

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 16, 2018 -- 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 2:37 P.M. by Chairman Gene Kelly.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Gary Bartak	Mark Carpenter	Chris Dierks	Curtis Gotschall	Keith Heithoff
Ted Hughes	Jim Keller	Gene Kelly	John Meuret	Michael Moser
Aaron Rice	Roy Stewart	Chip Whitaker	Dale Wiles	

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Gary Bartak

STAFF PRESENT:

Dennis Schueth, General Manager
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician
Andrea Fisher, Administrative Secretary
Beth Walsh, Information & Education Coordinator
Sarah Nevison, Water Resources Manager
Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brandon Peterson – NRCS – O'Neill
Amy Timmerman – UNL Extension – O'Neill

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

⇒ It was moved by Chris Dierks seconded by Michael Moser to adopt the agenda. **AYE:** Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

The minutes of the December Meeting were reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Chris Dierks to approve the minutes of the December Meeting. **AYE:** Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Stewart & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Rice & Wiles. **ABSENT:** Bartak. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TREASURERS REPORT:

The December treasurers report was reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Jim Keller to approve the December Treasurers Report. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Meuret, Moser, Stewart & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Wiles. **ABSENT:** Dvorak, Kelly & White. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT OR COMMENTS:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: The NARD Legislative Conference is scheduled for January 23 & 24 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Directors attending include Gene Kelly, Ted Hughes, Chris Dierks, Keith Heithoff, Curtis Gotschall and Mark Carpenter. Dennis Schueth reviewed some of the bills of interest and noted that they dealt with NCORPE and property taxes.

DNR Report: No Report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they are in the process of ranking EQIP applications; CSP has been completed and they are waiting for the next sign up; and, CRP is on hold until they authorize additional acres. NRCS continues to operate on a continuous resolution until January 19 at which time either a new budget needs to be approved or another resolution passed. Molly Lakin, Compliance Specialist, will now be working out of the Burwell field office.

Holt County Extension Agent: Amy Timmerman reported on the Chemigation and Land Application training dates for this area. Amy also discussed a youth program she would like to start in the Bazile Groundwater Management Area modeled after the "Innovative Youth Corn Challenge" sponsored by UNL and the Nebraska Corn Board. The program would encourage teams of students to develop a plan on crop ground to address the use of nitrogen and other best management practices to produce positive yields while protecting the environment. Since the Bazile covers portions of 4 NRDs, she is requesting \$50 from each NRD to serve as a prize for the winning team. There was discussion regarding the amount requested and whether it should be more as a better incentive for the program. ⇒ **It was moved by Jim Keller seconded by Ted Hughes to approve \$50.00 for the program. AYE: Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak. MOTION CARRIED.**

Dierks departed at 3:03 PM.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that the RC&D continues to be active especially with their recycling work.

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. Beth reported that renewal chemigation permits have been mailed out for the 2018 season.

Water Resources Report: Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah highlighted her report which included: Rule 27 being published and taking effect February 1, 2018; 2017 Phase II reports and analysis of 2016 Phase II reports; UENRD hosting the O'Neill Chamber Coffee January 19; February water issues meeting; Bazile meeting with UNL; and, the Bazile Groundwater Management Area open house February 7. Sarah also handed out a list of talking points for the February 6 water issues meeting for the Directors to review.

Bazile Management Report: Sarah Nevison distributed the BGWM area open house/informational meeting flyer and reviewed the topics of the meeting. She also passed out Phil Steinkamp's report discussing his activities over the past month.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

⇒ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Jim Keller to excuse the absence of Gary Bartak. **AYE:** Carpenter, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak & Dierks. **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Finance and Planning: The Committee met prior to the board meeting.

- 1. Action on Current bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee reviewed the current bills. There were no cost share requests. ⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the current bills for payment. **AYE:** Carpenter, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak & Dierks. **MOTION CARRIED.** Roy Stewart also reported that the Accounts Receivable looked to be in good standing.
- 2. Monthly Board Meeting Time and Schedule:** This item was requested to be on the agenda for discussion. The Committee did not offer any recommendations; and, asked if there were any other board members who wished to discuss the issue. There was no further discussion. Board meeting times and schedule will remain as is.
- 3. Board of Directors Elections:** This item was also requested to be included on the board agenda. The filing deadline for incumbents is February 15, 2018 and March 1, 2018 for non-incumbents. Dale Wiles submitted his resignation from the board to Chairman Gene Kelly. ⇒ It was moved by Jim Keller seconded by John Meuret to accept Dale Wiles resignation. **AYE:** Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. **NAY:** Carpenter. **ABSTAIN:** Wiles. **ABSENT:** Bartak & Dierks. **MOTION CARRIED.** Currently there is one vacant position on the UENRD board in Sub-district 2; and, now an opening in Sub-district 3 with the resignation of Wiles. Roy Stewart asked if there were any Directors not planning to file for election so the District could advertise for all openings. The current policy for electing UENRD board members is for them to file by sub-district and be voted on At-Large. ⇒ It was moved by John Meuret seconded by Michael Moser to change the policy of electing UENRD Directors from At-Large to being voted on by Sub-District. **AYE:** Carpenter, Heithoff, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice & Wiles. **NAY:** Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Stewart & Whitaker. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak & Dierks. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

- 1. Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** The Committee reviewed the acre transfer request. ⇒ It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the acre transfer request pending completion of all the paperwork. **AYE:** Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak & Dierks. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- 2. Mid-Month, Full Board meeting – February 6, 2018 Water Issue:** A water issues meeting for the full board is scheduled for February 6, 2018 at 2:00 PM.
- 3. Current and Future Urban/Rural Water Usages:** Michael Moser requested that this item be placed on the agenda. Michael explained that he has been approached by constituents concerned with the possible future allocations and why there are not any restrictions included in Rule 27 for urban areas.

COALITIONS UPDATE:

- Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** Dennis Schueth and Sarah Nevison attended the last coalition meeting at which time new modeling was discussed by DNR. Sarah reported that the UENRD will need to submit a report on its water activities by March 1 for the Coalition.

- **Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that the latest draft of the purchase agreement has been sent out for review. The Alliance will be meeting during the NARD Legislative Conference to discuss this issue. He also noted that there are still many unanswered questions surrounding the purchase agreement.
- **Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover):** No Report.
- **Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition:** No Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Dennis Schueth's report was mailed out in the Director's packets. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office. Dennis presented 20 Years of Service recognition awards to Curtis Gotschall and Dale Wiles; and, 30 Years of Service to Ted Hughes.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:

The next regular board meeting will be held February 26, 2018 at 2:30 pm. Committee meetings will be held prior to the board meeting.

⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Dale Wiles to adjourn at 4:07 p.m. **AYE:** Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Whitaker & Wiles. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Bartak. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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 January 16, 2018 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.

Dale Wiles, Secretary/Treasurer