Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Lower Elkhorn NRD
601 East Benjamin, Norfolk, Nebraska

1. Statement of Public Notice of Meeting and Posted Nebraska Open Meetings Act Information - Chairman Danny Kluthe. Chairman Kluthe informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on December 2, 2016 and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted.

Directors Present	Directors Absent
Jill Barr	Mike Krueger
Roger Gustafson	
Mark Hall	
Joel Hansen	
Bob Huntley	
Kurt Janke	
Dave Kathol	
Chad Korth	
Gary Loftis	
Bob Noonan	
Jarvis Otten	
Dennis Schultz	
Dave Shelton	
Danny Kluthe	

2. Programs and Projects

a. Willow Creek Relief Wells – Consideration of proposal to design new relief wells at Willow Creek.

Recommended Motion: Approve a proposal from Olsson Associates, at a cost of $16,710.00, to design and provide specifications for bidding for necessary additional pressure relief wells at Willow Creek Dam.

b. Bathymetric Survey of Willow Creek Reservoir with Game & Parks Commission – Jeff Schuckman, Fisheries Manager

Recommended Motion: Approve a bathymetric survey of Willow Creek Reservoir, with data collection done by Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and a map produced by BioBase, at a cost of $1,175.

c. Log Splitter Purchase – The staff discussed information for the purchase of a log splitter to provide firewood for campers from the dead trees we remove. This will save money we have been spending to rent splitters. .

3. Water Resources

a. Allocation Quantity Subareas – The Board must determine the annual groundwater allocation amounts for the Wayne and Madison County Quantity Management Subareas for the upcoming crop year. Staff provided a summary of the water use reports (received to date) for the 2016 growing season.

Recommended Motion: To set the 2017 allocation amounts for the LENRD Quantity Management Subareas at: 18 acre-inches per irrigated acre for gravity/flood irrigation systems, 13 acre-inches per irrigated acre for subsurface drip irrigation systems, and 14 acre-inches per irrigated acre for all other irrigation systems in the Eastern Madison County Quantity Subarea; and 17 acre-inches per irrigated acre for gravity/flood irrigation systems, 12 acre-inches per irrigated acre for subsurface drip irrigation systems, and 13 acre-inches per irrigated acre for all other irrigation systems in the Wayne County Quantity Subarea.

b. Review of upcoming Public Hearings scheduled for Thursday, December 15:

i. Certification of Acres Hearing
ii. Groundwater Management Plan Amendments
iii. Groundwater Management Area Rules & Regulations

District staff reviewed the details of the Public Hearings scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2016. The first will be a hearing to certify irrigated acres on approximately 787 parcels of land in the Lower Elkhorn NRD. The second hearing will be held to receive public testimony on proposed changes to the Lower Elkhorn NRD Groundwater Management Plan which would require commercial, industrial, public water supply and livestock wells or series of wells that are designed to pump more than 50 gallons per minute to install flow meters. The third hearing will be to receive public testimony on proposed changes to the Phase Area Controls for Groundwater Quality Management of the Lower Elkhorn NRD Rules and Regulations for Management of Groundwater.

c. Discussion regarding the modification of the Approved Flow Meter list in the Lower Elkhorn NRD. Seametrics has updated model numbers and will soon be discontinuing manufacturing and distribution of the AG2000 meter and will be replacing it with an updated model. The staff is recommending the addition of the new model to the approved flow meter list.

Recommended Motion: To approve the addition of flow meter models: Seametrics AG3000 and Valley 3000 to the Lower Elkhorn NRD Approved Flow Meter list.

d. 2017 Irrigated Acre Certification Hearing Dates Schedule – District staff will provide some suggested dates to conduct quarterly irrigated acre certification hearings for 2017.

Recommended Motion: To schedule and advertise as necessary; a Public Hearing for Certification of Irrigated Acres hearing date for March 23, 2017.

e. Acre Certification Update – There are 7,632 estimated tracts of ground that need to be certified for irrigated acres. The board will have approved roughly 5,979 tracts through the public hearing process. Staff currently has 787 tracts ready for the next public hearing on December 15th. When these tracts are approved the district will be roughly 88% finished with the acre certification process.

4. Administrative

a. Change ByLaws for the Executive Board appointment of the past chairman position, if no longer a member of the board.

Recommended Motion: To change Article IV, Paragraph 1, dealing with the composition of the Executive Board to the following -

The Executive Board shall be composed of the officers of the Board and the immediate past chairman. If the immediate past chairman is unavailable, the board will fill that position with a current board member through nominations and a vote of the board.

b. General Manager Evaluation – Executive Session

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Huntley to enter Executive Session for the protection of reputation. Aye: Barr, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, Loftis, Noonan, Otten, Schultz, Shelton, Kluthe. Nay: None. Absent: Krueger. Motion carried.

Moved into executive session at 8:14 p.m. for the protection of reputation.

Motion was made by Korth and seconded by Shelton to return to open session. Aye: Barr, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, Loftis, Noonan, Otten, Schultz, Shelton, Kluthe. Nay: None. Absent: Krueger. Motion carried.

Moved into open session at 8:33 p.m.