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 7:02 P.M. by Chairman Michael Moser.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:
Kevin Blair  Mark Carpenter  Marv Fritz  Curtis Gotschall  Keith Heithoff
Ted Hughes  Jim Keller  Gene Kelly  Michael Moser  Aaron Rice
Roy Stewart  John Vogel  Chip Whitaker

DIRECTORS ABSENT:
Gary Bartak  Chris Dierks

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

GUESTS PRESENT:
Brandon Peterson – NRCS – O’Neill, NE
Jeremy Milander – UNL-BGMA – Norfolk, NE

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

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM – INPUT / COMMENTS:
None
LIDAR PRESENTATION-DOUGLAS HALLUM, UNL CONSERVATION AND SURVEY DIVISION: Due to weather this presentation was postponed.

AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

NARD Report: Ted Hughes attended the NARD board meeting following the annual conference in Kearney. Ted reported that the audit was conducted with no issues; NARD allocated $1000 to the LEAD program; and, he reviewed dates for upcoming events. A meeting of the Risk Pool was held following the board meeting. It was reported that the program is doing well and at the end of August it was in the black. The next board meeting will be November 3 and 4.


NRCS Report: Brandon Peterson’s report was mailed out to the Directors. Brandon reported that they are still taking applications for EQIP; and, reviewed some of the programs in this area, the number of contracts approved, amount of funding obligated and acres treated. The State Range Judging contest was held September 25 with 512 students participating and over 50 volunteers. Michael Blount has been hired as the SCT in Ainsworth starting October 28; and, Aaron Romesser has been selected as the RC in O’Neill and will begin January 5, 2020.

RC&D Report:
- North Central RC&D: Jim Keller reported that the North Central RC&D is staying active especially with its recycling efforts.

Information & Education Report: Beth Walsh’s report was mailed out in the Director’s packets. Beth reported that the dates for the NARD Legislative Conference are January 28 & 29, 2020. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Directors should check their calendars to see if the can attend. We will begin sign-up next month.

Water Resources Report and ELM Update: Joslynn Vanderslice’s report was mailed out in the Director’s packets. Joslynn reported that the public hearing was held September 26 and the new rules and regs will take effect November 1. The UNL Water Conference was held in Norfolk October 9 & 10. Joslynn and Wade Ellwanger from LNNRD, presented at the conference and received good reviews. The water department are getting ready to start static water level and flowmeter readings. Brett Sholes reported that soil sampling in Phase III area began Friday, October 25. Brett gave a short Powerpoint presentation and noted that he will report again when he has results back from the lab.

Bazile Management Area: Joslynn VanDerslice reported that Connor Baldwin has been hired as the new Bazile Groundwater Management Area Coordinator and will start November 4. She also reported that she and other members of the BGMA area team attended a conference in Atlanta GA to learn more about developing working relationships in the Bazile area for the project. She and Jeremy also gave a presentation at the conference. Jeremy Milander’s report was mailed out in the director packets. Jeremy reported on his activities during the past month which included a lot of orientation activities. He also reported on the Highbay demo last month which had approximately 90 participants and generated interest in cover crops. Jeremy also updated the board on the NET grant demo sites which they are planning to start simple and build interest with the cooperators.

Holt County Extension Agent – Amy Timmerman: No Report.
EXCUSED ABSENCES:
⇒ It was moved by Ted Hughes and seconded by Jim Keller to excuse the absence of Gary Bartak and Chris Dierks. AYE: Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: Heithoff. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Dierks. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative, Budget and Finance Committee: The Legislative, Finance and Planning Committee met prior to the Board meeting. The Committee reviewed the current bills, bank statements and accounts receivable. ⇒ It was moved by Roy Stewart and seconded by Gene Kelly to approve the current bills for payment. AYE: Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Dierks. MOTION CARRIED. Discussion was also held on the repairs made to the gator; and, how the back window was broken.

Water Resources & Watershed Committee: The WRWS Committee met prior to the board meeting.
1. Acre Expansion-James Kahland SW 1-23-5 (106 acres) Extension from October 1 Deadline: It was reported that Scott Watson, who is overseeing this development, contacted the office and reported that the trees have been removed and the pivot has gone over the area in question. UENRD staff will confirm that the area was watered before the deadline.
2. Ranking Criteria Sheet for Groundwater Transfers: A new ranking sheet for Groundwater Irrigated Acre Transfers was developed for the new rules and regulations. ⇒ It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to accept the updated Groundwater Irrigated Acre Transfer criteria sheet. AYE: Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: Vogel. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Dierks. MOTION CARRIED.
3. Intent of Fee for Groundwater Transfers: Mark Carpenter reported that staff had requested clarification on the application process and fee administration regarding acre transfers and if they would be conducted the same as acre expansions. ⇒ It was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Jim Keller to process the applications and administer fees for the Transfer of Groundwater Irrigated Acres the same as the Expansion of Groundwater Irrigated Acre. AYE: Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Rice, Stewart & Whitaker. NAY: Moser & Vogel. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Dierks. MOTION CARRIED.
4. UNL/NRD Northeast Extension Educator-MOU: Dennis Schueth reported that we are still waiting to see this document.

COALITION/TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Niobrara River Basin Alliance: Dennis Schueth reported that the Alliance will be meeting November 19 to sign the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the purchase agreement. The Game and Parks has accepted the Alliance’s offer and now the Alliance will meet to vote on pursuing the purchase of the water rights at the former Spencer Dam. ⇒ It was moved by John Vogel and seconded by Curtis Gotschall to support the MOU for the purchase of the water right on the Niobrara River near Spencer. AYE: Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Keller, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Dierks. MOTION CARRIED. Discussion was held regarding the Alliance’s portion of the purchase. The financial breakdown will be discussed at a later meeting.
Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition: Dennis Schueth reported that the Technical Committee will be meeting December 3 in Norfolk.
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 Michael Moser contacted him regarding a question from a landowner regarding the stream depletion factor of one of his fields. The field in question has a considerably higher depletion factor than any of the surrounding sections and he was questioning why. The UENRD uses a combination of the CENEB and ELM models for determining the stream depletion factor with the district. Dennis gathered information regarding the stream depletion factor process; and, the use of both the CENEB and ELM models in determining the stream depletion factors. The major difference between the models is whether they are calculating using 1cfs (cubic feet per second) or 5cfs as well as various other inputs within the models. The Water Resources and Watershed Committee feels this is an issue that should be further reviewed and would like to have board discussion during the next water issues meeting.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING:
The next regular board meeting of the Upper Elkhorn NRD will be held November 25, 2019 at 2:30 PM at the O'Neill office.

It was moved by Jim Keller and seconded by Kevin Blair to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:25 PM. AYE: Blair, Carpenter, Fritz, Gotschall, Heithoff, Hughes, Kelly, Moser, Rice, Stewart, Vogel & Whitaker. NAY: Heithoff. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Bartak & Dierks. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 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 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