

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
December 28,2020 – 2:30 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 all noted at 2:39 P.M. by Chairman Michael Moser.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Gary Bartak	Mark Carpenter	Curtis Gotschall	Ted Hughes	Jim Keller
Gene Kelly	Michael Moser	Aaron Rice	Roy Stewart (arrived at 3:53 pm)	

**DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:**

Kevin Blair	Marv Fritz	Keith Heithoff (joined at 2:47pm)	Chip Whitaker
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**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Chris Dierks John Vogel

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Joslynn VanDerslice, Water Resources Manager  
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resource Technician  
Wayne Frederick, Water Resource Technician  
Brett Sholes, Agronomy Resource Technician  
Andrea Fisher, Administrative Secretary

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Brandon Peterson, NRCS – O’Neill (via Zoom)  
Cody Frank  
Bill Birkel  
Robert Peterson  
Art Tanderup (via Zoom)

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Mark Carpenter to adopt the agenda. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Hughes, Kelly, Moser & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Dierks, Heithoff, Stewart & Vogel. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MINUTES:**

The Directors reviewed the minutes of the November Meeting. There was a wrong date listed. ⇒It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Ted Hughes to approve the minutes of the November Meeting with corrections. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Rice. **ABSENT:** Dierks, Heithoff, Stewart & Vogel. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

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

### **PUBLIC FORUM, INPUTS OR COMMENTS:**

Robert Peterson and Bill Birkel addressed the board regarding acre transfer certification and approving the acres to 135. **It was moved to approve the 135 acres contingent on going to the notary and get signed documentation that acres were watered when they were supposed to be watered. It was moved by Aaron Rice and seconded by Gary Bartak ⇒. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. NAY: Gotschall. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Dierks, Stewart & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED.**

**NARD Report:** 1. The NARD Legislative Conference is scheduled for January 26 & 27, 2021 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. 2. UENRD Resolution – NARD Risk Pool funding of \$900,000 for NARD building. **Motion was to approve the \$900,000 that Dean Edson used from the Insurance fund for building.**

**UENRD Resolution:** ⇒ **It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Gene Kelly to approve the \$900,000. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Dierks, Stewart & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED.**

**NeDNR Report:** Caucus at UENRD January 12<sup>th</sup>. Directors that could run or have a vote on this position are Stewart, Keller, Gotschall, Vogel, Kelly, Fritz, Bartak, Whitaker, Tanderup, Rice, Moser, Heithoff and Dierks. Frank and Blair could vote for Niobrara Basin Commissioner.

**NRCS Report:** Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. He was present via Zoom to answer any questions. Brandon discussed the USDA NRCS/NRD agreement. The agreement will be voted on in January.

### **RC&D Reports:**

**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 Directors packets. The NARD Legislative Conference is scheduled for January 26 & 27, 2021 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. At this time, still undecided if having. For those that signed up to go let the office know if plans have changed.

**Water Resources Report:** Joslynn VanDerslice's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Nitrate Water Sampling Summary, which was included in packet includes updated maps and table of township data. 2020 Spring and Fall static water levels included in the packet. NW Holt was accidentally duplicated, and SW Holt not included. If want to see SW Holt can provide. Phase III soil sampling has been completed.

**Bazile Management Area Report:** Connor Baldwin and Jeremy Milander's reports were included in the director's packets. Connor Baldwin accepted another position within LENRD. The NRD managers will be looking for a new coordinator. New BGMA website to be launched in next couple of weeks.

**Holt County Extension:** No Report.

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Legislative, Finance and Planning:**

1. **Action on Current bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the bills, accounts receivable and bank statements. ⇒ **It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Jim Keller to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Dierks, Heithoff, Stewart & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED.** Gene Kelly noted that the accounts receivable looks great and that it is under \$200.00.

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

- **Action on Groundwater Acre Transfers:** None
- **Extension of deadline for phase II reports:** Water committee recommended not advertising extension, but if people call in, allow them to submit past the deadline.

## **COALITIONS UPDATE:**

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** New NeDNR director Tom Riley wants to meet with the NRBA representatives.

**Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** Management committee unable to meet in November due to Covid. Still waiting to be rescheduled.

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

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

## **UENRD 2021 & 2022 Committee Assignments:**

**Michael Moser drew names for the Water Committee. The 2021 and 2022 committee members are Gene Kelly, Marv Fritz, Cody Frank, Kevin Blair, and Aaron Rice.**

## **UENRD Awards and Recognition:**

**This is postponed to the January board meeting. Thanked Ted Hughes and Mark Carpenter for service on board.**

## **Administrative Report:**

**Healthy soils task force report in folders. Jeff Steffan, task force member, coming to January board meeting.**

## **JANUARY BOARD MEETING:**

**Due to the NARD Legislative Conference and Martin Luther King Day, the January board meeting date will be changed to January 19, 2021 at 2:30 PM with committee meetings being held prior to the board meeting.**

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

⇒ **It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Gary Bartak to adjourn at 4:20 PM. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Dierks, Heithoff & Vogel. 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 December 28, 2020 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