

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

Thursday, August 14, 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 August 8, 2025 and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

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

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

3. Water Resources

- a. Discussion Regarding a Work Contract for the Completion of Flow Meter Preventive Maintenance Services in the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District - GIS Specialist Mike Murphy presented the geographic target areas and contracting of services to complete mechanical flow meter preventative maintenance in the LENRD. Mike also presented the letters that will be sent out to producers regarding the inspection and preventive maintenance of their meters.

**Recommended motion: To accept the Scope of Work and Flow Meter Maintenance Agreement from Derek and Austin Becker which outlines the requirements for the completion of Flow Meter Preventative Maintenance Services within the Lower Elkhorn NRD, and to authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the District.**

- b. Discussion Regarding the Chemigation Requirement Provision of the LENRD Conditions for Approval for Standard Variances and the Irrigation Water Sampling Requirement for Irrigation Wells in the Phase 2 and 3 Area – General Manager Brian Bruckner and Groundwater Management Area Specialist Connor Baldwin shared questions that have been provided to the District by producers regarding the chemigation and water sample requirements, given the above normal precipitation that the area has been receiving.
- c. Discussion Regarding Spacing Requirements for Groundwater Wells in the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District – Brian Bruckner presented to the Board details of spacing limitations between high-capacity wells (irrigation to irrigation, irrigation to industrial, and irrigation to public water supply wells). At present, with the exception of the Quantity Management Subareas, there is no spacing requirement between an irrigation well and a

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*Agenda subject to change 24 hours prior to meeting.*

registered domestic well. Water Resources Manager Doug Hallum suggested adding a condition to any new irrigation well permit that would set a limitation on spacing between new irrigation wells and registered domestic wells. Future discussions are planned.

- d. Discussion Regarding the Possible Development of a Permitting Requirement for the Construction of Wells Pumping 50 Gallons Per Minute or Less in the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District – Bruckner explained that currently the LENRD does not require a permit for any well, specifically domestic wells, that pump at 50 gpm or less. A permit may help to ensure certain conditions such as drilling a well deep enough to maximize available water, are met. Future discussions are planned.
- e. Discussion Regarding Section 17.8.2.1 which Addresses the Optional Authorization of an Additional Allocation of Two acre-inches for Irrigation Wells in the LENRD Quantity Management Subareas – The Board of Directors has the authority to grant an additional 2-acre inches of groundwater to be used for beneficial purposes, specifically for germination and establishment of a cover crop, in any quantity management subarea after September 15th of each calendar year.
- f. Field Activities Update - Staff updated the Board on progress made on chemigation inspections, domestic and irrigation water sampling, and 2024 variance certifications.
- g. NET Grant Proposal Update – Water Resources Manager Doug Hallum provided an overview of the proposed project, Observing Water and Nutrient Mobility in the Vadose Zone.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Others present and speaking: Jim Reeves, Mark Hall