

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

Thursday, May 11, 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 May 5, 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 – The committee continued discussion on the Battle Creek WFPO Watershed Plan/Environmental Assessment.
- b. Long Range Plan Pages – Projects Manager Curt Becker presented the long range plan pages for Flood Control and Prevention Projects along with the NRD owned Recreational Areas page.

3. Water Resources

- a. Dave Hume – Leonard Rice Engineers (LRE) – LENRD Hydrogeologic Framework/Mapbook/GUI for Ground Water Model – Dave Hume and Jon Mohr with Leonard Rice Engineers were present and provided a comprehensive overview of the information and processes that were involved in the development of the

hydrogeologic framework which was utilized in support of the construction of the LENRD Hydrogeologic Groundwater Model. Dave described numerous pieces of data, including CSD test hole logs, NeDNR well logs, AEM data interpolations, LENRD monitoring well data, and how they were utilized in the development of the framework. Jon then provided examples from the communities of Clarkson and Plainview who have utilized the framework and model information in their search for locations that would qualify as locations for potential public water supply wells. Dave and Jon each answered questions from Board members and upon conclusion of that discussion, Josh Schnitzler with the LENRD provided a brief overview of the Graphic User Interface (GUI) which was developed by Long Spring Consulting as a tool for LENRD staff to use in assessing requests for new or expanded groundwater use. A discussion on the GUI will continue at a later date.

- b. Discussion on Appointment of Delegate and Alternate for the Lower Platte Basin Coalition – A discussion was held regarding representation from NRD’s that are partners in the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition. Each district is allowed two (2) representatives and there is currently a vacancy for the LENRD. A delegate, and an alternate, will be nominated and selected at the May 2023 Board of Directors meeting.
- c. Status Update Regarding Submittal of Phase 2 and 3 Area Management Area Reports - Connor Baldwin provided a status update regarding compliance with the submittal of Annual Reports. Notices of Violation were recently mailed to farm operators who had yet to submit their reports, and this correspondence generated a good response. Connor will provide an update and inventory report at the May 2023 Board meeting.
- d. LENRD Monitoring Well Telemetry/Project Update – Dallas Dorey provided the Board with a status update on the LENRD Monitoring Well Telemetry Project. Dallas has been working diligently with Small Data Tech to gain permission from communities within the District to install communication gateways on their water storage towers. To date, there have been eleven (11) gateways installed which has provided a significant improvement in the reliability, and consistency, of the data reporting devices. As has been discussed, upon completion the data from the devices will be made publicly available through an internet portal to view changes in static water level on a real-time basis.
- e. Long Range Plan Pages – Interim General Manager Brian Bruckner presented some proposed budget numbers for the Vadose Zone Monitoring Program, the Hydrogeologic Study Program, and Water Resources Planning.

4. Administrative

- a. Dana F. Cole Fiscal Year 2023 Auditing Agreement – Interim General Manager Brian Bruckner presented the Dana F. Cole & Company auditing agreement. Brian also offered information on cost and estimated cost of a potential Federal audit.

Recommended Motion: To approve the Fiscal Year 2023 auditing agreement with Dana F. Cole & Company

- b. Fiscal Year 2024 Wage Adjustments – Wage adjustments and the current cost of living figures were considered at the executive meeting which was held prior to the board meeting. More discussion will be held in the future.
- c. Future Topics – Chairman Gustafson spoke of potential future topics including transfer of acres, and irrigation allocation amounts. Director Temple presented the idea of changing meeting start times and Aschoff asked to discuss the possibility of a sign up period for variances for new irrigated acres.