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 and the open meetings law posting were all noted at 7:05 P.M. by Chairman Michael Moser.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:
Kevin Blair  Mark Carpenter  Curtis Gotschall  Keith Heithoff  Ted Hughes
Gene Kelly  Michael Moser  Aaron Rice  Roy Stewart  John Vogel

DIRECTORS ABSENT:
Gary Bartak  Chris Dierks  Jim Keller  Chip Whitaker
Marv Fritz (monitored by Zoom)

STAFF PRESENT:
Dennis Schueth, General Manager
Joslynn Vanderslice, Water Resources Manager
Kelly Kloppenborg, Water Resources Technician
Wayne Frederick, Water Resources Technician
Brett Sholes, Agronomy Resources Technician
Aron Lewis, Forestry, Wildlife & Resource Conservationist
Andrea Fisher, Administrative Secretary
Beth Walsh, Information & Education/Chemigation Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT:
Brandon Peterson – NRCS – O’Neill, NE
Lee Winkler – O’Neill, NE

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

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

TREASURERS REPORT:
⇒ It was moved by Gene Kelly and seconded by Roy Stewart to approve the September Treasurers Report. AYE: Blair, Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice & Stewart. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Vogel. ABSENT: Bartak, Dierks, Fritz, Keller & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.
PUBLIC FORUM – INPUT / COMMENTS:
Lee Winkler addressed the Board of Directors on behalf of his father Jerry Winkler regarding the ranking criteria for the Groundwater Irrigated Acre Expansion process. The Winkler’s purchased a piece of ground near Atkinson, NE which they would like to irrigate. Mr. Winkler reviewed his concerns surrounding the ranking aspects of the criteria sheet and doesn’t feel that it is representative of Holt County.

BAZILE CREEK- NITRATE DYNAMICS-GALEN RICHARDS, DR. TROY GILMORE-ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:
Graduate Student, Galen Richards, joined the board meeting via Zoom link to present his study “Nitrate Dynamics and Source Within the Upper Bazile Creek Watershed”. Galen presented a slideshow reviewing their study and findings in the watershed. A copy of the presentation was available at the board meeting.

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:
NARD Report: Ted Hughes reported that they will be meeting on November 9, 2020 in Norfolk. NARD has found a new location and building for their offices. They hope to move in December following the renovations to the building. Also, since the NARD Annual Conference was not held due to the pandemic, NRDs are considering donations to the NARD Foundation (501 C3) due to the loss of revenue generated during the conference foundation auction. The Foundation supports several activities which include: Raising Nebraska Exhibit; Nebraska Ag Youth Institute; Ag Day on the Hill; State FFA Convention; ACE Camp; Nebraska Lead Program; and, Nebraska Envirothon. 

\[It was moved by Roy Stewart seconded by Michael Moser to approve a $1000.00 donation to the NARD Foundation. \textit{AYE}: Blair, Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Stewart & Vogel. \textit{NAY}: Rice. \textit{ABSTAIN}: None. \textit{ABSENT}: Bartak, Dierks, Fritz, Keller & Whitaker. \textit{MOTION CARRIED}.\]


NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson’s report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they are still taking applications for EQIP and CSP. They developed 50 new CRP contracts and had over 30 reenrollment contracts over the past year. Brandon reviewed the EQIP and CSP numbers from FY 2020; and, the number of contracts approved, amount of funding obligated and acres treated. NRCS offices are currently in Phase 2 of their office reopening process. Brandon also mentioned their new mentoring program CAMP – Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program. He passed out a flyer and anyone interested in participating should contact their office.

RC&D Report:
\begin{enumerate}
\item North Central RC&D: No Report.
\item Loup Basin RC&D: No Report.
\item Northeast RC&D: No Report.
\end{enumerate}

Information & Education Report: Beth Walsh’s report was mailed out in the Director’s packets. Beth reported that she has been busy with groundwater irrigated acre certification. Also, NARD is still planning to hold the NARD Legislative Conference January 26 & 27, 2021. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Directors should check their calendars to see if they can attend. We will begin sign-up in December.

Water Resources Report and ELM Update: Joslynn VanDerslice’s report was mailed out in the Director’s packets. Joslynn reported that she is working on the Phase II letters for the Phase II reports. The Beehive program will be rolled over at the beginning of November so cooperators can enter this year’s data for the Phase II reports. Brett Sholes, Agronomy Resource Technician, handed out a map of the 2020 sampling locations and reviewed it with the board.
**Bazile Management Area:** Connor Baldwin and Jeremy Milander’s reports were mailed out in the director packets. Dennis Schueth reported that they are currently harvesting the test plots. December 8 is the date that is being considered for the upcoming community meeting for the Bazile Groundwater Management Area.

**Holt County Extension Agent – Amy Timmerman:** No Report.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

1. The Committee reviewed the current bills, bank statements and accounts receivable. Roy Stewart noted that the accounts receivable looked very good except for one large outstanding balance.  ⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Gene Kelly to approve the current bills for payment.  **AYE:** Blair, Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Vogel.  **NAY:** None.  **ABSTAIN:** None.  **ABSENT:** Bartak, Dierks, Fritz, Keller & Whitaker.  **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

1. **Update/Action on Groundwater Acre Transfers or October Expansion Acres:** Mark Carpenter reported that there have been 7 applications for acre expansion with at least a half a dozen more inquiries. The deadline to sign up for acre expansion is October 30, 2020. The Committee also discussed a previous acre transfer that was not certified between Goldfuss and Birkel; and, an irrigated acre certification issue with Stan Sojka Jr who does not want to comply with the groundwater irrigated acre certification. Curtis Gotschall also informed the board members of a letter he received from Richard Dvorak in his area who is also not able to qualify for the acre expansion. Michael Moser asked when the GWMP Rules and Regulations could be reviewed. It was noted that the board has the ability to review policy at their discretion. Dennis Schueth also discussed having our attorney review our GWMP Rules and Regulations and provide the UENRD with the steps in the event we need to pursue legal action for non-compliance with the rules and regulations.

**COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:**

**Niobrara River Basin Alliance:** Dennis Schueth reported that the Alliance will be meeting October 28, 2020. The NRBA is still waiting for the agreement to transfer the water rights; however, it seems as though progress has been stalled on the G&P’s attempt to complete transfer documents.

**Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition:** There will be a meeting of the Technical Committee October 30, 2020 and a meeting with the Managers Committee November 17, 2020.

**Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition (Piping Plover):** No Report.

**Nebraska Ground Water Management Coalition:** No Report.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

Dennis Schueth’s report was mailed out to the directors prior to the board meeting in their packets. A copy is included with the official copy of the minutes in the office. Dennis reported that he met with Cassidy Wessel, Game & Parks, regarding a RCCP grant involving northern Antelope County. The deadline for the grant is November 30 and they would like the UENRD to participate; however, she did not have any specific information or details regarding what this would mean for the NRD.
NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING:
The next regular board meeting of the Upper Elkhorn NRD will be held November 23, 2020 at 2:30 PM at the O’Neill office.

👋 It was moved by Keith Heithoff and seconded by Gene Kelly to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:46 PM. AYE: Blair, Carpenter, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Vogel. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak, Dierks, Fritz, Keller & Whitaker. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

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 October 26, 2020 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