

**Minutes of the  
Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District  
Special Board of Directors Meeting  
Lower Elkhorn NRD Office  
1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska  
7:30 p.m. – Thursday, October 9, 2025**

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, October 9, 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 October 1, 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 (present later), Scott Clausen, Mike Fleer, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Melissa Temple, and Matt Steffen. Anthony Wisnieski was absent from the meeting.

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

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

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Korth to authorize staff to advertise and schedule a sign-up period to run from October 15 through November 17, 2025 to receive applications for standard variances from geographically eligible locations in the LENRD. Approval of this motion will also direct staff to prepare application materials and to collect the application fee of \$100 for each standard variance during the upcoming sign-up period.

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Temple to amend the geographically eligible locations included in the original motion to exclude ground in the Phase 3 Area that is over 20 acres. Aye: Fleer, Hrabanek, Loftis, Temple. Nay: Allemann, Aschoff, Clausen, Gustafson, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Steffen. Absent: Burenheide, Wisnieski. Motion failed.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Temple to amend the geographically eligible locations in the original motion to exclude ground in the Phase 3 Area that is over 20 acres and has not been row cropped or in production for the last 3 years. Aye: Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek,

Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Temple. Nay: Allemann, Aschoff, Clausen, Klein, Reikofski, Steffen. Absent: Burenheide, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Korth to allow up to 400 acre-feet of new depletions in the Hydrologically Connected Area, and up to 3,750 new irrigated acres in the Non-hydrologically Connected Area in the Lower Elkhorn NRD. Of the allowed acres, no more than 350 new irrigated acres may be allowed in the Quantity Management Subareas. Approval of this motion will also authorize approval and use of Conditions for Approval Policy, dated October 9, 2025, and the weighting of scores on the scoresheets utilized to process Standard Variances. Geographic eligibility will be determined from the map titled "Lower Elkhorn NRD–2025 Irrigation Development Areas".

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Temple and seconded by Korth to amend the score sheet used in the Standard Variance process giving applications 100 extra points for those with greater than 20 acres and soil scores over 100. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple. Nay: Steffen. Absent: Wisnieski. Motion carried.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 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 October 9, 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