

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, August 27, 2026

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Board Chairman Matt Steffen on Thursday, August 27, 2026 at the Lower Elkhorn NRD, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska at 8:59 p.m. following a Public Hearing. Steffen informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on August 21, 2026, and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Roll call was taken by Administrative Assistant 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, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, and Anthony Wisnieski. Mike Fleer and Chad Korth were absent from the meeting.

Motion was made by Klein and seconded by Loftis to excuse the absences of Mike Fleer and Chad Korth. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Burenheide. Absent: Fleer, Korth. Motion carried.

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

At this time, Chairman Steffen opened the floor to public comment. Wayne Rasmussen addressed the Board.

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

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Allemann to approve income in the amount of \$139,168.74 and expenses in the amount of \$431,370.80 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Abstain: Burenheide, Reikofski. Nay: None. Clausen had stepped out of the room and was not present for the vote. Absent: Fleer, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Loftis to approve income in the amount of \$112,023.90 and expenses in the amount of \$68,422.75 for the Logan East Rural Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fleer, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Hrabanek to approve income in the amount of \$14,376.38 and expenses in the amount of \$13,984.86 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

The conservation cost share report was given by General Manager Brian Bruckner. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Nebraska Association of Resources District – Director Loftis did not have a report at this time but stated the next meeting will be held as part of the NARD Annual Conference on September 29.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – General Manager Brian Bruckner referenced a copy of the unofficial minutes of the July 29th meeting in Dropbox.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service - The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was given by Acting Resource Conservationist Kylee Keiser. 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. A copy is attached to the official minutes. Director Melissa Temple stated Madison County has joined the Northeast Nebraska RC&D.

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.

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 Gustafson to approve the Logan East RWS Fiscal Year 2027 Budget as presented. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Clausen to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026 Logan East RWS Advisory meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Aschoff to approve the Wau-Col RWS Fiscal Year 2027 Budget as presented. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2026 Wau-Col RWS Advisory Committee Meeting. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to authorize staff to utilize local funds, if NSWCP funds are unavailable, to reimburse landowners for expenses associated with the purchase and installation of drip irrigation for conservation tree plantings. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Klein. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Loftis to authorize staff to utilize local funds, not to exceed \$18,909.53, to reimburse landowners whose NSWCP reimbursements are currently paused due to litigation. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Klein, Temple. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to authorize staff to budget local funds and apply for grant funds as necessary to facilitate reimbursements to landowners during Fiscal Year 2027 for conservation practices that would ordinarily be submitted to DWEE for reimbursement from NSWCP. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Loberg, Loftis, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Klein, Reikofski, Temple. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Aschoff to award the Scribner Airport West Dam Auxiliary Spillway Dirtwork Project to Vacha Excavating LLC. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: Wisnieski. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Loftis to instruct staff to solicit a Request for Proposals, not to exceed \$2,000, from qualified applicants for the completion of a mural which would be painted onto or attached to the storage container for the Maskenthine Trail Network. Aye: Allemann, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Steffen. Nay: Aschoff, Wisnieski. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Aschoff to authorize staff to advertise and schedule a sign-up period to run from October 1, 2026 through October 30, 2026 to receive applications for standard variances from geographically eligible locations in the LENRD. Approval of this motion will also direct staff to prepare application materials and to collect the application fee of \$100 for each standard variance during the upcoming sign-up period. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to allow up to 267 acre-feet of new depletions in the Hydrologically Connected Area, and up to 2,500 new irrigated acres in the Non-hydrologically Connected Area in the Lower Elkhorn NRD. Of the allowed acres, no more than 474 new irrigated acres may be allowed in the Quantity Management Subareas. Approval of this motion will also authorize approval and use of Conditions for Approval Policy, dated August 27, 2026, and the weighting of scores on the scoresheets utilized to process Standard Variances. Geographic

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eligibility will be determined from the map titled “Lower Elkhorn NRD– 2026 Irrigation Development Areas.”

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Temple to exclude the Phase 3 Area from the geographically eligible areas. Aye: Burenheide, Hrabanek, Klein, Loftis, Temple. Nay: Allemann, Aschoff, Clausen, Gustafson, Loberg, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Absent: Fler, Korth. Amendment failed.

Original motion made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen was voted on to allow up to 267 acre-feet of new depletions in the Hydrologically Connected Area, and up to 2,500 new irrigated acres in the Non-hydrologically Connected Area in the Lower Elkhorn NRD. Of the allowed acres, no more than 474 new irrigated acres may be allowed in the Quantity Management Subareas. Approval of this motion will also authorize approval and use of Conditions for Approval Policy, dated August 27, 2026, and the weighting of scores on the scoresheets utilized to process Standard Variances. Geographic eligibility will be determined from the map titled “Lower Elkhorn NRD– 2026 Irrigation Development Areas.” Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: Hrabanek, Temple. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to approve an additional 2 acre inches of groundwater, only for irrigation wells subject to an annual groundwater allocation in the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Quantity Management Subareas, to be utilized for germination and establishment of a cover crop, after September 15, 2026, and to grant District staff administrative authorization to approve use of the additional allocation prior to September 15th on a case-by-case basis. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Klein to approve an additional 1% increase in Restricted Funds Authority for Fiscal Year 2027. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen. Nay: Temple, Wisnieski. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to advertise and present the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget at a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lower Elkhorn NRD boardroom, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Gustafson, Hrabanek, Klein, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Steffen. Nay: None. Absent: Fler, Korth. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 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 August 27, 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

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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