

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

7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 28, 2022

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, July 28, 2022, at the Lower Elkhorn NRD, 1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska. Chairman Mark Hall informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on July 20, 2022.

Roll call was taken by Administrative Assistant Patty Martens with 13 of 15 Directors present. Present: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Absent: McHenry and Noonan.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Hansen to excuse the absence of Bob Noonan and Scott McHenry. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, Reikofski, Schultz, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: Steffen. Absent: McHenry, Noonan. Motion carried.

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

The reading and/or action on the minutes of the June 23, 2022 Board of Directors meeting was next on the agenda. Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Zohner that the minutes of the June 23, 2022 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: McHenry, Noonan. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Schultz to approve income in the amount of \$160,608.00 and expenses in the amount of \$554,568.05 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: McHenry, Noonan. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Schultz to approve income in the amount of \$115,445.10 and expenses in the amount of \$58,457.42 for the Logan East Rural Water System as printed and distributed. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: McHenry, Noonan. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Hansen to approve income in the amount of \$8,955.70 and expenses in the amount of \$7,208.69 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: McHenry, Noonan. 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 board had not met since the last meeting and that the benefits subcommittee will meet in Grand Island on July 29. Hansen plans to attend that meeting.

There was nothing to report from the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was referenced in Dropbox by General Manager Mike Sousek as Robin Sutherland was not in attendance. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

Gary Loftis reported on the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D. Loftis attended the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in Rosalie, Nebraska. Gary reported that the electronic waste collection held on May 24 & 26 brought in 298 loads totaling 33,385 lbs. of e-waste. Ninety-seven percent of the e-waste will be recycled.

Lisa Lauver 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 July 11, 2022. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: McHenry, Noonan. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was a drone video presentation by landowners John Dittrich and James Geyer. Dittrich and Geyer, along with Madison County Commissioner Troy Uhler, presented their views on the Battle Creek proposed flood prevention options.

The Information, Planning, Programs, Projects, Equipment & Legislation Committee of the Whole report was given by Roger Gustafson.

Motion was made by Gustafson and seconded by Loftis to award the Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization repair project to Pruss Excavation Company in the amount of \$131,334.00 and to authorize the General Manager to sign a contract with Pruss Excavation Company to complete this work contingent on the approval of the City of Scribner and Dodge County. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hansen, Janke, Korth, Loftis, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Hall. Nay: None. Absent: McHenry, Noonan. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or Action Regarding Standard Variances for the Expansion of

Groundwater Irrigated Acres within the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District - Assistant Manager Brian Bruckner provided an update to the Board of Directors regarding efforts to modify the Conditions for Approval Policy; the current and previous Drought Maps for the High Plains Region; along with information that is beginning to flow to the NRD regarding the negative impacts of the prolonged drought. Reports of pressure drop, and groundwater shortages have been reported, from both irrigation and domestic well owners. Given the current situation, Bruckner suggested that it would be prudent to delay any action related to decisions on the Standard Variance Process, given the near term forecast for additional hot and dry weather. The topic will be brought back to the Committee of the Whole for discussion, and a review of previously proposed requirements by the Ad Hoc Drought Committee will be presented at the next committee meeting. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 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 July 28, 2022 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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Jerry Allemann, Secretary