

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

7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 22, 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, August 22, 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 August 14, 2024 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 Fler, Mark Hall, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, Anthony Wisnieski, Rod Zohner, and Roger Gustafson.

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

At this time, Chairman Gustafson opened the floor to public comment. Layne Roth addressed the Board.

Motion was made by Korth and seconded by Aschoff *that the minutes of the July 25, 2024 Board of Directors meeting be approved*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Mark Hall. Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Wisnieski *to approve income in the amount of \$125,086.14 and expenses in the amount of \$289,447.46 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner. Nay: None. Abstain: Gustafson. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Loftis *to approve income in the amount of \$99,760.67 and expenses in the amount of \$34,848.22 for the Logan East Rural Water System*. 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 Hall and seconded by Korth *to approve income in the amount of \$7,798.88 and expenses in the amount of \$5,996.55 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.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Wisnieski to correct the June approved income amount of \$2,707.28 to the actual income amount of \$7,000.85 and June approved expense amount of \$4,340.38 to the actual expense amount of \$4,796.71 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 District report was given by Mark Hall. Hall reminded the Board of the upcoming NRD annual conference to be held this September in Kearney, Nebraska.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission was mentioned by General Manager Brian Bruckner as Garry Anderson was not in attendance. Staff attended the meeting in Kearney as the LENRD had a recommendation to amend some NSWCP practices.

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. The Loess Hills RC&D will hold an electronic waste collection in Beemer, Nebraska on September 14, 2024. There was nothing to report for the Northeast Nebraska RC&D meeting. A copy of the Loess Hills RC&D report is attached to the official minutes.

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 Director Loftis. A copy is attached to the official minutes.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Alleman to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2024 Logan East RWS Advisory Meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Wau-Col Regional Water system report was given by Secretary Jay Reikofski. A copy is attached to the official minutes.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Korth to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2024 Wau-Col RWS Advisory Meeting. 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 Vice-Chairman Matt Steffen.

Janel Kaufman and Bob Gregalunas of Houston Engineering presented an update of the Battle Creek WFPO. The WFPO Plan-EA is at 90% completion. Public comment was given by Keith Dittrich, James Geyer, and John Dittrich.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Korth to strike Condition No. 6 and to approve the LENRD Administrative Policy to Address Requests to Construct Irrigation Wells for Existing Certified Irrigated Acres, as amended.

Discussion followed.

Moved by Korth and seconded by Clausen to amend the original motion to read: to strike Condition No. 6 and to approve the LENRD Administrative Policy to Address Requests to Construct Irrigation Wells for Existing Certified Irrigated Acres and to make this policy retroactive to apply to any irrigation well that has been constructed in the LENRD since 2017 on land that had a previous history of certified irrigated acres and was constructed under the LENRD Conditions for Approval Policy for New Irrigation Wells. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Vote on amended motion: Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: Burenheide. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Korth to approve an additional 2 acre inches of groundwater only for irrigation wells subject to an annual groundwater allocation in the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Quantity Management Subareas, to be utilized for germination and establishment of a cover crop, after September 15, 2024, and to grant District staff administrative authorization to approve use of the additional allocation prior to September 15<sup>th</sup> on a case-by-case basis. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: Loftis. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Fler and seconded by Clausen to approve an additional 1% increase in Restricted Funds Authority for Fiscal Year 2025. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: Korth, Temple, Wisnieski. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Clausen and seconded by Loftis to advertise and present the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and Long Range Plan at a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lower Elkhorn NRD boardroom, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Others Present: Ryan Zimmerman

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 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 22, 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