

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

Thursday, June 8, 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 June 2, 2023 and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted.

Directors Present

Jerry Allemann  
James Aschoff  
Mark Burenheide  
Michael Fler  
Roger Gustafson  
Mark Hall  
Chad Korth  
Kris Loberg  
Jay Reikofski  
Matt Steffen  
Melissa Temple  
Rod Zohner

Directors Absent

Scott Clausen  
Gary Loftis  
Anthony Wisnieski

2. Administrative

- a. NPAIT Treasury Note for the West Point Levee Sinking Fund - Walker Zulkoski, with Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust, gave a refresh of what the agency was about and how it worked. A treasury note that is currently invested with NPAIT matured at the end of May and a discussion was held regarding options for reinvesting in new treasury notes or leaving the funds in the Daily fund account.

3. Projects and Programs

- a. Battle Creek WFPO – District staff have consulted with JEO and NRCS regarding the Board’s intent to recommend the Battle Creek WFPO. LENRD staff provided an update to on the Battle Creek WFPO. JEO would like to hold off on finishing the watershed plan until a decision has been made on the Houston Engineering proposal. Staff also informed the Committee that Houston Engineering could be available to present information about various alternatives at the July Committee of the Whole Meeting. District staff have consulted with JEO and NRCS regarding the Board’s intent to recommend the Battle Creek WFPO, and a status update will be provided.

b. Willow Creek Repair Bids – A storm caused a tree to fall onto the restroom near the north picnic shelter at the Willow Creek Recreation Area near Pierce. Damage occurred to the structure, which is covered by insurance. District staff are working to obtain repair estimates which will be made available for consideration and discussion. Staff informed the Committee that only one estimate has been received out of four contractors. One contractor declined to provide an estimate and two have not submitted an estimate yet.

#### 4. Water Resources

a. LENRD 2023 Summer Field Activities Report – District staff will update the Board on planned water sampling, flow meter, and chemigation inspection activities.

b. LENRD Drought Management Allocation – Some portions of the LENRD have been designated as D2 on the U.S. Drought Monitor for the required 14 day timeframe and District staff will provide insight on efforts to inform well owners/operators on this change, along with other activities associated with this allocation requirement.

c. LENRD Variance Process for New Irrigated Acres – As requested, District staff will provide insight and information related to the LENRD Standard Variance process, which is used to evaluate requests for new groundwater irrigated acres. There are numerous other topics that are directly related to this topic and some of those other requested topics include:

- i. Conditions for Approval Policy for New Wells (9 acre inch allocation)
- ii. Geographic Eligibility for Standard Variances
- iii. LENRD Quantity Management Subareas
- iv. Transfers of Certified Irrigated Acres

d. Long Range Planning Pages – Interim General Manager Brian Bruckner presented recommended budget amounts for the Groundwater Management Area Long Range Planning Page. These recommendations will be added to the other recommendations as part of the planning process for the FY 2024 Annual Budget.