CALL TO ORDER, STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT AND OPEN MEETING LAW NOTIFICATION:
The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 2:40 P.M. by Vice Chairman Aaron Rice. The meeting was advertised and a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted for public review.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:
Gary Bartak  Kevin Blair  Mark Carpenter  Chris Dierks (arr. 2:45)  Marv Fritz
Curtis Gotschall  Ted Hughes  Gene Kelly  Aaron Rice  John Vogel
Chip Whitaker

DIRECTORS ABSENT:
Keith Heithoff  Jim Keller  Michael Moser  Roy Stewart

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

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:
⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Ted Hughes to adopt the agenda. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Hughes, Kelly, Rice, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Dierks, Heithoff, Keller, Moser & Stewart. MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

Chris Dierks arrived at 2:45 PM
PUBLIC FORUM – INPUT:
LeRoy Behnk attended the meeting to address the board. Mr. Behnk apologized regarding his input at the end of last month’s board meeting. He also passed out a spreadsheet he developed with the help of staff at the Lower Loup NRD regarding the banking of irrigated acres based off of a Groundwater Irrigated Acre Transfer.

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:
NARD Report: Ted Hughes reported that he attended the NARD board meeting March 11. NARD Board officers were elected and Larry Reynolds is President, Jim Eschilman is Vice-President and Milt Schmidt is Secretary/Treasurer. Ted also reviewed the funding allocations made through the NARD Foundation which included the Nebraska Envirothon, ACE Camp, Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute, Ag Issues Academy, and Great Park Pursuit. Foundation funds are generated from the conference fundraisers. Following the board meeting the Risk Pool meeting was conducted. It was reported that the risk pool fell behind in February due to the amount of claims submitted. Dennis Schueth reported that he sent the legislative update out to all the directors. Dennis highlighted the report and noted that Senator Gragert’s bill, LB 243 is proceeding. If the bill is passed, a task force will be created and this might be something we should consider joining. The task force will be appointed and anyone interested should contact Dennis and he will submit names when he receives the request for members of the task force.

DNR Report: Gary Anderson’s report was included in the Director’s folders.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson’s report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they are obligating EQIP contracts. 2018 CSP contracts have been extended until December 2019 and cooperators will be offered the option of re-enrolling. This is because they are still working on the rules from the farm bill. NRCS is also working on getting some special funding from EQIP and EWPP (Emergency Watershed Protection Program) to help with the recent flooding. There will also be funding for livestock disposal; and, help with fencing and debris removal. The Memorandum of Understanding has been reviewed by the UENRD and local NRCS. Once the changes are approved the MOU will need to be approved by both parties.

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 Directors packets. There was discussion held regarding the Envirothon program and scholarship program. Beth reviewed the Envirothon program and reported that we host the largest regional competition in the state. She also reported that we have received 5 senior scholarship applications but only 2 submitted the required cover letter. Beth reported that she did contact the counselors in the district regarding the cover letter requirement.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn Vanderslice’s report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn handed out and reviewed the nitrogen certification surveys. Two hundred and ninety cooperators attended the nitrogen certification classes and 243 surveys were returned. Joslynn also handed out the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition annual report and highlighted the acre certification, transfer, well permit and available acre information. Due to the flooding, we have received and tested 12 bacteria samples in the last week. Non-compliant Phase II letters have also been sent out which has generated a lot of phone calls to the office.

Bazile Management Area: The March 13th Growers meeting was held in Osmond, NE. Speakers Dr. Ray Ward and Tim Mundorf from CVA addressed the group of approximately 20 producers before the meeting was cut
short due to the weather. Joslynn reported that an Extension Educator has been hired to work in the Bazile Groundwater Management area and will be starting in April. They are also looking for cooperators in the Bazile area for demonstration projects.

**Holt County Extension:** No Report.

**Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Agency:** No Report.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Legislative, Finance and Planning:**

1. **Action on Current bills and Cost Share Requests:** The Committee met and reviewed the current bills, accounts receivable and bank statements. ⇒ It was moved by Gary Bartak and seconded by Marv Fritz to approve the current bills for payment. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Hughes, Kelly, Rice, Vogel & Whitaker. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Heithoff, Keller, Moser & Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.** Gary Bartak reported that the accounts receivable and bank statements were in order; however, they did discuss the accounts receivable that were past 90 days and if there should be more done to get them paid. There were no cost share requests.

**Water Resources & Watershed:** Mark Carpenter reported that the Committee met prior to the board meeting.

1. **Groundwater Acre Expansion/Certification/Transfer Applications:** The Committee reviewed the Groundwater Irrigated Acre Transfer requests prior to the board meeting. ⇒ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by John Vogel to approve the Groundwater Irrigated Acre Transfers. **AYE:** Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Kelly, Rice & Vogel. **NAY:** Dierks, Hughes & Whitaker. **ABSTAIN:** None. **ABSENT:** Heithoff, Keller, Moser & Stewart. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Committee will also be reviewing the transfer rules and regulations for any changes to be made before the November 1, 2019 sign-up.

2. **Staffing/Equipment to implement Phase III:** The Committee continues to discuss how to implement the Phase III rules and regulations. They have discussed contracting out the soil sampling versus having current staff doing the sampling. Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician, was asked to explain what some of the needs will be to implement Phase III. Kelly explained to properly manage the program it will take a good share of someone’s time as well as equipment to implement the program; and, because of the timing of soil sampling and following up with cooperators this would conflict with current programs such as static water level measurements, monitoring well pumping and flowmeter readings. It would also be nice to have someone knowledgeable about farming practices and crop inputs. The Committee is planning a mid-month meeting for April to continue working on the district water issues.

**COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:**

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that with the failure at the Spencer Dam there are now a lot of questions regarding the purchase agreement and the future of the project. Dennis reported that an NRBA meeting with being held in Lincoln today (March 25) to discuss the situation. Joslynn Vanderslice showed a powerpoint to show the Board displaying what occurred at the Spencer Dam and adjoining area on March 14, 2019.
Whitaker departed at 4:30 PM
Gotschall departed at 4:40 PM

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 and a copy is kept on file at the NRD office.
Dennis reported that he did look into the election costs incurred during the 2018 elections. Costs are charged per inch of space needed on the ballot. Some of the contributing factors of last year’s expense include: space in the primary election due to contested positions; and, since the UENRD elects at large, all of our candidates are listed on all of the county ballots. However, this will change for the next election since the district has changed from electing at-large to electing by sub-district.

APRIL BOARD MEETING:
The next board meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

⇒ It was moved by John Vogel and seconded by Chris Dierks to adjourn at 4:55 PM. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Hughes, Kelly, Rice & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Gotschall, Heithoff, Keller, Moser, Stewart & Whitaker. 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 March 25, 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