

**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, April 24, 2025

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at the Lower Elkhorn NRD, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska. Chairman Steffen informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on April 18, 2025, and of 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. Members present were Jerry Allemann, Jim Aschoff, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Mike Flear, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Melissa Temple, Anthony Wisnieski, and Matt Steffen. Chad Korth was absent from the meeting.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Allemann *to excuse the absence of Chad Korth*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Flear, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

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

At this time, Chairman Steffen opened the floor to public comment. Michael Lance addressed the Board.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein *to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Flear, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Jerry Allemann. Motion was made by Gustafson and seconded by Clausen *to approve income in the amount of \$260,952.53 and expenses in the amount of \$379,445.99 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Flear, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Abstain: Loftis, Wisnieski. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Hrabanek and seconded by Gustafson *to approve income in the amount of \$78,821.47 and expenses in the amount of \$35,061.47 for the Logan East Rural Water*

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System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Clausen and seconded by Loftis to approve income in the amount of \$8,287.93 and expenses in the amount of \$5,594.72 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System.

Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth. 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.

The Nebraska Association of Resources District report was given by Director Gary Loftis.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – No report.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was referenced in Dropbox by General Manager Brian Bruckner as 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. Northeast Nebraska RC&D information was given by Melissa Temple.

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 of the report is attached to the official minutes. Assistant Manager Curt Bruckner updated the Board on the partnership with West Point in regards to the West Point Levee work progress and financial contribution, and Willow Creek relief wells performance. In addition, Conservation Planner Jim Olson shared information of their NARD Washington D. C. conference.

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

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Gustafson to approve the appointment of Mike Tobin to fill the remainder of Bev Lydick's Logan East RWS Advisory Committee term.

Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Clausen to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2025 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Fler to approve the minutes of the April

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3, 2025 Wau-Col RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Loftis to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Urban Conservation and Recreation Area Development Program applications as recommended by staff.

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Temple and seconded by Clausen to amend the original motion to include the Village of Leigh Centennial Park and Creek Area Improvements application, which was not previously recommended by Staff. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Clausen, Hrabanek, Loftis, Temple. Nay: Aschoff, Fler, Gustafson, Klein, Loberg, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Absent: Korth. Amendment failed. See attached page for all applicants.

Vote on original motion: Aye: Allemann, Fler, Gustafson, Klein, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Hrabanek, Loberg, Reikofski. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Gustafson to accept the Scope of Services and Fee for the additional services for the Maple Creek WFPO from Houston Engineering, Inc. as presented by District Staff and to authorize the General Manager to sign the contract on behalf of the District.

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Burenheide to amend the original motion to read: to accept the Scope of Services and Fee, not to exceed \$50,000, for the additional services for the Maple Creek WFPO from Houston Engineering, Inc. as presented by District Staff and to authorize the General Manager to sign the contract on behalf of the District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Wisniski to approve the Trail Maintenances Agreement between the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District and the Maskenthine Trail Network and to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the agreement on behalf of the District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 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 April 24, 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.

Kris Loberg, Secretary

REC AREA DEVELOPMENT/URBAN CONSERVATION				
Year End 2026 Recommended				
URBAN CONSERVATION				
City of Lyons	Lagoon Reinforcement	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	Community Forestry FY2025 \$4,950.00 Rec Area Development FY2025 \$25,000.00 Community Forestry FY2026 \$4,000.00 \$33,950.00
REC AREA DEVELOPMENT				
Village of Carroll	Village of Carroll Park Renovation	\$22,875.00	\$11,437.50	None
Village of Hoskins	"Park Renovation" Phase 1	\$59,680.00	\$29,840.00	None
Village of Belden	Arnold Park Playground Equipment	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	None
Norfolk Public Schools	Bel Air Inclusive Playground	\$99,963.00	\$25,000.00	Community Forestry FY2025 \$1,800.00
Village of Pender	Pender Park Update	\$34,910.80	\$17,455.40	Rec Area Development FY2023 \$5,419.50 Community Forestry FY2025 \$3,635.43 \$9,054.93
Total Recommended Amount for Funding			\$118,732.90	
NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING				
Village of Leigh	Centennial Park & Creek Area Improvements	\$26,850.00	\$13,425.00	Community Forestry FY2026 \$1,000.00

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