

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, June 25, 2026

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Board Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, June 25, 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 June 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, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, and Melissa Temple. Mike Fler and Anthony Wisnieski were absent from the meeting.

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

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

There were no comments from the public at this time.

Motion was made by Clausen and seconded by Hrabanek to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2026 Board of Directors meeting and Certification of Acres Hearing. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Board Member Jerry Allemann. Motion was made by Allemann and seconded by Klein to approve income in the amount of \$503,019.35 and expenses in the amount of \$600,512.41 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple. Nay: None. Abstain: Allemann, Steffen. Absent: Fler, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Gustafson and seconded by Loftis to approve income in the amount of \$97,363.87 and expenses in the amount of \$44,831.33 for the Logan East Rural Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Clausen and seconded by Klein to approve income in the amount of \$14,904.13 and expenses in the amount of \$10,968.87 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System.

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

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

The Nebraska Association of Resources District – Jerry Allemann attended the NARD board meeting and South Platte Basin tour on June 8th and 9th. He reported on the fiscal planning meeting he attended in place of Gary Loftis. Allemann and Chad Korth also provided information from the South Platte Basin tour. Loftis stated the next NARD board meeting will be held in September.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – No report was available, but information should be available after the NNRC July meeting.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service - The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was given by Resource Conservationist Waylon Petsche. 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 reported the recycling grants are all in progress. At their next meeting in July they will tour the Oakland Water Treatment Plant, then in August they will tour the winery west of West Point.

The Northeast Nebraska RC&D report was given by Director Melissa Temple. They met on June 23rd. They are getting started with the NET weed grant; are applying again for a household hazardous waste grant; and looking for grants to do a battery/electronic recycling event. They are also planning another grant workshop and a Knox County bus tour. Madison County will be voting to decide if they will join the Northeast Nebraska RC&D. They also have representative openings.

The Bazile Groundwater Management Area Project – The BGMA report was given by Marcus Blunck. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes. Blunck also reported on his attendance of the South Platte Basin tour.

The Administrative Report was given by General Manager Brian Bruckner. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes. Bruckner also introduced the new Pierce County Programs Assistant, MacKenzie Doerr, who began her duties in May.

Logan East Rural Water System - Logan East RWS Manager Shawn Blahak was not in attendance although a copy of his report is attached to the official minutes.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Clausen to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the Interlocal Agreement with Colfax County as presented for the Colfax County Streambank Stabilization project. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

City of Battle Creek Flood Mitigation Options – Assistant Manager Curt Becker updated the board on the meeting he had with the Army Corps of Engineers. The Census Tract which includes the City of Battle Creek meets economically disadvantaged status and would make a study in this area eligible for 100% federal funding. The initial study scope would likely include evaluation of past studies and determination of what past data could be used, as well as hydraulics evaluation with damages assessment. The scope would be defined once a letter of request is submitted to the USACE. There would be the ability to change the project sponsor if needed in the future. Funding is not currently available, but once a letter of request is received the project would be put on a list for next Federal Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2026. Becker provided an updated letter of request to the City of Battle Creek for their consideration, and they will take action at a future meeting as the project sponsor. Heath Mettler addressed the board and the next council meeting will be July 13th with all indications that the City will submit the letter.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to provide financial assistance to the Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Area, not to exceed \$6,000.00 annually, for FY27 and FY28, to be used as matching funds for a 3-year grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET). Extension of the \$6,000.00 is contingent on successful procurement of the NET grant and will only be expended on lands within the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Discussion and Action on Issuance of Cease and Desist Orders for Failure to Submit Phase 2 and 3 Area Management Reports – Groundwater Management Area Specialist Connor Baldwin reported that the final Phase Area Report was turned in today at 4:45 p.m. and no action is needed.

Use of Chemigation on Land Associated with an Approved Standard Variance for New Groundwater Irrigated Acres – General Manager Brian Bruckner informed the board that one producer who received additional points for marking that he would use chemigation on his Standard Variance application and was successful in getting additional irrigated acres is out of compliance. He is an organic farmer and has indicated that he does not intend to use chemigation on his field due to the cost of the product he would need. The equipment is installed and has been inspected. District staff will communicate more with the producer and indicate that he must come into compliance this summer or be at risk of receiving a Cease and Desist order pending future Board action.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Loftis to approve the amendment to Section 32, In-Plan Roth Rollover Contributions and Section 33, In-Plan Roth Rollover Transfers of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts 457 Deferred Compensation Plan, with an effective date of November 1, 2026, and to authorize the Board Chair to sign on behalf of the District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to approve the salary living adjustment of 3.5% and to approve the step and grade changes proposed by management for Fiscal
Protecting Lives – Protecting Property – Protecting the Future

Year 2027. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: Korth. Absent: Fleer, Wisnieski. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 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 June 25, 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