

**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, July 24, 2025

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, July 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 July 18, 2025, and of 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, Mike Fler, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg (arrived later in the meeting), Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen. Gary Loftis, Melissa Temple, and Anthony Wisnieski were absent from the meeting

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

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

There were no comments from the public at this time.

Motion was made by Hrabanek and seconded by Aschoff to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Reikofski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loberg, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Jerry Allemann. Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Klein to approve income in the amount of \$163,268.94 and expenses in the amount of \$518,214.23 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Steffen. Nay: None. Abstain: Reikofski. Absent: Loberg, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Hrabanek to approve income in the amount of \$95,131.93 and expenses in the amount of \$44,603.59 for the Logan East Rural Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Reikofski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loberg, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski. Motion

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carried.

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Burenheide to approve income in the amount of \$9,563.65 and expenses in the amount of \$6,811.77 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Reikofski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loberg, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski. 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 mentioned by General Manager Brian Bruckner. He noted the upcoming NARD Fall conference.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – No report.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was given by Resource Conservationist Waylon Petsche as 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 are 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 of the report is attached to the official minutes.

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 Gustafson and seconded by Clausen to approve the Logan East Rural Water System recommendation to update the SCADA system at a total cost, not to exceed \$78,569.00, over a period of 5 years. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Alleman to provide financial assistance to the Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Area, not to exceed \$6,000.00 annually, for FY26, FY27, and FY28, to be used as matching funds for a 3-year grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET). Extension of the \$6,000.00 is contingent on successful procurement

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of the NET grant and will only be expended on lands within the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District.

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Klein and seconded by Korth to amend the original motion to read - to provide financial assistance to all counties in the LENRD District, not to exceed \$6,000.00 annually, for FY26, FY27, and FY28, to be used as matching funds for a 3-year grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET). Extension of the \$6,000.00 is contingent on successful procurement of the NET grant and will only be expended on lands within the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Klein, Korth. Nay: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Loberg, Reikofski, Steffen. Absent: Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski. Motion failed.

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

Battle Creek WFPO Open House – Discussion was held in regard to the scheduled July 31, 2025 public meeting at the Battle Creek Jr/Sr. High School.

At this time, Keith Dittrich and James Geyer addressed the Board.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Korth to approve updates to the average cost dockets for the Agroforestry, Cover Crop, and Conservation Cost Share Programs as recommended by the staff. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Water Quality and Quantity Task Force – An update on recent committee meetings and items of discussion was provided by the General Manager Brian Bruckner.

Logan East Rural Water System – A status update was provided by Bruckner regarding the effort to create connections with the City of Oakland and the Village of Craig.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 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 July 24, 2025 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

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