

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, April 23, 2026

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Board Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, April 23, 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 April 17, 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, Mark Burenheide, Mike Fler, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Melissa Temple, Matt Steffen, and Anthony Wisnieski. Jim Aschoff and Scott Clausen were absent from the meeting.

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

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

There were no comments from the public at this time.

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

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Fler and seconded by Allemann to approve income in the amount of \$329,196.12 and expenses in the amount of \$834,937.60 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Abstain: Loftis, Wisnieski. Absent: Aschoff, Clausen. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Hrabanek to approve income in the amount of \$81,579.99 and expenses in the amount of \$39,921.14 for the Logan East Rural Water System. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Clausen. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Klein to approve income in the amount of \$8,358.24 and expenses in the amount of \$4,172.86 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System.

Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Clausen. 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 – There was no NARD meeting held. Loftis did provide information on the Lower Platte Basin Water Management Coalition meeting. A chart of peak season depletions for the Upper Loup, Lower Loup, Upper Elkhorn, Lower Elkhorn, Papio-Missouri, Lower Platte South, and Lower Platte North Natural Resources Districts was presented.

At this time, Director Temple and General Manager Brian Bruckner provided the Board with a summary of their March NARD Washington, D.C. conference attendance.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – No report was available, but information will be available after the NNRC April 29th meeting.

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&D – The Loess Hills RC&D report was given by Director Gary Loftis. The Loess Hills RC&D will be helping with the Papio Missouri NRD Electronic Waste Collections on May 19 & 21 in Tekamah, Blair, Walthill, and Dakota City. Also, a grant has been approved by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy to hold (3) Household Hazardous Waste Collections in the RC&D Service Area in 2026. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Northeast Nebraska RC&D report was given by Director Melissa Temple. A grant writing workshop will be held at the Plainview Library on May 4th from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Cost to participate will be \$75.00.

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 April 13, 2026 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Clausen. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Urban Conservation and Recreation Area Development Program applications as recommended by staff. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple. Nay: Wisnieski, Steffen. Absent: Aschoff, Clausen. Motion carried. See attached page for recipients.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Fler to authorize the General Manager to transfer all remaining funds within the West Point NPAIT investment account into the Flood Mitigation NPAIT investment account. Aye: Burenheide, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Allemann. Absent: Aschoff, Clausen. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski seconded by Loftis to have the Chairman of the Board appoint a group of Directors (less than a quorum) who would meet with the representatives from the City of Battle Creek to define goals and priorities to be considered in formulating a possible recommendation for flood protection for the City of Battle Creek utilizing the programs available from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Clausen. Motion carried.

At this time Lower Elkhorn NRD Groundwater Management Area Specialist Connor Baldwin presented on his participation in the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy.

Baldwin also reported on the status of the remaining Management Area Reports from the 2025 growing season. At the time of this writing, there are 400 reports yet to be turned in.

All Producer Nitrogen Certifications in the District have been completed.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Loftis to authorize staff to amend the Ted Krienke Buffer Strip Contract (00002) by adding 2.5 acres and including additional District funds to the Nebraska Dept. of Ag Buffer Strip Payment. The future District payments will be an additional \$1,000 incentive payment in the fall of 2026, an additional \$62.50 rental payment in the fall of 2027, and an additional \$62.50 rental payment in the fall of 2028, contingent on the Nebraska Department of Agriculture approving the additional 2.5 acres to the existing contract for 2027 and 2028. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Korth. Absent: Aschoff, Clausen. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 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 April 23, 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

Protecting Lives – Protecting Property – Protecting the Future

REC AREA DEVELOPMENT/URBAN CONSERVATION Fiscal Year 2027				
REC AREA DEVELOPMENT				
Oakland-Craig Public Schools Foundation	Oakland-Craig Inclusive Playground Project	\$545,863.00	\$25,000.00	None
City of Osmond	Park Improvements	\$56,967.00	\$25,000.00	None
Emerson-Hubbard Elementary School	Emerson-Hubbard Elementary Playground	\$102,373.00	\$14,987.50	None
City of Battle Creek	"Battle Creek Commons" Pocket Park	\$85,283.00	\$30,000.00	None
Village of Leigh	Gazebo at Centennial Park Lake	\$47,870.00	\$23,935.00	Community Forestry FY2026 \$1,000.00
City of Norfolk	N 1st St River Trail & Whitewater Access Project	\$49,890.00	\$24,945.00	Community Forestry FY2024 \$3,879.00 Community Forestry FY2026 \$3,295.88 \$7,174.88
Village of Pender (Partial Funding)	Pender Park Update	\$22,088.50	\$6,132.50	Community Forestry FY2025 \$3,635.43 Rec Area Development FY2026 \$17,455.40 \$21,090.83
Total Recommended Amount for Funding			\$150,000.00	