

**MINUTES OF
LOWER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 25, 2020

Lower Elkhorn NRD

1508 Square Turn Blvd, Norfolk, Nebraska

The Board of Directors Meeting of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Gary Loftis on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District, 1508 Square Turn Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska. Chairman Loftis informed the Board and those attending of the Publication of Meeting Notice in the Norfolk Daily News on June 19, 2020. As per the Governor's Executive Order 20-03 the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held as an audio/video meeting only. A copy of the Open Meetings Act (Neb. Rev. State Statute 84-1407 through 84-1414) is posted at the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District office and a copy is available upon request.

Roll call was taken by Administrative Supervisor Vickie DeJong with 13 of 15 Directors present. Present: Allemann, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Absent, Present Later: Clausen. Absent: Noonan.

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Schultz to excuse the absence of Bob Noonan. Aye: Allemann, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Kathol and seconded by Huntley to adopt the agenda. Aye: Allemann, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Noonan. Motion Carried.

The reading and/or action on the minutes of the May 28, 2020 Board of Directors meeting was next on the agenda. Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Janke that the minutes of the May 28, 2020 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Aye: Allemann, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Noonan. Motion Carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Treasurer Dennis Schultz. Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Huntley to approve income in the amount of \$542,585.00 and expenses in the amount of \$423,346.32. Aye: Allemann, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Zimmerman to approve income in the amount of \$87,073.47 and expenses in the amount of \$38,511.33 for the Logan East Rural Water System as printed and distributed. Aye: Allemann, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Hansen to approve income in the amount of \$7,278.84 and expenses in the amount of \$4,736.50 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Allemann, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Noonan. Motion Carried.

A copy of the conservation cost share report is attached to the official minutes.

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts report was given by Scott McHenry. He reported on the June NARD meeting and the replacement for the NARD office that was destroyed by arson.

No Nebraska Natural Resources Commission report was presented.

The written Natural Resources Conservation Service report is attached to the official minutes.

There were no RC&D reports due to cancelled meetings.

A written Bazile Groundwater Management Area report was given by Connor Baldwin, Bazile Groundwater Management Area Project Coordinator. (Copy attached to the official minutes)

The Administrative Report was given by General Manager Mike Sousek. (Copy attached to the official minutes.)

The Logan East Rural Water System report was given by Roger Gustafson and RWS Manager Shawn Blahak. They reported the status of well number one. Motion was made by Gustafson and seconded by Hansen that a flow meter and water level probe be installed by Sargent Drilling when rehab work is being completed on Logan East rural Water System well #1. Aye: Allemann, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Gustafson and seconded by Kathol to accept the Logan East Rural Water System minutes of June 8, 2020. Aye: Allemann, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Noonan. Motion Carried.

The Information, Planning, Programs, Projects, Equipment & Legislation Committee of the Whole report was given by Kurt Janke. No action was taken on the Village of Pender request for financial assistance for drainage improvements.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Hansen to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Clarkson for their levee project. Aye: Allemann, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Clausen, Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Huntley to approve 50% of the costs to repair the damaged fishing decks, lake crossing, fishing piers and hike/bike trail at Willow Creek State Recreation Area not covered by FEMA, up to a maximum of \$24,000. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Korth to approve the recommended changes to the Agroforestry Program, Well Decommissioning Program and the Conservation Cost Share Program:
Agroforestry – Increase maximum payment per job/landowner to \$20,000 per year for either renovations or establishments.
Water Well Decommissioning – Increase maximum payment per well to \$1,000 for hand dug wells and \$700 for all other wells.
Conservation Cost Share – Add variable rate irrigation systems and variable frequency drives when used with variable rate irrigation to utilize NSWCP funds. Exempt these practices from applying for EQIP funds first.

Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Huntley to authorize district staff to issue notices of violation, as deemed necessary, to farm owners and/or operators who are out of compliance with the Phase 2 and 3 Area reporting requirements. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: Korth. Absent: Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Hansen to approve the 2020 Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Master Plan. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Huntley to approve the amendment as presented to the Interlocal Agreement with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission for the operation and maintenance of the Willow Creek State Recreation Area, which would provide an annual payment to the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission to fund employees of the Commission to complete tasks previously performed by employees of the district.

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Korth to table the motion for more information. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: Huntley. Absent: Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Hansen to ratify the acceptance of the bid from Pettitt Plumbing Heating and Air Conditioning, not to exceed \$5800, for replacement of the air conditioner/furnace. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: Korth. Absent: Noonan. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Hall to direct staff to proceed with a NRCS Watershed Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) application for watershed within the North Fork of the Elkhorn River. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, Korth, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Noonan. Motion Carried.

The Executive Board report was given by Kurt Janke. Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Kathol to approve the Salary Allowance Adjustments of 1.483% and to approve the step and grade changes proposed by management for Fiscal Year 2021. Aye: Allemann, Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Kathol, McHenry, Schultz, Steffen, Zimmerman, Loftis. Nay: Korth. Absent: Noonan. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Board of Directors on June 25, 2020, that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting, the minutes of the Chairman and the Board were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body, that all news media requesting notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Matt Steffen, Secretary