

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

Thursday, May 9, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Lower Elkhorn NRD

1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska

Chairman Roger Gustafson informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on May 3, 2024, and of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Directors in attendance were Jerry Allemann, Jim Aschoff, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Michael Fleer, Roger Gustafson, Gary Loftis, Mark Hall, Kris Loberg, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, Anthony Wisnieski, and Rod Zohner. Director Chad Korth was absent from the meeting.

1. Projects and Programs

- a. City of Wayne Prairie Park Project Discussion – General Manager Brian Bruckner led a discussion about possibly revisiting the topic of providing some level of support for the project. A request to revisit the matter was received from some Directors, and from City Administrator Wes Blecke. Reasons for and against revisiting the matter were expressed, but it was indicated that the Board wanted the matter on the agenda for the May 2024 Board of Directors meeting, and staff will plan accordingly.

Recommended Motion: Will ask for recommended motion from the floor.

- b. Long Range Plan Pages- Assistant Manager Curt Becker presented the following Fiscal Year 2025 Long Range Plan Pages: Flood Control and Prevention, LENRD Recreation Areas, Conservation Cost-Share and Lands for Conservation Programs.

2. Water Resources

- a. LENRD Flow Meter Requirements – General Manager Brian Bruckner provided information relating to policy decisions made both at the State and Local level, along with historical events and a progression of decisions which have influenced the direction of the District’s policies relating to flow meters in the District. Information was provided regarding the use of the flow meter data, and the value that it has provided to the District long term.

- b. LENRD Vadose Coring Project Update – Water Resources Manager Josh Schnitzler provided the Board with a status update on the current vadose coring project in the LENRD, which involves the collection of cores from specific locations in Cuming, Colfax, and Dodge Counties. UNL Conservation and Survey was able to visit nine (9) additional sites in the southern portion of the District to collect deeper cores, but time constraints forced them to move to a new location elsewhere. There are some remaining locations in the LENRD to be sampled, and plans are to visit those sites post-harvest in 2024. Also briefly discussed was the proposal to budget funds to continue vadose coring at a small number of sites located within delineated Wellhead Protection Areas in the Lower Elkhorn NRD. Additional details will be shared as they become available.
- c. Discussion on the evaluation and consideration of requests to construct irrigation wells that could serve as a source of irrigation water for land that is currently certified as irrigated land within the LENRD, but serviced by an irrigation well that is located on adjacent property – Water Resources Manager Josh Schnitzler led a discussion on the development of an Administrative Policy that would define the process for evaluating requests to construct new irrigation wells on land that is currently irrigated from an existing well, located on an adjacent property. Josh outlined a couple of options and received input from Board members that will be useful in drafting the Policy.

Recommended Motion: To approve the Administrative Policy for Processing Variance Requests to Construct Irrigation Wells that will serve certified irrigated lands in the Lower Elkhorn NRD.

- d. Long Range Plan Pages – Water Resources Manager Josh Schnitzler presented the following Fiscal Year 2025 Long Range Plan Pages: Vadose Zone Monitoring Program, Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program, and the Groundwater Management Area Rules and Regulations (Phase 2 and 3 Areas).

3. Administrative

- a. Dana F. Cole Fiscal Year 2024 Auditing Agreement – A proposal to prepare the annual audit was provided by Dana F. Cole & Co. LLP. The scope of the audit was provided to the Directors in Dropbox and a recommendation to approve the agreement will be brought forward at the May 2024 Board of Directors meeting.

Recommended Motion: To approve the Fiscal Year 2024 auditing agreement with Dana F. Cole & Company

- b. Discussion on Electronic Voting System for LENRD Boardroom – General Manager Brian Bruckner led a discussion on an electronic voting system for possible consideration for the LENRD Boardroom. Other public agencies utilize this type of voting system, and opinions were shared both for and against consideration of the concept.

c. Long Range Plan Pages – General Manager Brian Bruckner presented the following Fiscal Year 2025 Long Range Plan Pages: Logan East Rural Water System and Wau-Col Regional Water System.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.