

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
July 23, 2018 -- 7:00 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 in the Holt County Independent, Rock County Leader and Neligh News were noted; and, the open meetings law posting were all noted at 7:11 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		

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

None

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Marv Fritz, O'Neill  
Brandon Peterson – NRCS, O'Neill

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

**MINUTES:**

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

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT OR COMMENTS:**

None

### **AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:**

**NARD Report:** The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the fall conference September 24 & 25, 2018.

**DNR Report:** Garry Anderson's report was handed out at the board meeting. Dennis Schueth reviewed the funds and their allocations. He also noted that with the budget shortfall, unobligated funds may be moved to the general fund to help balance the budget.

**NRCS Report:** Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reviewed his report and updated the board on the EQIP and CSP programs. The Soil Conservation Technician in Ainsworth will be leaving to work for the Nebraska Forest Service. He also reported that the RC position in the Neligh office has been filled; however, the name has not been released at this time.

**Holt County Extension:** No Report.

### **RC&D Report:**

**North Central RC&D:** Jim Keller reported that they are working on getting a recycling trailer for the area.

**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 reminded the Directors of the NARD Annual Conference scheduled for September 24 & 25 in Kearney. Beth passed around a signup sheet so the district can begin working on reservations and conference registration. The registration deadline is August 24; and, the final date for cancellations with a full refund is September 10.

**Water Resources Report:** Sarah Nevison's report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Sarah reported that she attended the NRBA meeting June 28 and the Alliance is planning to hire a consultant to do an environmental study of the area. The final V-IMP public meeting is scheduled for August 29 at the Community Center in O'Neill. Sarah reviewed the June stakeholders meeting and reminded the board to review the goals and objectives handout in their packets. It was also reported that nitrate sampling has begun throughout the district; however, we are running behind due to the rains we have been receiving across the district. Sarah also announced that she is planning for August 17, 2018 to be her last day in the office. Announcements for the Water Resources Manager position have been sent out with a closing deadline of August 15.

**Bazile Management Report:** Phil Steinkamp's report was included in the board packet mailing. Sarah Nevison reviewed some of the results from the Bazile Groundwater Management area survey. A breakdown of the survey results were included in the directors packets. The NRDs are also still working with UNL Cooperative Extension to explore the possibility of funding an extension agent position to work in the Bazile Groundwater Management Area.

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

None

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

- **Action on Current Bills and Cost share Requests:** The committee met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the current bills, accounts receivable and bank statements. ⇒ **It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Carpenter, Dierks,**

Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None.  
ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak. MOTION CARRIED.

- **Budget Workshop:** The Budget Workshop meeting for the 2018-2019 fiscal year will tentatively be scheduled for the week of August 13 contingent on when the district receives all the budget information.

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

- **Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (V-IMP) Update:** This draft goals and objectives for the V-IMP have been distributed to the board for their review. The final stakeholder/public meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2018 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the O'Neill Community Center.
- **Groundwater Acre Certification/Transfer Issues:** None.
- **October 2018 Groundwater Expansion Signup – Accept Applications/Suspend Signup:** John Meuret reported that the Committee discussed this issue prior to the board meeting. ⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Ted Hughes to approve the expansion of groundwater irrigated acres up to 1000 acres for the 2019 growing seasons using the same criteria ranking as last year.** AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser & Whitaker. NAY: Gotschall, Rice & Stewart. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.
- **Water Quality Phase III Discussion:** John Meuret reported that the committee is continuing to discuss the rules and regulations for the Phase III areas. The committee plans to present their recommendations at the September board meeting. A request was made that board members receive the draft information for review prior to the September meeting.
- **UNL Extension Agent Northeast Nebraska Partnership (Bazile NRDs \$12,000-\$15,000 each):** Discussion continues between the UNL Extension and the four Bazile watershed NRDs regarding a jointly funded position for the BGMA. There is a proposal to fund the position with \$12,000 to \$15,000 per NRD and UNL Extension. A meeting is scheduled for July 31 to continue discussions. ⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Ted Hughes to budget up to \$15,000 to jointly fund an Extension position for the Bazile Creek Groundwater Management Area.** AYE: Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: Bartak, Dierks, Meuret & Moser. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.
- **Isotope Testing-Bazile Creek (\$4,200):** Dennis Schueth reported that UNL will be sampling groundwater and surface water in the Bazile watershed during the summer and fall of 2018 and winter and spring of 2019. They could also do isotope sampling on the samples UNL takes in the UENRD if the district would fund the testing. ⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Michael Moser to budget up to \$4,200 for isotope sampling in the UENRD portion of the Bazile watershed.** AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

#### COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

**Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** There was a meeting held July 16 at the LENRD. Discussion was held on the database being developed by HDR.

**Niobrara River Basin Coalition:** The Alliance is moving forward with a grant application for the Water Sustainability Fund. The deadline for applications is July 31, 2018. This grant will be different from the other grants submitted to the Commission in that it is being pro-active instead of trying to repair an issue. The grant funding is needed to offset the potential purchase cost for the Alliance members. The Alliance is also looking into dam operations and deferred maintenance. The next meeting is scheduled for August 22.

**Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover):** Threatened and endangered species are being reviewed.

**Nebraska Groundwater Management Coalition:** No Report.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

Dennis Schueth's report was mailed out in the Director's packets a copy is kept on file at the NRD office. The administrative report was covered under the previous agenda items.

**AUGUST BOARD MEETING:**

The next regular meeting date for the UENRD would be August 27, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by John Meuret to adjourn at 8:18 PM. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **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 July 23, 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.

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Gene Kelly, Chairman