CALL TO ORDER, STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT AND OPEN MEETING LAW NOTIFICATION:
The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:04 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
Mark Carpenter
Chris Dierks
Marv Fritz
Curtis Gotschall
Ted Hughes
Gene Kelly
Michael Moser
Aaron Rice
Roy Stewart
Chip Whitaker

DIRECTORS ABSENT:
Jim Keller
John Vogel

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

GUESTS PRESENT:
Brandon Peterson, NRCS O’Neill

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

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM-INPUT:
None
AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: The next board meeting is scheduled for June 10th in conjunction with the basin tour of the Loup River Basin June 10th and 11th. Dennis Schueth provided a legislative summary for the Directors. Marv Fritz’s name has been submitted for consideration for the LB 243 task force and it was noted that the property tax bill did not move forward. There may also be a petition supported by Senator Hughes dealing with NCORPE issues regarding splitting water rights from the land. Dennis also reported on LR 138, which is an interim resolution to identify three to five water infrastructure project opportunities in eastern Nebraska.


NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson’s report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they are busy writing EQIP contracts and 60% of pre-approved applications have been obligated. They have also announced a special cover crop initiative and extended the animal mortality initiative. Applications are currently being ranked for the CSP program; and, they are waiting for the disaster aid bill to be passed. Brandon also reported that the O’Neill office will have an engineering student intern this summer; and, they plan to have the MOU’s done by June 15. There has been a lot of discussion regarding Eastern Red Cedar trees and the UENRD would like it to be conveyed to the NRCS state level that the district is in support of the continued planting of Eastern Red Cedar trees in our area. This is a species that the landowners are requesting for livestock and windbreak plantings.

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. Beth passed around the Nebraska Envirothon booklet which was developed for the state competition held this past month.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn Vanderslice’s report was mailed out in the Directors packets. Joslynn reported that we are still receiving Phase II reports and are in the process of tracking down the landowners who are not submitting reports. Static water level measurements have been completed and Joslynn is putting together the results and letters to landowners. We have received approximately 90 bacteria samples this past month and approximately 30% have tested positive. The producer meeting which was to be held March 13 will be rescheduled for June 18. They are also looking for producers within the Bazile area to participate in demonstration projects.

Bazile Management Area: Phil Steinkamp’s report was mailed out in the Directors packets.

Holt County Extension: No Report.

Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Agency – Bill Babutzke: No Report.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:
⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Marv Fritz to excuse the absence of John Vogel and Jim Keller. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Keller & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED.
Village of Ewing – Elkhorn River: Dennis Schueth reported that we have been approached by the Village of Ewing to help with the stabilization of the Elkhorn River. A handout of the change in the river was provided for the Directors. It has been suggested that when the Village of Ewing develops a plan that they bring a proposal to the NRD.

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. Roy Stewart reported that they discussed the Big Red Motorsports bill and what repairs were being made to the equipment.

- Action on Current Bills and Cost-share Requests: It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Gene Kelly to pay the current bills. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Keller & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED.

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

- Groundwater Transfer Rules and Regulations/Criteria Update: Mark Carpenter reported that the Committee is continuing to work on the transfer rules and regulations as well as the criteria for transferring groundwater irrigated acres. The Committee is planning to have updates to show the board at the June board meeting.

- Groundwater Well to Maintain Dam (Antelope County): Dennis Schueth reported that he has been contacted by a landowner who would like to install a well to maintain the water level behind a dam on his property. The landowner will be invited to address the Board regarding this issue.

- Agronomy Resource Technician Job Description-Resume Deadline May 30, 2019: To date we have received 3 resumes. The deadline is May 30.

- The Board also continued the discussion regarding slam valves on irrigation wells without ever having a Chemigation permit. The staff is continuing to identify these sites and map them so spot inspections can begin this year.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

- Niobrara River Basin Alliance: It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to go into executive session at 8:06 PM with the UENRD Directors and Staff to discuss the Niobrara River Basin Alliance and to protect the public interest of all parties involved from any undue harm. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Keller & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED. The board meeting was reconvened at 8:31 PM.

- Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: There is a meeting scheduled for July 23 at the LLNRD. It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Chris Dierks to appoint Joslynn Vanderslice as the alternate staff representative for the Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Coalition. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Keller & Vogel. MOTION CARRIED. This motion reaffirms the motion passed in November 2018.

- Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover): Dennis Schueth reported that the American Burying Beetle may be downlisted from endangered to threatened. The beetle has been found in Nebraska and has caused issues with some proposed development and cost share applications.

- 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 in the NRD office. Dennis reported that he has received phone calls regarding drainage issues which often happen when we have an overly wet period of time. Dennis will be contacting the Personnel, Equipment, Promotion and Education Committee to schedule interviews for the Agronomy Resource Technician.

The next board meeting will be held June 24, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the NRD office in O’Neill.

It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Gene Kelly to adjourn the board meeting at 8:40 PM. AYE: Bartak, Blair, Carpenter, Dierks, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Keller & 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 May 28, 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.

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Gene Kelly, Secretary/Treasurer