

Minutes
Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Committee of the Whole
Thursday, January 9, 2025
Following the 7:00 p.m. Special Board of Directors Meeting
Lower Elkhorn NRD
1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska

1. Chairman Roger Gustafson informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on January 3, 2025 and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall. Directors in attendance were Jerry Allemann, Jim Aschoff, Scott Clausen, Mike Fleer, Roger Gustafson, Andrew Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, and Anthony Wisnieski. Mark Burenheide and Chad Korth were absent from the meeting.
2. Projects and Programs
 - a. Willow Creek Reservoir Flood Plain Management Plan Request for Proposal – A condition of the HHPD Grant from FEMA for the Artesian Pressure Mitigation Project requires the District to complete a Floodplain Management Plan for Willow Creek Reservoir. A Request for Proposals to complete the Floodplain Management Plan will be published in the Norfolk Daily News. The proposals will need to be received at the LENRD office by end of day February 10, 2025. Those received will then be brought forward for consideration at the February 13, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.
 - b. Urban Conservation and Recreation Area Development Programs Approval Priority System Discussion – Assistant General Manager Curt Becker presented a proposal to amend the ranking system for the Urban Conservation and Recreation Development programs.

Recommended Motion: 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.”

- c. Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Area – Wayne county Weed Superintendent Doug Deck provided information relating to challenges they are facing regarding the control of noxious and/or invasive weed species.
3. Water Resources
 - a. Update and Discussion on Potential Enforcement Options for Non-Submittal of Flow

Protecting Lives – Protecting Property – Protecting the Future
Agenda subject to change 24 hours prior to meeting.

Meter Reports (which were due December 1, 2024) – GIS Specialist Mike Murphy provided an update to the Board regarding the status of submittal of flow meter reports which were due December 1st. A text message or postcard was sent on December 27 to those who had yet to submit the requested information.

- b. Status Update on Submittal of Phase 2 and 3 Management Area Reports (which are now due January 15th of each year) – General Manager Brian Bruckner provided the Board with an update on the submittal of the reports.
- c. Water Resources Department – Staff introductions and report of winter activities - Letters were generated to producers that submitted a Standard Variance application. Bruckner also introduced the new Water Resources Manager Doug Hallum. Doug provided the Board with his previous employment background.

4. Administrative

- a. 2025 Nebraska Unicameral – Session Updates and Report on Discussions with State Senators – Bruckner noted that the Unicameral convened on January 8, 2024 for the first day of their new session. Bruckner will update the Board weekly on bills of interest. Bruckner has connected with Senators Robert Dover and Jared Storm.
- b. NARD Washington, D.C. Conference – Bruckner reminded the Board that the NARD Washington, D.C. conference will be held on March 30th to April 2nd of 2025. More details will be available at a later date.

The Committee of the Whole meeting began at 7:18 and ended at 8:14.