

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

Thursday, August 10, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

(After Special Board Meeting)

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 August 5, 2023 and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted. The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Committee of the Whole meeting began at 9:33 p.m., after the Special Board meeting.

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

Scott Clausen
Melissa Temple

2. Projects and Programs

- a. Conservation Cost Share Program – Curt Becker, Projects Manager, presented the proposed changes and answered Director questions pertaining to the updated Conservation Cost-share docket.

Recommended Motion: To approve updates to the average cost dockets for the Agroforestry, Cover Crop and Conservation Cost-share Programs as recommended by the staff.

3. Water Resources

- a. Eastern Madison and Wayne County Quantity Management Subareas – Brian Bruckner, Interim General Manager, presented a map of the Eastern Madison and Wayne County Management Subareas. The Board of Directors has the authority to grant an additional

2 acre inches of groundwater to be used for beneficial purposes, specifically for germination and establishment of a cover crop, in any quantity management subarea after September 15 of each calendar year.

Recommended Motion: 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, 2023, and to grant District staff administrative authorization to approve use of the additional allocation prior to September 15th on a case-by-case basis.

- b. Standard Variance Process for New Groundwater Irrigated Acres – Interim General Manager Brian Bruckner discussed several topics related to the possibility of allocating some irrigated acres for a sign-up period which would be held later this year. At the request of the Interim General Manager, five Board members have volunteered to serve on an Ad Hoc Variance Committee which will meet in early September to discuss and formulate recommendations that will be further discussed and considered by the full Board relative to the Standard Variance process. Kris Lober, Mark Burenheide, Gary Loftis, Matt Steffen, and Roger Gustafson indicated that they would participate on this committee, and District staff will coordinate with them to schedule a time to meet.

4. Administrative

- a. Future Topics – The Board did not discuss any future topics.