

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

7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 28, 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, December 28, 2023, at the Lower Elkhorn NRD, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska. Chairman Roger Gustafson informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on December 22, 2023 and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

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

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

The reading and/or action on the minutes of the November 21, 2023 Board of Directors meeting was next on the agenda. Motion was made by Clausen and seconded by Korth *that the minutes of the November 21, 2023 Board of Directors meeting be approved*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Fiscal Year 2023 Audit report was given by Donita Pokorny of Dana F. Cole & Company. Motion was made by Fleer and seconded by Clausen *to accept the Fiscal Year 2023 Audit as prepared by Dana F Cole & Company*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Loberg *to approve income in the amount of \$73,903.86 and expenses in the amount of \$452,770.82 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Abstain: Hall, Zohner. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Fleer *to approve income in the amount of \$80,372.38 and expenses in the amount of \$39,415.01 for the Logan East Rural Water System as printed and distributed*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Clausen to approve income in the amount of \$7,041.60 and expenses in the amount of \$5,049.12 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. 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 Mark Hall. Hall noted the upcoming NARD Board of Directors meeting to be held on January 24, 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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.

There was nothing to report for the Nebraska Loess Hills or Northeast Nebraska RC&Ds as meetings were not held in December.

The Bazile Groundwater Management Area report was referenced in Dropbox by General Manager Brian Bruckner as Lisa Lauver was not in attendance. A copy of the 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.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Temple to approve a \$4,000 hookup fee for the Logan East Rural Water System. The increase will begin on January 1, 2024. The previous amount was \$3,500 and had been in effect since 2011. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Gustafson to accept the Logan East Rural Water System Advisory Committee minutes of December 11, 2023. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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

A project update and presentation on the North Fork Elkhorn River WFPO was provided by Project Manager Andrea Gebhart and Water Resources Engineer Ann Nissen of JEO Consulting Group. They provided the project overview, summary of work to date, preliminary H&H model results, and an anticipated timeline and steps of the project.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Clausen to approve Resolution NO. 2023-01 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Approval of this resolution indicates the District's commitment to providing funding, and to the development and execution of a cooperative agreement for the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grant for Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects.

Discussion followed.

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

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Clausen to approve an additional guideline to be used in conjunction with the LENRD's Good Cause Variance to grant District staff the authorization to consider for approval a Good Cause Shown Expedited Variance request to utilize an existing irrigation well as a source of irrigation water for orphaned irrigated acres. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Loftis to set the 2024 allocation amounts for the Lower Elkhorn NRD Quantity Management Subareas at: 18 inches per irrigated acre for gravity/flood systems, 13 inches per irrigated acre for subsurface drip irrigation systems, and 14 inches per irrigated acre for all other irrigation systems in the Eastern Madison County Quantity Management Subarea; and 17 inches per irrigated acre for gravity/flood irrigation systems, 12 inches per irrigated acre for subsurface drip irrigation systems, and 13 inches per irrigated acre for all other irrigation systems in the Wayne County Quantity Management Subarea. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Korth to amend and restate the Lower Elkhorn NRD current Cafeteria Plan to become a participating employer in the NARD Flexible Benefits Plan. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Wisnieski to approve the 2024 meeting schedule. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Others Present: None

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 December 28, 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,