

**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, August 28, 2025

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, August 28, 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 August 22, 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, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Melissa Temple, Anthony Wisnieski, and Matt Steffen. Scott Clausen, Mike Fler, and Chad Korth were absent from the meeting

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

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

There were no comments from the public at this time.

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Wisnieski to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, and Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Fler, Korth. 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 \$213,015.61 and expenses in the amount of \$1,303,077.94 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Aschoff, Burenheide, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, and Steffen. Nay: None. Abstain: Allemann and Loftis. Absent: Clausen, Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Hrabanek to approve income in the amount of \$92,011.86 and expenses in the amount of \$60,859.63 for the Logan East Rural Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis,

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*Agenda subject to change 24 hours prior to meeting.*

Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, and Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Burenheide to approve income in the amount of \$11,259.88 and expenses in the amount of \$10,868.91 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, and Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

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

The Nebraska Association of Resources District report was given by Gary Loftis. Gary noted upcoming NARD Fall conference.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – The report was given by General Manager Brian Bruckner. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

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. The Northeast Nebraska RC&D report was given by Melissa Temple. A copy of the Loess Hills report is attached to the official minutes.

The Bazile Groundwater Management Area report – No report was presented.

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 Loftis and seconded by Gustafson to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2025 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, and Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Alleman to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2025 Wau-Col RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, and Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Allemann to accept the Scope of Work and Flow Meter Maintenance Agreement from Derek and Austin Becker which outlines the requirements for the completion of Flow Meter Preventative Maintenance Services within the Lower Elkhorn NRD, and to authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement on behalf

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of the District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, and Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Fleer, Korth. Motion carried.

Water Resources Manager Doug Hallum presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Lower Elkhorn NRD Standard Variance process and Quantity Management Subareas. An Ad Hoc Variance Committee has been meeting for several months. Doug presented aspects of the committee's discussions including water depletions, groundwater trends, soil score distributions, and last year's approvals.

At this time, Jim Reeves addressed the Board.

Motion was made by Burenheide and seconded by Loftis to approve an additional 1% increase in Restricted Funds Authority for Fiscal Year 2026. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, and Steffen. Nay: Temple. Absent: Clausen, Fleer, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Burenheide and seconded by Hrabanek to advertise and present the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and Long-Range Plan at a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lower Elkhorn NRD boardroom, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska.

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Aschoff to amend the presented proposed budget amount to be advertised by reducing the total expenditures by \$250,000.

Vote on original motion with reduced proposed expenditures - Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Gustafson, Klein, Loberg, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Burenheide, Hrabanek, Loftis, Temple. Absent: Clausen, Fleer, Korth. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 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 28, 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.

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Kris Loberg, Secretary