

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, July 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, July 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 July 17, 2026, and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Roll call was taken by Administrative Assistant Kristie Freudenburg with 14 of 15 Directors present. Members present were Jerry Allemann, Jim Aschoff, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Mike Fler, Roger Gustafson, Andy Hrabanek, Lee Klein, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, and Anthony Wisnieski. Gary Loftis was absent from the meeting.

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

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

There were no comments from the public at this time.

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

Motion was made by Clausen and seconded by Wisnieski to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2026 Board of Directors meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Clausen and seconded by Aschoff to approve income in the amount of \$256,846.74 and expenses in the amount of \$608,959.93 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Temple, Steffen. Abstain: Reikofski, Wisnieski. Nay: Korth. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Hrabanek to approve income in the amount of \$103,212.85 and expenses in the amount of \$40,051.91 for the Logan East Rural Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Korth. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Burenheide to approve income in the amount of \$41.64 and expenses in the amount of \$4,510.39 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System.

Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Korth. Absent: Loftis. 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 report was available as NARD Delegate Gary Loftis was absent.

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 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 referenced in Dropbox. Director Melissa Temple stated the Northeast Nebraska RC&D will meet next week.

The Bazile Groundwater Management Area Project – The BGMA report was referenced in Dropbox by General Manager 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 Gustafson and seconded by Allemann to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2026 Wau-Col RWS Advisory Committee Meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Gustafson to approve updates to the average cost dockets for the Agroforestry, Cover Crop, and Conservation Cost Share Programs as recommended by the staff. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Wisnieski to accept the Scope of Work and Flow Meter Maintenance Agreement from Derek and Austin Becker which outlines the requirements for the completion of Flow Meter Preventative Maintenance Services within the Lower Elkhorn NRD, and to authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein to authorize the General Manager to sign contracts related to the “Observing Water and Nutrient Mobility in the Vadose Zone” project for the following Study Tasks:

- Study Tasks 2 and 5: University of Nebraska – Lincoln, not to exceed \$191,423.00
- Study Task 3: Vista Clara, LLC., not to exceed \$157,000.00
- Study Task 6: Downey Drilling, \$72,590.00

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Aschoff and seconded by Clausen to table the motion. Aye: Aschoff, Clausen, Gustafson. Nay: Allemann, Burenheide, Fler, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Absent: Loftis. Motion failed.

Original motion made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein was voted on to authorize the General Manager to sign contracts related to the “Observing Water and Nutrient Mobility in the Vadose Zone” project for the following Study Tasks:

- Study Tasks 2 and 5: University of Nebraska – Lincoln, not to exceed \$191,423.00
- Study Task 3: Vista Clara, LLC., not to exceed \$157,000.00
- Study Task 6: Downey Drilling, \$72,590.00

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

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein to authorize the General Manager to sign contract related to the “Observing Water and Nutrient Mobility in the Vadose Zone” project for the following Study Task:

- Study Task 1: Surveying and Mapping, LLC, not to exceed \$73,250.00 contingent upon District legal counsel approval

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

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to authorize the general manager to accept the design phase funding for the Nickerson project of the Maple Creek Watershed Plan through the NRCS – WFPO program. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Klein. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Hrabanek to instruct staff to develop and advertise a request for proposal to complete the design work and permitting for the Nickerson Dike project from the Maple Creek Watershed Plan. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Klein. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Fler to authorize the general manager to accept the design phase funding for the North Fork Elkhorn River Watershed Plan preferred alternative projects for the City of Osmond and the City of Pierce, contingent on receipt of letters of support from the City of Osmond and the City of Pierce. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to instruct staff to develop and advertise a request for proposal to complete the design work and permitting for the North Fork Elkhorn River Watershed Plan preferred alternative projects. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Korth, Loberg, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Loftis. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 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 July 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