

Minutes
Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Committee of the Whole

Thursday, September 14, 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 September 2, 2023 and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted. The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Committee of the Whole meeting began at 7:21 p.m., after the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Board meeting.

Directors Present

Jerry Allemann
James Aschoff
Mark Burenheide
Michael Fleer
Roger Gustafson
Mark Hall
Kris Loberg
Gary Loftis
Jay Reikofski
Matt Steffen
Melissa Temple
Rod Zohner

Directors Absent

Scott Clausen
Chad Korth
Anthony Wisnieski

2. Projects and Programs

- a. Willow Creek Projects – Status Update – Staff informed the committee that the two large diameter pressure relief wells have been completed and that staff is working with Rutjens Construction to install the discharge pipe system. Staff also informed the committee that the outlet channel repair project dirt work and rip rap placement was complete.
- b. North Fork WFPO EA – Status Update Scope of Work – Staff informed the committee that a scope of work was developed and a contract was executed with JEO Consulting Group for this project. Staff also informed the committee that two open house meetings are being planned for early November.

3. Water Resources

- a. Discussion on Standard Variance Process for New Groundwater Irrigated Acres

- Report from Ad-Hoc Variance Committee – District staff led a discussion on the topic of new groundwater irrigated acres and provided an update on the discussions that have been conducted by the Ad Hoc Variance Committee. Items discussed included potential amounts of new depletions and new irrigated acres, geographic eligibility factors, utilization of new sources of data for evaluating technical matters associated with variance requests, soil texture and slope, and allocations for new wells constructed under an approved standard variance. The committee will be meeting again prior to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors with a possible recommendation at the meeting.