

**Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Committee of the Whole**

Thursday, April 13, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Lower Elkhorn NRD

1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska

1. Chairman Roger Gustafson informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on April 8, 2023 and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted.

Directors Present

Jerry Allemann
James Aschoff
Mark Burenheide
Scott Clausen
Michael Fler
Roger Gustafson
Mark Hall
Chad Korth
Kris Loberg
Gary Loftis
Jay Reikofski
Matt Steffen
Melissa Temple
Anthony Wisnieski
Rod Zohner

Directors Absent

None

2. Projects and Programs

- a. Battle Creek WFPO – District staff have been communicating with representatives from Houston Engineering and JEO Engineering to develop a scope of services and firm cost estimate for an amendment to the Battle Creek Hydraulic Improvement Alternatives Analysis contract with the LENRD to update the Battle Creek Watershed Plan – Environmental Assessment (EA) (Project). A scope of services and total cost will be finalized by the April 27, 2023 Board Meeting, and representatives from Houston Engineering will be present at that meeting to provide an overview of the scope, and to answer questions from the Board.
- b. Herian Property Crop Damage – Projects Manager Curt Becker presented the agreement and supporting information.

Recommended Motion: To approve the 2022 Crop Damage Agreement on the Norman and Agnes Herian Easement, Willow Creek Project, and approve payment in the amount of \$4,327.27.

- c. Urban Conservation Assistance and Recreation Area Development Program Applications – A review of the applications received requesting cost share from the NRD was given.

Recommended Motion: To approve the Recreation Area Development Program applications as recommended by staff. See attached recommendations.

- d. Willow Creek Artesian Pressure Mitigation – Cahoy Pump service has requested a time extension on the installation of the new relief wells at Willow Creek Dam.

Recommended Motion: To approve the time extension request for the installation of the Willow Creek Relief Wells from March 15th to a substantial completion date of May 31st with final completion of June 16th from Cahoy Pump Service.

- e. Hazard Mitigation Plan Selection Committee – Projects Manager Curt Becker informed the Board that two proposals were submitted for the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and a selection committee would be needed. Three directors volunteered to be on the committee (Scott Clausen, Chad Korth, and Melissa Temple).

Recommended Motion: To authorize the general manager to sign a contract with Integrated Solutions Consulting to complete the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, not to exceed \$144,616.00.

- f. Long Range Plan Pages - Projects Manager Curt Becker presented the following Long Range Plan Pages: Recreation Area Development and Urban Conservation Assistance Programs, and the Conservation Cost-Share and Lands for Conservation Programs.

3. Water Resources

- a. Report and Annual Update on Pierce County Pilot Project
- b. Spring 2023 Static Water Level Report
- c. Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Delegate – The Board discussed the appointment of an additional delegate to fill a vacancy on the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Board, for the Lower Elkhorn NRD. This topic will be further discussed at the May Committee of the Whole meeting, with a decision to be made at a later date.
- d. Update and Discussion on Submittal of Annual Reports (Due March 15) for the Lower Elkhorn NRD Phase 2 and 3 Areas in Pierce and Madison County – Connor Baldwin, LENRD Pages

Recommended Motion: To instruct staff to issue Notices of Violation to farm operators who have failed to submit Annual Reports for the LENRD Phase 2 and 3

Groundwater Management Area.

- e. Long Range Plan Pages- Assistant Manager Brian Bruckner presented the following Long Range Plan Pages: Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program (well sampling and analysis), and the Groundwater Management Area (administer annual flow meter maintenance requirements).

4. Administrative

- a. Recreation Area Rules & Regulations Update – Recreation Area Superintendent Tyler Warren suggested extending the hunting season at the LENRD Recreation Areas from the original cutoff date of March 31st to a new date of May 31st. This would enable spring turkey hunters to utilize the recreation areas.

Recommended Motion: To adopt the amended Lower Elkhorn NRD Recreation Area Rules and Regulations which will extend the hunting season to May 31st of every year at Maskenthine, Maple Creek and Pilger Lower Elkhorn NRD Recreation Areas.

- b. Long Range Plan Pages – Information and Education - Information and Education Specialist Julie Wragge presented Fiscal Year 2023 Long Range Plan Pages for Public Outreach, Advertising, Youth and Adult Education, Scholarship Program, District Awards Program, Sponsorships, Forestry Outdoor Classroom Grants, Forestry Advertising and Education, and lastly Water Resources Advertising along with the Watershed Dynamics Program Nebraska Water Project.
- c. Future Topics – Director Melissa Temple spoke of forming a hiring committee and gave her thoughts on wanting to see something on the next agenda in regards to the search of a new General Manager. Gustafson spoke of his conversation with Norfolk Attorney Dennis Collins in regards to the recipient selection.