

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

Thursday, April 10, 2025 – 7:00 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 April 2, 2025 and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall. Directors in attendance were Jerry Allemann, Jim Aschoff, Scott Clausen, Roger Gustafson, Andrew Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, and Anthony Wisnieski. Mark Burenheide and Mike Fleer were absent from the meeting.

2. Public Comment – Mark Hall addressed the Board.

3. Projects and Programs

a. Urban Conservation Assistance and Recreation Area Development Program Applications – A review of the applications received requesting cost share from the LENRD was given. Applications were received from the Village of Leigh, City of Lyons, Village of Carroll, Village of Hoskins, Village of Belden, Norfolk Public Schools, and Village of Pender.

**Recommended Motion:** To approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Urban Conservation and Recreation Area Development Program applications as recommended by staff.

b. Pilger Recreation Area Updates – District staff have been contacted by some area residents who have expressed interest in possibly donating resources that could be utilized to establish some improvements at the Pilger Rec Area. A couple of preliminary suggestions have been to construct a picnic shelter, hiking trail, playground equipment, and waterless restroom. Len Dickinson and Jeff Dinklage, who are area residents, addressed the Board and provided some of their ideas for improvements they would like to see added to the facility. They have both indicated a willingness to donate resources and indicated that others might also be willing to do so, as they have a special appreciation for the Pilger Rec Area and want to see its value improved for public benefit. Additional discussion was held between members of the Board and District staff will continue the dialogue with the interested parties.

c. Maple Creek WFPO Update – District staff have been notified by the NRCS of the availability of residual funds that were allocated as part of the Maple Creek study. These funds can be utilized to conduct some field activities and surveys that are necessary prior to any construction activities.

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**Recommended Motion:** To accept the Scope of Services and Fee for the additional services for the Maple Creek WFPO from Houston Engineering, Inc. as presented by District Staff and to authorize the General Manager to sign the contract on behalf of the District.

- d. Long Range Plan Pages - Assistant Manager Curt Becker presented the following Fiscal Year 2026 Long Range Plan Pages: Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Agroforestry Incentives Program, Conservation Tree Program, Erosion and Sediment Control Act, Well Sealing Program, Recreation Area Development and Conservation Assistance Program, Community Forestry Incentives Program, and Forestry Incentive for Public Facilities Program.

#### 4. Water Resources

- a. Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Update - Water Resources Manager Doug Hallum presented to the Board on the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Water Sustainability Fund application for funding of the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment work to further process and develop existing data and to collect and analyze additional data in select focus areas in each Natural Resources District.
- b. Status on Nitrogen Certification for Producers in Phase 2 and 3 Areas – Groundwater Management Area Specialist Connor Baldwin updated the Board on the number of producers who have yet to be certified in nitrogen application.
- c. Long Range Plan Pages – The Water Resources Long Range Plan pages will be presented at a future meeting.

#### 5. Administrative

- a. Unanimous Website Development Update – Communications Specialist Liz Lienemann gave an update on the current status of the future LENRD website changes.
- b. Review of Draft Agreement between the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District and the Maskenthine Trail Network - General Manager Brian Bruckner reviewed the draft agreement with the Board and provided an overview of the items spelled out within the document. The volunteer group has already begun their annual activities associated with maintenance of the bike trail and are anxious to move onto the next phases of the project.

**Recommended Motion:** To approve the Trail Maintenance Agreement between the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District and the Maskenthine Trail Network and to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the agreement on behalf of the District.

- c. Information and Education Long Range Plan Pages - Information and Education Long Range Plan Pages - Communications Specialist Liz Lienemann presented Fiscal Year 2026 Long Range Plan pages for Public Outreach, Water Resources Advertising and Education, Youth and Adult Education, Forestry Advertising and Education, the Scholarship Program,

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Outdoor Classroom Grants, Sponsorships, and the District Awards Program.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.