

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

7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 26, 2021

Lower Elkhorn NRD, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Mark Hall on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at the Lower Elkhorn NRD, 1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska. Chairman Hall informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on July 15, 2021.

Roll call was taken by Administrative Assistant Patty Martens with 14 of 15 Directors present. Present: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Absent: Allemann.

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Zohner to excuse the absence of Jerry Allemann. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Chairman Hall appointed Matt Steffen as Acting Secretary.

Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Clausen to adopt the agenda. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

The reading and/or action on the minutes of the July 22, 2021 Board of Directors meeting was next on the agenda. Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Gustafson that the minutes of the July 22, 2021 Board of Directors meetings be approved. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Dennis Schultz. Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by McHenry to approve income in the amount of \$185,420.16 and expenses in the amount of \$478,548.98 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Loftis to approve income in the amount of \$97,949.86 and expenses in the amount of \$48,742.04 for the Logan East Rural Water System as printed and distributed. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Clausen to approve income in the amount of \$9,864.98 and expenses in the amount of \$7,016.22 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz,

Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Clausen to approve the updated Resolution for the ACH Origination Agreement with Elkhorn Valley Bank. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

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

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts report was given by Joel Hansen. He reported that the NARD Conference will be held in Kearney from September 26 to September 29 of this year.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission report was not given.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was given by Robin Sutherland, District Conservationist. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

Gary Loftis and John Ross reported on the Loess Hills RC&D. A copy is attached to the official minutes.

Whitney Gappa reported on the Bazile Groundwater Management Area. A report is attached to the official minutes.

The Administrative Report was given by General Manager Mike Sousek. A copy is attached to the official minutes.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Clausen to accept the Logan East Rural Water System Advisory Committee minutes of August 9, 2021. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Schultz to accept the Wau-Col Rural Water System Advisory Committee minutes of August 5, 2021. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

A presentation was provided by Jon Mohr, with JEO Consulting, and Mahesh Pun (in-person) and Michael Ou (virtual) with Long Spring Consulting regarding the development of the LENRD Hydrogeologic Groundwater Model and Graphic User Interface (GUI) which will be a cloud-based tool that will be utilized by LENRD staff to evaluate requests for new uses of groundwater. The groundwater model is complete and is currently being reviewed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) who is a partner on the project. The graphic user interface is still in draft form, with LENRD staff given their first opportunity to see, and experiment with, the tool earlier the same day. LENRD staff will be exploring the tool over

the next several weeks, and suggestions for improvement will be forwarded to the developer.

The Information, Planning, Programs, Projects, Equipment & Legislation Committee of the Whole report was given by Acting Secretary Matt Steffen.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Loftis to instruct staff to submit the letter of commitment for the scrap tire collection for the Nebraska Environmental Trust grant as presented, and in cooperation with the Loess Hills RC&D and the Papio-Missouri River NRD, and to authorize the General Manager to sign such letter. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Hansen to instruct staff to make changes as presented to the conservation cost share docket for Fiscal Year 2022 (copy attached to official minutes). Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Schultz to instruct staff to make the proposed changes to the Community Forestry Program and the Forestry Incentive for Public Facilities Program as presented (copy attached to official minutes). Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Loftis to authorize the General Manager to sign a contract with Dietz Well for completion of two test holes and two production wells at Willow Creek Dam, not to exceed \$95,510. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Loftis to un-table the motion: to approve the Resolution for Water Quality which is intended to provide staff and the general public an understanding on the position of this current board and how that position relates to ground water quality. Aye: Hansen, Janke, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Hall. Nay: Clausen, Gustafson, Korth, Reikofski, Zohner. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Vote on the un-tabled motion: to approve the Resolution for Water Quality which is intended to provide staff and the general public an understanding on the position of this current board and how that position relates to ground water quality. Aye: Hansen, Janke, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Hall. Nay: Clausen, Gustafson, Korth, Reikofski, Zohner. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Hansen to accept the terms of the Water Resources Consulting Services Agreement with Long Spring Consulting and to authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz,

Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: Korth. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Loftis to have the General Manager sign a contract with Hollman Media to perform the scope of work per the Application Proposal, not exceeding the amount of 100,000 for the work Aye: Hansen, Janke, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Schultz, Steffen, Hall. Nay: Clausen, Gustafson, Korth, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Zohner. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

The Budget Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Dennis Schultz.

Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Loftis to approve an additional 1% in Restricted Funds Authority for Fiscal Year 2022. Aye: Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: Clausen, Korth. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Clausen to advertise and present the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and Long Range Plan at a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lower Elkhorn NRD Board Room, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Loftis, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: Korth. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 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 August 26, 2021 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.

Matt Steffen, Acting Secretary

Others Present:
David Kathol
John Ross