

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

Thursday, June 12, 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 June 4, 2025 and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Directors in attendance were Jerry Allemann, Jim Aschoff, Mark Burenheide, Roger Gustafson, Andrew Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, and Anthony Wisnieski. Scott Clausen and Mike Fleer were absent from the meeting.

2. Public Comment – There were no comments from the Public.

3. Projects and Programs

- a. Maple Creek WFPO – Nickerson Request to Move to Design Phase – A letter from the Village of Nickerson with a request to proceed with the design phase for the Nickerson Dike Project was presented. The village will provide 50% of the costs up to \$91,250.00.

Recommended motion: To instruct staff to work with Nebraska USDA-NRCS staff to request funding for the design phase of the Nickerson Dike Project of the Maple Creek Watershed Plan through the WFPO Program.

- b. LENRD Forestry Program – Natural Resources Technician Todd Stewart provided a report to the Board on the LENRD Tree Program.
- c. Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Area – General Manager Brian Bruckner spoke of a possible partnership with the Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Area to help with the control of managing Phragmites, and other noxious and invasive weeds.

4. Water Resources

- a. LENRD Groundwater Operations Model Update – Connections to Geodatabase – Water Resources Manager Doug Hallum shared upgrades to the groundwater model user interface and showed examples of data that can now be generated by staff.
- b. Instream Flow Appropriation Administrative Plan – Bruckner spoke of adopting an administrative plan for the recently approved LENRD instream flow appropriation on the Elkhorn River. Hallum presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing background and specific information on the appropriation.

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

Recommended motion: To adopt the administration plan relating to the approved instream flow appropriation under application A-19580, as recommended by staff.

- c. 2025 Summer Field Activities Update - GIS Specialist Mike Murphy updated the Board on the 2025 summer field activities which include inspections and sampling of domestic and irrigation wells, NET water sampling project, LENRD Recreation Areas bacteria beach sampling, bi-monthly stream sampling of Willow Creek, chemigation and flow meter inspections, and status on completion of variance certifications.
- d. Long Range Plan Pages – Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program – Hallum presented new amounts for the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program. The new amount reflects the NET water sample grant and expenses associated with it.

5. Executive Board

- a. Fiscal Year 2026 Wage Adjustments – Bruckner informed the Board of the upcoming consideration of the Fiscal Year 2026 wage increase.
- b. Water Quality and Quantity Task Force – General Manager Brian Bruckner provided information for Directors in regard to the state’s newly formed task force.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.