

**MINUTES OF THE
LOWER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Lower Elkhorn NRD Office
1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska
7:30 p.m. – Thursday, September 24, 2026

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at the Lower Elkhorn NRD, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska. Chairman Steffen informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on September 18, 2026, and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Roll call was taken by Administrative Assistant Kristie Freudenburg with 13 of 15 Directors present. Members present were Jerry Allemann, Jim Aschoff, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Mike Fleeer, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Jay Reikofski, Melissa Temple, and Matt Steffen. Gary Loftis and Anthony Wisnieski were absent from the meeting.

Motion was made by Korth and seconded by Hrabanek to excuse the absences of Gary Loftis and Anthony Wisnieski. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleeer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Korth and seconded by Klein to adopt the agenda. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleeer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried

At this time members of the public Galen Samuelson and Mark Hall addressed the Board.

Board Chairman Matt Steffen announced that at this time the Board would address agenda item 11a. Discussion and/or Action Regarding the Issuance of a Cease and Desist Order to Loren Victor. At 7:55 p.m. motion was made by Clausen and seconded by Aschoff to enter closed session for continued discussion and strategy. Hearing Officer Mark Fitzgerald was asked to remain in the room with the Board of Directors. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleeer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

At 8:22 p.m. motion was made by Klein and seconded by Korth to exit closed session and reenter regular session. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleeer, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Abstain: Gustafson. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Korth to direct staff to issue a Cease and Desist Order, as prepared by Hearing Officer Mark Fitzgerald, for illegal use of a livestock well

for irrigation purposes and to schedule a penalty hearing on Tuesday, November 24, 2026. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Abstain: Gustafson. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Klein and seconded by Aschoff to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting and September 10, 2026 Board of Directors Budget Meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Board member Jerry Allemann. Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Klein to approve income in the amount of \$1,039,277.51 and expenses in the amount of \$425,954.19 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Abstain: Allemann. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Gustafson to approve income in the amount of \$99,099.39 and expenses in the amount of \$68,063.23 for the Logan East Rural Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Klein to approve income in the amount of \$10,976.58 and expenses in the amount of \$11,619.81 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

The conservation cost share report was given by General Manager Brian Bruckner. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

In the absence of Gary Loftis, there was no Nebraska Association of Resources District report. General Manager Brian Bruckenr referenced the upcoming NARD meeting in Kearney.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – No report was available.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service report – The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was given by Resource Conservationist Cameron Drozd. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Nebraska Loess Hills report was referenced by General Manager Brian Bruckner. The Northeast Nebraska RC&D report was given by Melissa Temple. Copies of the reports are attached to the official minutes.

The Bazile Groundwater Management Area report was given by Bazile Groundwater Management Area Project Coordinator Marcus Blunck. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Administrative Report was given by General Manager Brian Bruckner. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Logan East Rural Water System report was given by Logan East RWS Manager Shawn Blahak. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Korth to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2026 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

The Wau-Col Regional Water System report was given by Director Jay Reikofski and General Manager Brian Bruckner.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2026 Wau-Col RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Fler to accept the RFP from Adam Boggs to create a mural on the Maskenthine Bike Trail storage container. Acceptance of the RFP is contingent on adjustments to the final mural design, taking into consideration the suggestions from the Bike Trail volunteer group. Aye: Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: Allemann, Aschoff. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Allemann to increase the Annual Cap on Director Expense Reimbursements to \$4,000 and direct staff to update any relevant documents and policies. If approved, the effective date of the increase will be January 1, 2027. Aye: Burenheide, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Temple, and Steffen. Nay: Aschoff, Clausen, Gustafson, Korth, Reikofski. Abstain: Allemann. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein to amend the LENRD Director Per Diem Policy to enact a \$70 per meeting per diem, with no minimum time commitment per meeting and direct staff to update any relevant documents and policies. If approved, the effective date of the change will be January 1, 2027. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Hrabanek, Klein, Reikofski, Temple, and Steffen. Nay: Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Korth, Loberg. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein to amend the LENRD Director Per Diem hourly rate to enact a \$30 per diem hourly rate for any approved Board business that does not fall under the meeting per diem and direct staff to update any relevant documents and policies. If approved, the effective date of the increase will be January 1, 2027. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, and Steffen. Nay: Aschoff, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Korth. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Aschoff to direct staff to prepare and submit a Subaward Workplan to the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment

to provide financial support for the implementation of the ONE RED Ag Data Bank and Grants Program. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: Clausen. Absent: Loftis, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Lower 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 September 24, 2026 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.

Kris Loberg, Secretary