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, October 22, 2026

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, October 22, 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 October 16, 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, Scott Clausen, Mike Fleer, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Melissa Temple, Anthony Wisnieski, and Matt Steffen. Mark Burenheide and Chad Korth were absent, but it was noted by the Chairman that Mark Burenheide planned to attend and should be arriving shortly.

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

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

Mark Burenheide arrived at 7:33 p.m.

Motion was made by Klein and seconded by Temple *to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting.* Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Hrabanek *to approve income in the amount of $394,567.25 and expenses in the amount of $427,085.93 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District.* Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Abstain: Loftis. Absent: Korth. Motion carried

Chad Korth arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Gustafson *to approve income in the*

amount of $92,819.02 and expenses in the amount of $46,616.86 for the Logan East Rural Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Clausen *to approve income in the amount of $7,399.53 and expenses in the amount of $6,727.39 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System.* Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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

The Nebraska Association of Resources District report was given by Gary Loftis.

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 Michael Jacobs. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Nebraska Loess Hills report was given by Gary Loftis. Melissa Temple reported that the Northeast Nebraska RC&D will meet next week and she will have a report in November. A copy of the Loess Hills report is attached to the official minutes.

The Bazile Groundwater Management Area Project – The BGMA report was referenced in Dropbox by General Manager Brian Bruckner. 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 Loftis and seconded by Aschoff *to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2026 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting.* Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein *to accept the bid from Trees Are Us for the purchase of a tree planting machine in the amount of $9,500.* Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

General Manager Brian Bruckner and Water Resources Manager Doug Hallum provided information and background regarding the Lower Elkhorn NRD's Hydrogeologic Groundwater

Model. The model will be utilized by the State of Nebraska to reevaluate stream depletion factor values and boundary areas for the LENRD and will influence areas east of Norfolk. Hallum has discovered some inconsistencies that should be addressed to improve the model. Funds were budgeted for the Water Sustainability Fund project that would have included addressing these issues, however, that project is still on hold. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Temple *to authorize staff to utilize LENRD FY27 budgeted funds to facilitate modifications to the Lower Elkhorn NRD Hydrogeologic Groundwater Model.*

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Aschoff *to amend the original motion to make the authorization contingent on a 50% match from DWEE.* Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Clausen, Gustafson, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: Burenheide, Fleer, Hrabanek, Loftis, Wisnieski. Absent: None. Amendment carried.

Vote on amended motion. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Korth *to accept the terms of the funding agreement between the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment and the Lower Elkhorn NRD for the implementation of the Village of Craig Regionalization Project, Reference #:2026-162710778, and to authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the Lower Elkhorn NRD.* Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen *to approve the calendar year 2027 LENRD Board of Directors Meeting Schedule.*

Discussion was held.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Hrabanek *to amend the 2027 LENRD Board of Directors Meeting Schedule to hold the December Board Meeting on December 21, 2027.* Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Korth. Absent: None. Amendment carried.

Vote on amended motion. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Korth. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 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 October 22, 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.

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Kris Loberg, Secretary