

**Minutes of the  
Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District  
Committee of the Whole**  
Thursday, September 10, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.  
Lower Elkhorn NRD  
1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska

1. Chairman Matt Steffen informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on September 4, 2026, and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Directors in attendance were Jerry Alleman, Jim Aschoff, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Roger Gustafson, Andrew 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.

2. Public Comment - Mark Hall addressed the Board at this time.

3. Projects and Programs

- a. Review of Mural Proposals for Maskenthine Mountain Bike Trail Storage Container.  
General Manager Brian Bruckner sent the RFP to twelve artists and presented the four proposals that were received by the deadline. Each proposal would utilize the full \$2000.00 allowed under the RFP, utilizing funds donated by the Hansen Estate. Bruckner also shared the proposals with the Maskenthine Bike Trail volunteers for their feedback. Proposals were received from: Gabe Perez, Jeanette Johnson, Adam Boggs, and Julie Kregness Thorsen. Artist Adam Boggs was in attendance and addressed the Board about his proposal.
- b. Update and Discussion on North Fork Elkhorn River and Maple Creek WFPO Design Phase Agreements, Request for Proposals, and Selection Committees. Assistant General Manager Curt Becker provided an update that the Request for Proposal will be sent out on Monday with a deadline of October 5. A selection committee is needed to review and meet prior to the October Committee of the Whole meeting to rank the applications and then bring a contract to the Board at the October Board Meeting.

4. Water Resources

- a. A brief review of old and new water quality data collected in the District. Water Resources Manager Doug Hallum presented a review of water quality data submitted to the Clearinghouse from the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s, and 2020s. He also shared an overlay of all of the approved variances from 2021-2025 in relation to historical certified irrigated acres.
- b. Summer 2026 Field Activities Update – Water Resources Manager Doug Hallum provided an update on summer field activities. Beach sampling and Willow Creek Stream Sampling will both be complete in September. The Groundwater for Public Health Monitoring will

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*Agenda subject to change 24 hours prior to meeting.*

have another selection that will have letters going out for domestic wells. Domestic well sampling is continuing as requested, summer sampling in Cuming, Colfax, and Dodge counties and the statewide sampling is continuing. Chemigation inspections are almost complete, and in October variance applications will begin to be accepted. Certification of previous variances is an ongoing process as projects are completed. Meter maintenance and battery replacements is almost complete, and the next counties will begin soon. The vadose zone study will begin with field work soon. Evaluation of the potential locations is underway. Connor is attending session 5 of 6 of Water Leaders Academy, Rebecca attended Master Naturalist training over the summer, and Doug received a credential in Regenerative Agriculture. Evaluation of the next increment of the Integrated Management Plan is occurring.

#### 5. Administrative

- a. Review and Discussion on LENRD Director Per Diem and Expense Reimbursement Policies. General Manager Brian Bruckner presented a review of the current LENRD policy related to director per diem, state statute requirements, and potential changes that could be made to the LENRD's policy. Such changes could include an increase to the maximum expense reimbursement per calendar year, an increase to the hourly per diem rate, a flat one hour minimum increment, or a flat \$70 per meeting per diem regardless of meeting length. Any changes would be recommended to begin with the new calendar year on January 1, 2027.
- b. Ribbon Cutting and Recognition Event for Pilger Rec Area Pavilion. General Manager Brian Bruckner shared that on October 1, 2026 at 12 p.m. a ribbon cutting and recognition ceremony will be held in honor of Len Dickinson and Jule Goeller for their generous donation of the resources necessary for the pavilion at Pilger Recreation Area. All are welcome to attend and a light luncheon will follow.