

Minutes of the
Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, November 13, 2025
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 November 5, 2025, and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

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

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

3. Projects and Programs

- a. Battle Creek WFPO Status Update and Continued Discussion on the Battle Creek Watershed Plan – Michael Verdone with BBC Research & Consulting addressed comments the LENRD has received from the public. In addition, information was presented through a PowerPoint presentation on the benefit and cost analysis for the Battle Creek Watershed Plan project.
- b. North Fork Elkhorn River WFPO Status Update and Discussion of Options for Additional Work – There will be funds remaining from the planning phase agreement with NRCS. Staff presented options to utilize the remaining funds. More discussion will be brought forward in December or January.

4. Water Resources

- a. Use of Chemigation on Land Associated with an Approved Standard Variance for New Groundwater Irrigated Acres – General Manager Brian Bruckner presented the 2024 approved chemigation requirements when being approved for a standard variance. He also discussed the case of a producer in the District who has indicated a specific challenge conforming with the chemigation requirement in the Condition of Approval Policy.
- b. 2025 Fall Static Water Levels – Water Resources Technician Dallas Dorey provided a summary report on the data collected during the Fall of 2025 from the LENRD Observation Well Network. Generally, water levels are lower in the fall due to the irrigation season. This year 134 fall readings were higher than the spring readings and on average, District water levels were .76 feet higher than the spring levels. The biggest drawdown this year was 5.3 feet compared to 22.22 feet in 2024.

At this time, Brian Bruckner introduced newly hired LENRD Water Resources Technician Rebecca Weixelman.

5. Administrative

- a. Fiscal Year 2025 Audit – Bruckner informed the board of the fiscal year audit which will be presented at the December 18, 2025 Board of Directors meeting.
- b. 2026 Meeting Schedule - Staff presented a draft calendar year 2026 meeting schedule and asked for comments on proposed meeting dates for next year.

Recommended motion: To approve the calendar year 2026 LENRD meeting schedule.

- c. Consideration of Pickup Bids for Water Resources Department.

Recommended Motion: To accept the bid from Norfolk Motor Company for the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 in the amount of \$42,845.00.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Others present and speaking: Jeremy Grant, Christian Suhr, John Dittrich.