

**Minutes of the
Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Committee of the Whole**

Thursday, March 13, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

Lower Elkhorn NRD

1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska

1. Chairman Matt Steffen informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on March 7, 2025 and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall. Directors in attendance were Jerry Allemann, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Mike Fleer, Roger Gustafson, Andrew Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, and Anthony Wisnieski. Jim Aschoff, Kris Loberg and Melissa Temple were absent from the meeting.

2. Public Comment – There were no comments from the public at this time.

3. Projects and Programs

a. City of Scribner Levee – Discussion was held on a request from the City of Scribner in regards to the potential sale of an old segment of the Scribner levee that has been replaced by the US-275 Bypass. The Lower Elkhorn NRD helped fund this segment of the Scribner Levee. Scribner is also requesting that the old levee segment may be used for fill dirt.

Recommended Motion: To instruct the General Manager to notify the City of Scribner that the District will not request any reimbursement funding for the City of Scribner’s use of the fill dirt from the old Pebble Creek Flood Protection Levee.

b. Hazard Mitigation Plan – Assistant General Manager Curt Becker led discussion on approving the Update and Merger of the Lower Elkhorn NRD and Cedar-Dixon Hazard Mitigation Plans. The NEMA review of the plan is complete and has been sent to FEMA for their review. The plan requires updating every 5 years.

Recommended Motion: To authorize the Board Chairman and General Manager to sign the resolution that adopts the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District and Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District Hazard Mitigation Plan.

c. Lower Elkhorn NRD Incentive Program to Convert Irrigated Cropland to Irrigated Grazing Land – Assistant General Manager Curt Becker presented the current cost share amounts for converting irrigated cropland to irrigated grazing. The Board discussed various aspects of the program including rates and requirements.

Recommended Motion: To instruct Staff to increase the payment rate from \$40.00 per acre to \$100.00 per acre for the incentive program converting irrigated cropland to irrigated grazing land.

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

4. Water Resources

- a. Annual Report on Pierce County Pilot Project – Dan and John Schmit, in conjunction with their agronomist Craig Marsh, presented the 2024 crop yield, soil and water sampling, and nutrient application information and results as part of their annual report to the Board of Directors.
- b. LENRD Quantity Management Subareas – Discussion was held on new irrigation wells for new irrigated acres.

5. Administrative

- a. Update on Interlocal Agreement with City of Norfolk for Financial Support for Household Hazardous Waste Facility – The City of Norfolk has reviewed and will be approving the agreement at a future meeting.

Recommended Motion: To approve the Interlocal Agreement between the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District and the City of Norfolk to provide support for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at the Norfolk Transfer Station.

- b. Unicameral Update and Report on Bills of Interest – Bruckner provided updates and information on various bills of interest for the Nebraska NRDs.

Others present and speaking: Mark Hall, Jim Reeves

The meeting concluded at 6:31 p.m.