

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, March 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, March 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 March 18, 2026, and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

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

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

There were no comments from the public at this time.

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Gustafson *to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2026 Board of Directors meeting*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Fleer *to approve income in the amount of \$374,166.09 and expenses in the amount of \$352,434.80 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Loftis *to approve income in the amount of \$52,923.93 and expenses in the amount of \$14,641.09 for the Logan East Rural Water System*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Burenheide *to approve income in the amount of \$6,248.08 and expenses in the amount of \$5,904.65 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System*. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. 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.

***Protecting Lives – Protecting Property – Protecting the Future***

The Nebraska Association of Resources District – Gary Loftis attended the NARD meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln. New officers were elected. The next NARD board meeting will be on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in North Platte, NE. The South Platte Basin tour, starting in North Platte, will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – The Commission met in February. A draft copy of the minutes is attached to the official minutes.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service - The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was referenced in Dropbox by General Manager Brian Bruckner as Robin Sutherland was not in attendance. 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. The Northeast Nebraska RC&D report was given by Director Melissa Temple.

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 Logan East RWS Advisory Committee appointment of Weston Frederick. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Aschoff to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

At this time, Extension Educator Pablo Duarte Hernandez presented an update on his February and March activities.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Aschoff to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2026 Wau-Col RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to approve four Community Forestry and one Forestry Incentive for Public Facilities applications for a total LENRD cost of \$13,840.25, as presented. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein,

Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Clausen to approve the interlocal cooperation agreement with the City of Pierce for the preliminary design of the Pierce Levee Improvements as presented and authorize the general manager to sign said agreement. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Korth to instruct staff to issue notices of Violation to farm operators who have failed to submit annual field reports as required by Section 12.2.2.5 of the LENRD Groundwater Management Area Rules and Regulations. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Aschoff, Clausen. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Korth to instruct staff to issue Notices of Violation to farm operators who have failed to obtain Nitrogen Certification as required by Section 12.2.2.2 of the LENRD Groundwater Management Area Rules and Regulations. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Klein to accept the bid from Norfolk Motor Company for the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 in the amount of \$39,735.00. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Abstain: Korth. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

For the Board's information, General Manager Brian Bruckner presented the preliminary NARD Foundation fiscal years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 budgets. Bruckner also updated the Board on the final report from the Nebraska Task Force which is attached to the official minutes.

Others present and speaking: Tom Meyer

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 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 March 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.

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Kris Loberg, Secretary