

MINUTES OF THE
LOWER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Lower Elkhorn NRD Office
1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska
7:30 p.m. – Thursday, February 26, 2026

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Board Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at the Lower Elkhorn NRD, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska. Steffen informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on February 20, 2026, and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Roll call was taken by Programs Coordinator Kristie Freudenburg with 13 of 15 Directors present. Members present were Jerry Allemann, Jim Aschoff, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Mike Fleeer, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, and Anthony Wisnieski. Chad Korth and Melissa Temple were absent from the meeting.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Klein to excuse the absence of Chad Korth and Melissa Temple. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleeer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Klein and seconded by Hrabanek to adopt the agenda. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleeer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

There were no comments from the public at this time.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Allemann to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2026 Board of Directors meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleeer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Aschoff to approve income in the amount of \$496,167.90 and expenses in the amount of \$447,837.65 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleeer, Hrabanek, Loberg, Loftis, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Abstain: Gustafson, Klein, Reikofski. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Klein to approve income in the amount of \$81,423.41 and expenses in the amount of \$41,673.18 for the Logan East Rural Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleeer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Hrabanek to approve income in the amount of \$6,511.51 and expenses in the amount of \$7,042.85 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System.

Protecting Lives – Protecting Property – Protecting the Future

Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

The conservation cost share report was given by Assistant Manager Curt Becker. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Nebraska Association of Resources District – No meeting since the Legislative session. The next NARD meeting will be on March 8th & 9th in Lincoln. The annual Lower Platte Basin meeting will be held on April 15th in Wahoo, NE.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – General Manager Brian Bruckner presented the agenda for the February 25th meeting.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service - The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was given by District Conservationist Robin Sutherland. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Nebraska Loess Hills and Northeast Nebraska RC&Ds –The Loess Hills RC&D report was given by Director Gary Loftis. A copy is attached to the official minutes. There was nothing to report for the Northeast Nebraska RC&D.

The Bazile Groundwater Management Area Project –The BGMA report was referenced in Dropbox by Brian Bruckner. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Administrative Report was given by General Manager Brian Bruckner. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Logan East Rural Water System report was given by Logan East RWS Manager Shawn Blahak. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Gustafson to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2026 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Clausen to accept the terms of the amended interlocal agreement between the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District and the Village of Pender, contingent on the receipt of funding from FEMA for the Village of Pender and authorize the General Manager to sign said agreement. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Clausen to instruct staff to contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and to schedule a time for them to attend a future meeting to discuss their programs and possible options for flood mitigation for the City of Battle Creek. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Klein to approve the 2025 Crop Damage Agreement on the Jim Herian Easement, Willow Creek Project, and approve payment in the amount of \$5,414.10. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Burenheide. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Wisnieski approve the 2025 Crop Damage Agreement on the Ted Krienke Easement, Willow Creek Project, and approve payment in the amount of \$3,072.97. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Burenheide. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Loftis to instruct staff to prepare and issue cease and desist orders to landowners who have failed to comply with the submittal of flow meter readings as required. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Aschoff, Clausen, Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Clausen to terminate the remainder of the term of the extension for the Pierce County Pilot Project with Dan and John Schmit which was extended in March 2024 for the 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 growing seasons. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Loftis to implement the Nitrogen Use Efficiency Incentive Program in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment and the Nebraska Corn Board and to prioritize the approval of program applications as recommended by staff. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Aschoff. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Klein to amend the motions that pertain to the Non 10/50 Area Standard Variances that were approved at the January 22, 2026 Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting to reflect the corrected number: 3,830.13 new groundwater irrigated acres. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Hrabanek to approve the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 4 Wheel Drive Crew Cab Pickup from Gregg Young Automotive, not to exceed \$42,492.00. Approval of this motion rescinds the purchase authorization provided from the November 2025 Board of Directors meeting.

Discussion followed

Motion was made by Fler and seconded by Loftis to table the motion. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Klein to approve the updated Lower Elkhorn NRD Employee Handbook Personnel Policy 9 – Hazardous Weather. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Korth, Temple. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Board of Directors on February 26, 2026 that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting, the minutes of the Chairman and the Board were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body, that all news media requesting notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Kris Loberg, Secretary