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 in the Holt County Independent, the official UENRD newspaper. 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  Ted Hughes  Jim Keller  Gene Kelly
Michael Moser  Aaron Rice  Roy Stewart  John Vogel  Chip Whitaker

DIRECTORS ABSENT:
None

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

GUESTS:
Brandon Peterson, NRCS – 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, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker.  NAY: None.  ABSTAIN: None.  ABSENT: Keller.  MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:
None
AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Ted Hughes reported that he attended the June NARD meeting in Ord June 9 & 10. The two year budget was passed with a 4% increase in dues. Ted reviewed the NARD awards and funds allocated for educational programs through the NARD foundation. The risk pool met following the board meeting. There will be a 5% increase in the health insurance premiums; and, a 14.9% increase in the dental insurance premiums as of January 1, 2020 due to an increase in the annual benefits. Dennis Schueth reported that August 16, 2019 is the deadline for resolutions to be considered at the fall conference. He also passed around the Basin Tour booklet and discussed some of the tour stops. Dennis also reported that he attended the NACD Northern Plains Regional meeting following the basin tour in Gothenberg to present information regarding the Niobrara River Basin Alliance and the Spencer Hydro Dam surface water appropriation.

DNR Report: Dennis Schueth reported that the NeDNR is under an audit review due to some questionable activities regarding the executive director.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson, O’Neill NRCS office, attended the board meeting. Brandon reviewed his report that was mailed out to the directors. They are currently obligating EQIP contracts for funding; they are ranking CSP contracts; reviewing EWP applications and reviewing the sites; and, reviewing approximately 20 ECP applications from FSA. The O’Neill NRCS will also be hosting an engineering intern this summer. Parker Belgium will begin his duties June 24. Brandon also reported that they are still working on the MOA and it should be completed shortly.

RC&D Report:
   North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that they are still busy with their recycling efforts.
   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 she has been busy with Chemigation this past month and gave an overview of the Sandhills Ranch Expo.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn Vanderslice’s report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reviewed the static water level results mailed out in the directors packet. Static water levels were finished up the first week in May and showed that the district is back above the 2012 drought levels. In 2018, all 6 subdistrict showed an increase based on the 20 year trendline.

Bazile Management Report: Phil Steinkamp’s report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn Vanderslice reported that they are still working on finding cooperators to host a demonstration project within the Bazile area. The Producer Meeting rescheduled from March 13 was held June 18 in Osmond. The June turnout was better than in March. There will be an Ag Field day at the Haskell Lab near Concord, NE August 14.

Holt County Extension Agent: No Report.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee: The committee met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the current bills, bank statements and accounts receivable.
• **Action on Current Bills and Cost-Share requests**: The Committee reviewed the current bills. It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Marv Fritz to approve the current bills for payment; and, allow payment of the John Deere Side-by-Side if the bill comes and it is the amount of the quote approved in May. **AYE**: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY**: None. **ABSTAIN**: None. **ABSENT**: None. **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

• **Groundwater Transfer Rule and Regulations/Criteria Update**: Mark Carpenter reported that the Committee continues to work on updating the Transfer Rules and Regs along with the transfer agreement. The Committee plans to have information for the board to review at the July meeting.

• **Spring 2019 Static Water Levels**: Static water level results were reviewed by the Committee; and, the board during the Water Resources Managers report.
  a. **Recommendation on October 2019 Acre Expansion Sign-up**: It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Aaron Rice to hold an Expansion of Groundwater Irrigated Acres during the month of October 2019 for up to 1000 new acres; and, have the sign-up follow the same guidelines as the 2018 sign-up. **AYE**: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Vogel. **NAY**: Dierks, Gotschall, Stewart & Whitaker. **ABSTAIN**: None. **ABSENT**: None. **MOTION CARRIED**.

• **Agronomy Resource Technician**: Keith Heithoff reported that the Personnel, Equipment, Promotion and Education Committee along with Curtis Gotschall and UENRD staff met and interviewed 5 candidates for the Agronomy Resource Technician June 21, 2019.
  a. **Job Description by PEPE committee**: The Board reviewed the new Agronomy Resource Technician job description for the Upper Elkhorn NRD. It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Marv Fritz to approve the Agronomy Resource Technician job description. **AYE**: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY**: None. **ABSTAIN**: None. **ABSENT**: None. **MOTION CARRIED**.
  b. **Recommendation on Position by PEPE Committee**: Heithoff gave an overview of the interviews. It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Chip Whitaker to offer the position to Brett Sholes at an annual salary between $50,000 and $55,000 to be negotiated. **AYE**: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY**: None. **ABSTAIN**: None. **ABSENT**: None. **MOTION CARRIED**.

• **Groundwater Well to Maintain Dam (Antelope County)**: Dennis Schueth reported that he has been in contact with the party requesting the well to maintain water levels behind their dam. This individual may put together a presentation for the board at a later time.

**COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE**:

**Niobrara River Basin Coalition**: Dennis Schueth reported that they are still negotiating the purchase price for the water right. The Coalition has also sent a letter to DNR regarding the status of the appropriation and if there will be any changes due to the failure of the Spencer dam. Dennis also reported that we will be hosting the Niobrara Basin tour August 19-20. Possible tour stops may include the Tomato Plant in O’Neill and the Spencer dam area the first day with the business meeting the second day in the Valentine area.

**Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition**: There is a meeting scheduled for July 23.

**Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover)**: Minutes were included in the directors packets.

**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 noted that the PEPE will need to meet prior to the next board meeting regarding salaries and equipment for FY 19-20.
JULY BOARD MEETING:
The next regular board meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on July 22, 2019 at the NRD office in O’Neill.

➢ It was moved by Keith Heithoff and seconded by Gene Kelly to adjourn at 8:18 PM.  AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker.  NAY: None.  ABSTAIN: None.  ABSENT: None.  MOTION CARRIED.

I, the undersigned Chairman 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 June 24, 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