

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

Lower Elkhorn NRD Office
1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska
7:30 p.m. – Thursday, January 23, 2025

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Roger Gustafson on Thursday, January 23, 2025 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 January 17, 2025 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, Mike Fler, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, Anthony Wisnieski and Roger Gustafson.

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

Motion was made by Korth and seconded by Hrabanek *to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting and January 9, 2025 Special Board of Directors Meeting*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Aschoff and seconded by Allemann *to approve income in the amount of \$1,138,853.19 and expenses in the amount of \$540,745.51 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District*. Aye: Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen. Nay: None. Abstain: Allemann, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Loftis *to approve income in the amount of \$81,713.71 and expenses in the amount of \$36,027.75 for the Logan East Rural Water System*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Clausen *to approve income in the amount of \$6,938.31 and expenses in the amount of \$3,783.91 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The conservation cost share report was given by Assistant General Manager Curt Becker. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

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The Nebraska Association of Resources District report – Nothing to report for the NARD.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – General Manager Brian Bruckner noted that Chris Dierks was voted in for the Elkhorn Basin Delegate replacing Gary Anderson.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was given by District Conservationist Robin Sutherland. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Nebraska Loess Hills and Northeast Nebraska RC&D – Director Gary Loftis mentioned that the Loess Hills RC&D received a grant for an e-waste collection in Cuming County. There was nothing to report for the Northeast Nebraska RC&D.

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 RWS Manager Shawn Blahak. A copy is attached to the official minutes.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Aschoff to approve the appointment of Dwight Dam, Gary Kruger and Beverly Lydick to serve a three year term on the Logan East Rural Water System Advisory Committee, beginning January 2025. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Clausen to approve a payment of \$500 to Roy Miller for the rent of one acre of land where the LERWS test well was drilled in 2023. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

In November of 2024 Rutjens Construction was approved for the Logan Creek Waterline Replacement Project for the amount of \$105,295.00. The original amount did not include sales tax. Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Aschoff to approve Change Order #1 which will include \$4,563.15 for sales tax, increasing the total cost to \$109,858.15. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Chad to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025 Logan East RWS Advisory Meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Loftis to amend the ranking system for the Urban Conservation Assistance Program and Recreation Area Development Program to read as follows: "To fund Urban Conservation Assistance Program applications first, then give priority to entities that have previously received funds or been approved for funds for the least amount of dollars from the District for Urban Conservation Assistance Program, Recreation Area Development Program, Community Forestry Program, and Special Recreation Development projects for the previous three fiscal years." Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Loftis to recommend that the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to develop an agreement to supply water with the Village of Craig, NE. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Korth to recommend that the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to develop an agreement for water supply with the City of Oakland, NE. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Gustafson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

2024 Standard Variances for New Groundwater Irrigated Acres - Mike Murphy provided an update on the notification of applicants along with an update on the geographic distribution of locations that were both approved and denied.

Mike Murphy provided an update on the submittal of flow meter readings and Connor Baldwin provided an update on Phase 2 and 3 Area annual reports.

Public comment was received by Layne Roth.

Election of Officers was next on the agenda. According to the By-Laws, any officer is limited to one term of two years but is immediately eligible for a different office; however, a Director is eligible for the same office after a two-year absence from that office. The current officers that have now served a term of two years are Chairman Roger Gustafson, Vice-Chairman Matt Steffen, and Secretary Jay Reikofski. Treasurer Mark Hall served one year of a two year term. A Treasurer will be nominated to fulfill the remaining one year. Voting was held by ballot. Ballots will be held in the headquarters office for 30 days for public review.

Nominated for Chairman were Matt Steffen and Chad Korth. After ballots were gathered and counted, it was announced that Director Matt Steffen was elected Chairman for 2025-2026. (Steffen – 11, Korth - 3)

Nominated for Vice-Chairman were Jay Reikofski and Gary Loftis. After ballots were gathered and counted, it was announced that Director Jay Reikofski was elected Vice-Chairman for 2025-2026. (Reikofski – 10, Loftis – 4)

Nominated for Secretary were Kris Loberg and Lee Klein. After ballots were gathered

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and counted, it was announced that Director Kris Loberg was elected Secretary. (Loberg – 9, Klein – 5)

Nominated for Treasurer were Mike Fleer and Jerry Allemann. After ballots were gathered and counted, it was announced that Director Jerry Allemann was elected for Treasurer for 2025. (Allemann – 8, Fleer – 6)

Nominated for NARD Delegate were Gary Loftis and Jerry Allemann. After ballots were gathered and counted, it was announced that Gary Loftis was elected NARD Delegate. (Loftis – 8, Allemann – 6)

Nominated for NARD Alternate were Jerry Allemann and Mike Fleer. After ballots were gathered and counted, it was announced that Jerry Allemann was elected NARD Alternate. (Allemann – 9, Fleer - 5)

Roger Gustafson was automatically moved to Past Chairman as he was not elected to another officer position.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.