

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

7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 27, 2024

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, June 27, 2024, 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 June 21, 2024 and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Roll call was taken by Administrative Assistant Patty Martens with 12 of 15 Directors present. Members present were Jerry Allemann, Jim Aschoff, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Mark Hall, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, and Roger Gustafson. Michael Fler, Anthony Wisnieski, and Rod Zohner were absent from the meeting.

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

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

At this time, Chairman Gustafson opened the floor to public comment. Brent Nygren, Shad Miller, Mark Fitzgerald, and David Domina addressed the board.

Motion was made by Korth and seconded by Loftis *that the minutes of the May 23, 2024 Board of Directors meeting and Certification of Acres Hearing be approved*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Mark Hall. Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Burenheide *to approve income in the amount of \$756,506.54 and expenses in the amount of \$529,952.51 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Gustafson. Abstain: Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Loberg *to approve income in the amount of \$81,898.09 and expenses in the amount of \$33,159.48 for the Logan East Rural Water System*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Aschoff *to approve income in the amount of \$2,707.28 and expenses in the amount of \$4,340.38 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System*.

Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski, Zohner. 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 District report was given by Mark Hall. Hall reported on the NARD meeting and Basin Tour held in McCook, Nebraska on June 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>. Hall noted a reduction in the increase of dues from 4% to 2%, no increase to the District or employees for health insurance premiums, and possible upcoming changes for how the District publishes public notices.

Director Temple reported on her attendance of the UNL Water Tour of southeastern Nebraska.

There was nothing to report for The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission as Garry Anderson was not in attendance.

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

The Nebraska Loess Hills and Northeast Nebraska RC&D reports were next on the agenda. Hall had nothing to report. Loftis reported an issue with the Loess Hills RC&D household hazardous waste collection. The grant for the collection was received based on a bid from a company that no longer offers that service. The next lowest bid is \$40,000, leaving the Loess Hills RC&D \$16,000 short. In addition to requesting assistance from other sources, the Loess Hills RC&D requested an amount not to exceed \$5,000 from the LENRD.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Korth *to support the Loess Hills RC&D household hazardous waste collection in an amount not to exceed \$5,000*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

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.

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 Korth *to approve the changes made to the Resolution for the Water Drought / Emergency Regulation Lower Elkhorn NRD / Logan East Rural Water System*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis,

Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Clausen to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2024 Logan East RWS Advisory Meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Korth to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and sign a contract with Rutjens Construction to complete the Willow Creek Artesian Pressure Relief Well Discharge System Project for an amount not to exceed \$203,251.32. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Korth to approve the Frost Terminated Cover Crop Pilot Project as presented. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Korth to authorize the inclusion of drip irrigation as a cost-shareable practice with the Lower Elkhorn NRD Agroforestry Program when utilizing Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program Funds. Aye: Burenheide, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Steffen, Temple. Nay: Allemann, Aschoff, Clausen, Reikofski, Gustafson. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Loftis to approve the NARD 414(h) Contribution Resolution increasing employee contribution from 5.5% to 6.5% and employer contribution from 6.0% to 7.0% effective January 1, 2025. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Gustafson. Nay: Korth. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Steffen to approve the salary allowance adjustment of 3.5% and to approve the step and grade changes proposed by management for Fiscal Year 2025. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hall, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Gustafson. Nay: Temple. Present not voting: Korth. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski, Zohner. Motion carried.

Others Present: Brent Nygren, Shad Miller, Mark Fitzgerald, David Domina

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 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 June 27, 2024 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