

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

7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 26, 2023

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 Roger Gustafson on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the Lower Elkhorn NRD, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska. Chairman Gustafson informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on October 20, 2023 and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Roll call was taken by Administrative Assistant Patty Martens with 14 of 15 Directors present. Present: Jerry Allemann, James Aschoff, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Mark Hall, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, Anthony Wisnieski, Rod Zohner, Roger Gustafson. Absent: Michael Fleer.

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

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

The Reading and/or Action on Minutes of September 28, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting and October 12, 2023 Special Board of Directors Meeting was next on the agenda. Motion was made by Korth and seconded by Aschoff to approve the minutes of the September 28 Board of Directors and October 12, 2023 Special Board of Directors meetings. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Clausen to approve income in the amount of \$304,101.64 and expenses in the amount of \$400,272.88 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Steffen, Temple, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Abstain: Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski. Absent: Fleer. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Korth to approve income in the amount of \$102,686.92 and expenses in the amount of \$59,178.14 for the Logan East Rural Water System as printed and distributed. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Korth to approve income in the amount of \$7,031.43 and expenses in the amount of \$19,589.88 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen,

Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fler. 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 next on the agenda. Mark Hall noted the upcoming meeting to be held in Grand Island on November 5 and 6th.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission report was not given as Garry Anderson was not in attendance.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was referenced in Dropbox as District Conservationist Robin Sutherland was not in attendance. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Nebraska Loess Hills report was given by Gary Loftis. Loftis was able to attend the E-Waste collection held in North Bend on October 7 and noted that collection amounts were less than previous numbers. Mark Hall was unable to attend the last Northeast Nebraska RC&D meeting. A copy of the Loess Hills report is attached to the official minutes.

The Bazile Groundwater Management Area report was referenced in Dropbox by Brian Bruckner as Lisa Lauver, Project Coordinator for the BGMA, was not in attendance. A report is attached to the official minutes.

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

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

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Zohner to accept the Logan East Rural Water System Advisory Committee minutes of October 9, 2023. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fler. Motion carried.

The Information, Planning, Programs, Projects, Equipment and Legislation Committee of the Whole report included Brian Bruckner addressing the Board on the subject of the search for a new production well that will provide the system with additional capacity to connect the Village of Craig and to allow for new rural hookups. Rural Water Systems Manager Shawn Blahak continues to pursue access permission enabling additional samples on irrigation wells so that he may identify possible areas for test wells or monitoring wells. Also discussed was the need to develop a strategic plan to address potential future issues with nitrate concentrations in the existing wells. Brian Bruckner will be working with the Logan East Rural Water System Advisory Committee to refine the draft plan. Details will be shared with the Board as they become available.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Clausen to authorize staff to purchase a 14' dump trailer from DB Trailer Sales of Norfolk, NE in the amount of \$11,700 for use in the

Lower Elkhorn NRD Recreation Areas. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: Korth. Absent: Fler. Motion carried.

Future topic discussion by the Directors included possible cost share on side-dressing equipment, education of the public on nitrates, lowering the nitrate threshold amount required for cost share on reverse osmosis systems, a review of LENRD grant prioritization, possible grants for alternative cropping systems, and the possibility of opening irrigated acres in the Quantity Management Subareas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 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 26, 2023 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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Jay Reikofski, Secretary