

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

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 21, 2023

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 Roger Gustafson on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at the 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 November 13, 2023 and the Nebraska Open Meetings Act information posted on the wall.

Roll call was taken by Administrative Assistant Patty Martens with 15 of 15 Directors present. Members present were Jerry Allemann, Jim Aschoff, Mark Burenheide, Scott Clausen, Michael Fleer, Mark Hall, Chad Korth, Kris Loberg, Gary Loftis, Jay Reikofski, Matt Steffen, Melissa Temple, Anthony Wisnieski, Rod Zohner, Roger Gustafson.

Motion was made by Clausen and seconded by Korth to adopt the agenda. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The reading and/or action on the minutes of the October 26, 2023 Board of Directors meeting was next on the agenda. Motion was made by Aschoff and seconded by Zohner that the minutes of the October 26, 2023 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Anthony Wisnieski. Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Hall to approve income in the amount of \$314,288.48 and expenses in the amount of \$331,233.25 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Abstain: Temple. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Loftis to approve income in the amount of \$90,938.38 and expenses in the amount of \$32,677.66 for the Logan East Rural Water System as printed and distributed. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wisnieski and seconded by Loberg to approve income in the amount of \$14,598.65 and expenses in the amount of \$4,571.83 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The conservation cost share report was given by Project Manager Curt Becker. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts report was given by Mark Hall. Hall reported on the November 6, 2023 quarterly meeting that was held in Grand Island. Hall mentioned a possible increase in NRD retirement contributions (District and employee) along with information on the Nebraska EPIC Consumption Tax Act. He also reported that the NARD is requesting bids for their NARD Risk Pool Program (insurance). The last change to the program was around 2006.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission report was referenced in Dropbox as Gary Anderson was not in attendance. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service report was given by District Conservationist Robin Sutherland. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

Gary Loftis reported on the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D. The annual social meeting was held in October. Officer elections were held re-electing officers to the same position. An e-waste collection was held in October with around 3,000 pounds of electronics collected. A copy of the Loess Hills RC&D report is attached to the official minutes. There was nothing to report for the Northeast Nebraska RC&D.

The Bazile Groundwater Management Area report was referenced in Dropbox by General Manager Brian Bruckner as Lisa Lauver was not in attendance. A copy of the report is attached to the official minutes.

The Administrative Report was given by General Manager Brian Bruckner. A copy is attached to the official minutes. Prior to the conclusion of this report, LENRD Groundwater Management Area Specialist Connor Baldwin presented information on the Statewide Quality Monitoring Wells program and the 2021–2023 Lower Elkhorn NRD water sampling results in Burt, Thurston, and Dixon counties.

Motion was made by Loftis and seconded by Burenheide to accept the Logan East Rural Water System Advisory Committee minutes of November 13, 2023. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Reikofski and seconded by Clausen to accept the Wau-Col Rural Water System Advisory Committee minutes of November 2, 2023. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fler, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Information, Planning, Programs, Projects, Equipment & Legislation Committee of the Whole report was given by Matt Steffen.

<b>Community Forestry Incentive – Fiscal Year 2025</b>			
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Projected Cost</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>
City of Lyons	City of Trees Project Phase 2	\$6,600.00	\$4,950.00
Village of Pender	Pender Park Tree Restoration	\$5,049.93	\$3,787.45
Village of Pilger	Pilger Tree Recover	\$1,485.00	\$1,113.75
City of West Point	2024 Tree Program	\$2,523.55	\$1,892.66
Pender Public Schools	Pendragon Sports Complex Landscaping	\$6,760.00	\$5,000.00
City of Clarkson	Trees & More for '24	\$2,664.76	\$1,200.00
City of Randolph	2024 Randolph Cemetery Green Space Renovation	\$2,801.37	\$2,101.03
Logan View Public Schools	Logan View Phase 2	\$6,494.77	\$4,600.00
Woodland Park	Bringing Life to Woodland Park Elementary	\$4,869.58	\$1,800.00
Village of Emerson	Tree Project	\$3,800.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Forestry Incentive for Public Facilities – Fiscal Year 2025</b>			
SMILE Inc	Replace Dead Scotch Pine with Autumn Blaze Maple	\$15,941.00	\$1,200.00
	TOTAL:	\$58,989.96	\$29,644.89

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Fleer to approve ten Community Forestry Program and one Forestry Incentive for Public Facilities applications for a total LENRD cost of \$29,644.89 as presented. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Wisnieski to authorize staff to proceed with the Maskenthine Recreation Area campground electrical upgrade, and to accept the \$145,569.42 bid from JP Electric Inc. to complete the upgrade. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: Burenheide, Korth. None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Clausen to authorize staff to proceed with the Maskenthine Recreation Area hydrant replacements, and to accept the \$14,688.00 bid from Volkman Plumbing and Heating Inc. to complete the replacements. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff, Burenheide, Clausen, Fleer, Hall, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: Korth, Steffen. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Fleer to approve the updated Lower Elkhorn NRD Expenditure of Funds Financial Operating Policy. Aye: Allemann, Aschoff,

Burenheide, Clausen, Fleeer, Hall, Korth, Loberg, Loftis, Reikofski, Steffen, Temple, Wisnieski, Zohner, Gustafson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Future topic discussion by the Directors included expanding cost share on the reverse osmosis system program in addition to including pesticide testing and reducing the threshold on nitrates for that program. Also discussed was producer education and introducing an incentive as encouragement to help producers understand and support soil health for those in areas where nitrogen may be on the high side.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Others Present: None

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 November 21, 2023 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.

---

Jay Reikofski,