regarding the inspections of the irrigation wells that have not been
permitted for Chemigation. Wayne Frederick updated the board members and reported that he, Jake Morten and Brett have seen a little bit of everything at these sites. Some have old slam valves, no slam valves, evidence of chemigation etc. Once the inspections are completed, we will need to discuss how to proceed with the findings.

**Bazile Management Report:** Phil Steinkamp’s report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Dennis Schueth reported that Phil Steinkamp was relieved of his duties as the BGMA Coordinator following a series of meetings to keep the project moving forward. Advertisements for a replacement are being conducted through the Lower Elkhorn NRD office. Applications/resume’s are being accepted until September 10th. The Hi-Boy demonstration is scheduled for the week of September 16 in the Creighton area.

**UNL Extension:** No report.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

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

**NIOBRARA RIVER BASIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AUGUST 19-20, 2019 REVIEW:**

The directors and staff who attended the Niobrara River Basin Tour August 19 commented on stops at the Handlebend Copper Mug facility; LNNRD Rural water system boring area; the Spencer dam; Sand Draw Creek grade stabilization; and, meeting following the tour on September 20.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Legislative, Budget and Finance:**

- **Action on Current Bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the bills, receipts and bank statement. ⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Keith Heithoff to approve the current bills for payment. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.** The annual bill from the USGS regarding the gauging station was discussed.

- **August 22nd FY 19-20 Budget Workshop Update and Recommendations:** Dennis Schueth passed out an updated draft FY 19-20 budget and summary of the UENRD valuations and tax asking for the past 5 years.

  - **Budget Line Items:** Dennis reviewed the August 22 budget workshop meeting regarding the draft budget, directors per diem and additional 1% taxing authority. There is an approximately $80,000 increase in tax asking for FY 19-20, primarily due to the implementation of the Phase III GWMA; however, staff is looking into grants to help offset costs associated with Phase III. Other items discussed concerning the budget consisted of the proposed shop and the breakdown of the NARD dues structure.

  - **Setting of FY 2019-2020 Budget Hearing, September 16, 2019:** ⇒ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Marv Fritz to hold the public hearing for the FY 19-20 Budget on September 16, 2019 in conjunction with the UENRD regular board meeting. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Water Resources and Watershed Committee Report & Recommendations:**

- **Groundwater Transfer Rules and Regulations/Criteria Update-Prepare for Public Hearing:** Joslynn Vanderslice handed out the new transfer rules and regulations, the new transfer criteria sheet and a list
of the transfer changes. Mark Carpenter, chair of the Water Resources and Watershed Committee, reviewed the list of proposed changes with the board.  

⇒ It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to hold the public hearing for Rule 23 of the GWMP Rules and Regulations regarding Irrigated Acre Transfers September 26, 2019. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Vogel. ABSENT: Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.

- Phase III Soil Sampling Bids-Accept or Reject: The UENRD received two soil sampling bids for the Phase III area, which were handed out at the board meeting. The Committee noted the cost difference between the two bids and had Agronomy Resources Technician, Brett Sholes, review them with the board and discuss the various aspects.  

⇒ It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Aaron Rice to accept the bid from Agronomic Solutions. AYE: Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. NAY: Bartak, Dierks & Heithoff. ABSTAIN: Vogel. ABSENT: Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.

- NDEE and NET Grants Review and Submittal: Joslynn Vanderslice handed out the draft of the NET grant that staff has been working on for the side-by-side, soil probes and equipment needed to increase the district educational efforts to ag producers. The UENRD staff will be finishing up the NET grant and submit it to the Nebraska Environmental Trust by the September 3 deadline.

- UNL/NRD Northeast Extension Educator – MOU: There appears to be some funding discrepancies regarding the funding of the UNL/NRD Northeast Extension Educator working with the Bazile Groundwater Management Area project. All parties are discussing the agreement and UENRD staff will keep the board informed.

- MNNRD-Sandhills Interactive Natural Resources Educational Complex: Dennis Schueth reported that the MNNRD is applying for a grant to develop an educational center in Valentine for NRD personnel, students, cooperators and the public. The center would provide real hands-on opportunities for teaching and continuing education for NRD and other natural resources personnel. The MNNRD has an abundance of room at their new facility and would like to create this educational center. At this time the MNNRD is asking for letters of support which the UENRD is planning to submit.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

- Niobrara River Basin Alliance: Dennis Schueth reported that the Alliance has had some communication issues but are working through them. There is a meeting scheduled for October 2 in Lincoln to discuss the future of the agreement between the Alliance and NPPD.

- Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: The Coalition met in July and the new model NDNR is developing for the eastern portion of the lower Platte Basin was reviewed.

- Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover): No Report.

- Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition: No Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Dennis Schueth’s report was mailed out to the directors prior to the board meeting in their packets. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office.

The next regular board meeting will be held September 16, 2019 in conjunction with the budget hearing.

⇒ It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Gene Kelly to adjourn at 8:50 PM. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.
The next board meeting will be held September 10, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the UENRD office.

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 26, 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.

___________________________
Gene Kelly, Secretary/Treasurer