

**UPPER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 26, 2018 -- 2:30 P.M.
O'Neill, NE**

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; and, the open meetings law posting were all noted at 2:32 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
Joslynn Vanderslice, Water Resources Manager
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician
Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician
Andrea Fisher, Administrative Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brandon Peterson, NRCS Office – O'Neill
Kevin Blair, Brunswick
Marv Fritz, O'Neill
Phil Steinkamp – Bazile Groundwater Management Project Coordinator

AGENDA:

⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Chris Dierks 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 October Meeting were reviewed by the Directors. ⇒ It was moved by Michael Moser and seconded by Chris Dierks to approve the minutes of the October Meeting with the correction. **AYE:** Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. **NAY:** None.

ABSTAIN: None. **ABSENT:** Keller. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TREASURERS REPORT:

⇒ It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Michael Moser to approve the October 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:

None

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Ted Hughes attended the NARD meeting in early November. He will report on this meeting in December. Dennis Schueth discussed some of the possible legislation that could affect the NRDs during the 2019 legislative session. These items included reinstating the 3 cent levy for Integrated Management Plans, raising the occupation tax from \$10 to \$15 and whether or not to reconsider the over-appropriated label for areas in Nebraska. These items could be very controversial and will have funding implications.

DNR Report: No Report.

NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson's report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that the EQIP deadline was November 16 and they will begin ranking the 204 applications received in the UENRD. They are wrapping up CSP payments for 2018; however, renewal contracts are on hold due to the uncertainty of the farm bill. December 17 is the deadline for the NWQI ranking in the Bazile Groundwater Management Area. Cody Baker has been hired as the new Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist in Neligh. They have received a list of candidates for the Soil Conservationist for the Neligh office. Hopefully this position will be filled soon. NRCS is still operating under the continuous resolution until December 7, 2018.

Holt County Extension Agent – Amy Timmerman: No Report.

RC&D Report:

North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that the RC&D is still proceeding with their recycling efforts across 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 Director's packets. Beth reported that the Legislative Conference will be held January 29-30, 2019 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. A sign-up sheet was distributed. Attendees will be confirmed at the December meeting so we can submit our registration. Directors also received their UENRD Committee Request forms which need to be returned so committees can be formed in December and take effect in January 2019. A question was also raised regarding issues with the UENRD website. Beth explained that she is still having updating issues and the instructions provided are not easily understood or consistent. There has been a lot of inconsistency with training and help; however, she is trying to work through the issues. The only alternative would be to start over with a different provider.

Water Resources Report: Joslynn Vanderslice's report was mailed out in the Director's packets. Joslynn reminded the Board of the upcoming Voluntary IMP public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, November 28 at 6:00 PM at the O'Neill Community Center; and, the Phase III public hearing scheduled for December 13, 2018 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in O'Neill. Directors on the Water Quality and Watershed committee should plan to attend; and, all other Directors are encouraged to attend. Joslynn also reported that she has spent the last month getting settled into her new position.

Bazile Management Area: Phil Steinkamp, Project Coordinator, attended the board meeting and discussed the BGMA Consultant/Retailers meeting which was held back in October. Approximately 42 people attended and they were able to discuss various aspects of nitrogen management. Phil is also looking into the possibility of hosting a growers meeting this winter.

Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Agency: No Report.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Budget and Finance Committee: The Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the current bills.

- 1. Action on Current Bills and Cost share Requests:** ⇨ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Michael Moser to pay the current bills. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED. Stewart also reported that there are no cost share funds available at this time.

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

- 1. 2018-2019 Acre Expansion Applications:** The Committee reviewed the Expansion of Groundwater Irrigated Acre applications and ranking. ⇨ It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Jim Keller to approve the Expansion of Groundwater Irrigated Acre Applications which ranked over the minimum score of 140 points for a total of 793 new groundwater irrigated acres. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.
- 2. Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (V-IMP) Update:** There will be a Public Hearing November 28, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the O'Neill Community Center regarding the development of a Voluntary Integrated Management Plan between the UENRD and NEDNR. Directors are encouraged to attend the public hearing.
- 3. Groundwater Acre Certification/Acre Transfers Issues-Update:** ⇨ It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Ted Hughes to approve the acre transfer request pending completion of all the paperwork. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.
- 4. MOU-Extension Educator (Northeast Nebraska-Bazile Management Area):** The Committee reviewed and discussed the MOU between UNL, LENRD, LCNRD and UENRD to hire an Extension Educator to work in the Bazile Groundwater Management Area project. This position would primarily be responsible for coordinating demonstration projects throughout the area focusing on ways to reduce nitrogen contamination. The MOU would be for five years and a partner could opt out with written notice. The cost to the UENRD would be approximately \$20,000 annually. ⇨ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Keith Heithoff to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding between UNL, LENRD, LCNRD and UENRD. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Stewart. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.
- 5. The Committee also discussed updating representation on the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition and Niobrara River Basin Alliance due to the resignation of Sarah Nevison.** ⇨ It was moved by Curtis Gotschall and seconded by Michael Moser to appoint Joslynn Vanderslice to fill the positions formerly held by Sarah Nevison on the LPRBC and NRBA. AYE: Bartak, Carpenter, Dierks, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Meuret, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. MOTION CARRIED.

COALITIONS UPDATE:

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: No Report.

Niobrara River Basin Alliance: Dennis Schueth reported that he attended a meeting in Omaha with the Corp of Engineers regarding the management of the Spencer Hydro-Dam if and when the purchase is completed by

the NRBA. They are concerned with the release of sediment that may differ from the existing NPPD permits. The Alliance has 18 months to develop a tentative plan for the operations at the Spencer Hydro-Dam.

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 directors packets prior to the board meeting. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office. Dennis reviewed the election results and will be scheduling a meeting the first week in December to meet with the new Directors.

UENRD MONTHLY BOARD MEETING -DECEMBER 17, 2018:

The next regular meeting of the UENRD will be held December 17, 2018 at 2:30 PM.

⇒ **It was moved by John Meuret and seconded by Michael Moser to adjourn the board meeting at 3:42 PM.**

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 P.M.

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 November 26, 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.

Gene Kelly/Chairman