

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, May 28, 2026

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Board Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, May 28, 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 May 20, 2026, and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Roll call was taken by Programs Coordinator Kristie Freudenburg with 11 of 15 Directors present. Members present were Jerry Allemann, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Gary Loftis, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, and Anthony Wisnieski. Jim Aschoff, Mike Fleer, Kris Loberg, and Jay Reikofski were absent from the meeting.

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

There were no comments from the public at this time.

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

At this time, Chairman Steffen proceeded with the Certification of Acres Hearing (separate minutes).

Motion was made by Hrabanek and seconded by Klein to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2026 Board of Directors meeting. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Fleer, Loberg, Reikofski. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Hrabanek to approve income in the amount of \$2,027,602.12 and expenses in the amount of \$706,225.53 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Fleer, Loberg, Reikofski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Loftis to approve income in the amount of \$88,934.74 and expenses in the amount of \$48,485.41 for the Logan East Rural Water System. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Fleer, Loberg, Reikofski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Allemann to approve income in the amount of \$9,903.12 and expenses in the amount of \$7,060.94 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Fleeer, Loberg, Reikofski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Clausen to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 auditing agreement with Dana F. Cole & Company. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Fleeer, Loberg, Reikofski. 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 – Gary Loftis stated the next NARD board meeting will be held June 7th and 8th prior to the South Platte Basin tour on June 8th & 9th. Jerry Allemann will attend on behalf of the LENRD.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – The Commission met in April. Eleven Water Sustainability Fund grant requests were received, with a total request of just over \$5.7 million. Another meeting will be held the end of July to make a funding determination. A draft copy of the minutes is attached to the official minutes.

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&D – The Loess Hills RC&D report was given by Director Gary Loftis. Loftis assisted with the E-Waste Collection in Tekamah and they had a good turnout. They are planning a tour of the Oakland Water System Plant for July.

The Northeast Nebraska RC&D report was given by Director Melissa Temple. They met on May 26th. They are still working with the Madison County Commissioners to integrate Madison County into the Northeast Nebraska RC&D. They received the NET weed grant for \$72,000 over 3 years. Because the LENRD did not contribute, they won't be able to utilize the full amount unless they find additional match. They are working on electronics recycling and applying for a household hazardous waste grant again. They had a successful grant writing workshop and are now planning to Adopt-A-Highway and some potential scholarship opportunities for high school seniors. They are planning a joint meeting with the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D in August.

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 May 11, 2026 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting*. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Fleer, Loberg, Reikofski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Clausen and seconded by Burenheide *to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2026 Wau-Col RWS Advisory Committee Meeting*. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Aschoff, Fleer, Loberg, Reikofski. Motion carried.

Water Resources Manager, Doug Hallum with guests Katie Cameron (ENWRA Coordinator) and Dr. Jesse Korus (Groundwater Geologist, UNL CSD) presented on the Plainview Geophysical Investigation. Cameron provided background on the funding and planning of the project. Dr. Korus presented on the towed TEM (tTEM) technology and the results of the survey for a future wellfield for Plainview. The project location was 1.5 square miles located 5 miles south and 1 mile west of Plainview. Project Objectives were to map the basic geologic framework in very high resolution and recommend strategies for evaluation groundwater flow in the vicinity of the proposed well. The project utilized 90 foot line spacing, which is about 20 times the resolution that had previously been done using aerial electromagnetics. The successful test well Plainview drilled prior to the study is in an area of high resistivity within a buried channel while the unsuccessful test hole they drilled is in an area just outside the buried channel. Potential future work utilizing the tTEM results includes targeted sampling of the vadose zone, mapping aquifer properties, modeling the capture zone of a new well, and preparing a wellhead protection plan. Additional questions and discussion from the Board followed.

Water Resources Manager Doug Hallum provided an update on the Nebraska Environmental Trust Vadose Zone Study. Six requests for proposals were published in the Norfolk Daily News and on the District website with a deadline of June 19th. Forty emails soliciting proposals were also sent out as well as 10 courtesy emails. Two requests were received for the RFPs. No proposals have been received yet, and two have declined. Hallum is hopeful that we'll receive a good number of proposals closer to the deadline. He is working on a one-page project summary to provide to landowners.

General Manager Brian Bruckner provided a status update on the identification of participants and a date for the first City of Battle Creek/LENRD discussion on Flood Mitigation Options. Seven LENRD Board Members were selected to remain under a quorum: Jerry Allemann, Scott Clausen, Mike Fleer, Andy Hrabanek, Chad Korth, Jay Reikofski, and Matt Steffen. Representing the City of Battle Creek will be Mayor Heath Mettler, Council Members Eric Kraft and John Hrabanek, and Economic Development Consultant Andy Colvin. Madison County Commissioner Troy Uhlir was also invited. The first meeting will take place at the LENRD on June 1st at 7PM. Bruckner and Assistant General Manager Curt Becker will facilitate on behalf of the staff. No engineering firms have been invited to the first meeting as it is just to determine what direction the group wants to go.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 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 May 28, 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