

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

7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 25, 2021
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, February 25, 2021 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 February 18, 2021.

Roll call was taken by Programs Coordinator Patty Martens with 14 of 15 Directors present. Present: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Absent: Allemann.

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

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

The reading and/or action on the minutes of the January 28, 2021 Board of Directors meeting was next on the agenda. Motion was made by Steffen and seconded by Schultz that the minutes of the January 28, 2021 Board of Directors meetings be approved. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

The Finance Subcommittee report was given by Bob Huntley. Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Huntley to approve income in the amount of \$409,665.02 and expenses in the amount of \$304,437.28 for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Clausen to approve income in the amount of \$75,579.28 and expenses in the amount of \$31,819.75 for the Logan East Rural Water System as printed and distributed. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Schultz and seconded by Hall to approve income in the amount of \$7,450.85 and expenses in the amount of \$4,955.17 for the Wau-Col Regional Water System. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by McHenry and seconded by Huntley to approve the updated Lower Elkhorn NRD Financial Operating Policy – Expenditure of Funds. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. 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.

There was no Nebraska Association of Resources Districts report due to cancelled meetings. Scott McHenry did state a March meeting will be held.

No Nebraska Natural Resources Commission report was given.

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

Bob Huntley reported on the Northeast Nebraska RC&D and Gary Loftis reported on the Loess Hills RC&D.

Whitney Gappa, the new Bazile GWMA Coordinator hired February 16 of this year, introduced herself and gave an update of what she has been working on.

The Administrative Report was given by General Manager Mike Sousek. A copy is attached to the official minutes.

An update and presentation on the Nitrogen Application Pilot Project in Pierce county was given by Craig Marsh of Complete Agronomy Solutions along with producer Dan Schmit.

A presentation on the annual activities update for the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) was given by Katie Cameron, Project Coordinator.

The Logan East Rural Water System Advisory Committee report was given by RWS Manager Shawn Blahak. Motion was made by Gustafson and seconded by Clausen to approve a contract between Logan East Rural Water System and Bartlett & West Engineering to update the existing mapping and hydraulics, in the amount of \$13,750.00. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Gustafson and seconded by Clausen to approve the Logan East Rural Water System cost of approximately \$3,800 to increase to a 3" line for room for future growth. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Gustafson and seconded by Hansen to accept the Logan East Rural Water System Advisory Committee minutes of February 8, 2021. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

The Wau-Col Regional Water System report was given by Joel Hansen. Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Zohner to accept a \$.10/1000 gallon increase in water rates from the Village of Coleridge, and to maintain current rates, considering increases for the system at a later date. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Schultz to reappoint Gary Howey (Lewis & Clark NRD), Angie Ohlrich (Belden) and Joel Hansen (Lower Elkhorn NRD) to the Wau-Col Regional Water System Advisory committee. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Huntley to accept the Wau-Col Regional Water System minutes of February 4, 2021 Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

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

Assistant Manager Brian Bruckner provided an update to the Board regarding the proposed amendments to the Lower Elkhorn NRD Rules and Regulations for the Management of Groundwater which includes a change to the minimum depth for the deep soil sampling requirement from 24 inches to 36 inches, along with a delineation of the management area by legal descriptions. The District will host an Open House and Public Hearing to answer questions and to receive public testimony on the proposed amendments on March 25, 2021 from 5 – 7 pm at the Nielsen Event Center in West Point, NE.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Huntley to accept the bid from Motoplex of Norfolk in the amount of \$6,700 for the purchase of ATV for use at Maple Creek Recreation Area. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: Korth. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Clausen to instruct staff to advertise construction bid documents for the Phase 1 Willow Creek Dam Pore Pressure Mitigation Project prepared by HDR Engineering Inc. and to hold the bid opening on March 22, 2021. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Hansen to instruct staff to advertise the request for proposals to develop a Floodplain Management Plan for Willow Creek Dam, a requirement of FEMA's HHPD grant. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Janke and seconded by Clausen to authorize General Manager to sign LENRD Unfunded Cooperative Agreement with NRCS. Aye: Clausen, Gustafson, Hall, Hansen, Huntley, Janke, Korth, McHenry, Noonan, Reikofski, Schultz, Steffen, Zohner, Loftis. Nay: None. Absent: Allemann. Motion Carried.

According to the By-Laws, any officer is limited to one term of two years but is immediately eligible for a different office; however, a Director is eligible for the same office after a two year absence from that office. The only current officer that has not served a term of two years is Treasurer Dennis Schultz. Voting will be held by ballot. Ballots will be held in the headquarters office for 30 days for public review.

Nominated for Chairman was Mark Hall. After ballots were counted it was announced that Director Mark Hall was elected Chairman for 2021. (Hall – 8; Kurt Janke - 6)

Nominated for Vice-Chairman was Roger Gustafson. After a tie on the first two votes the ballots were counted on the third vote and it was announced that Director Roger Gustafson was elected Vice-Chairman for 2021. (Gustafson – 9; Matt Steffen - 5)

Nominated for Secretary was Jerry Allemann. After ballots were counted it was announced that Director Jerry Allemann was elected Secretary for 2021. (Allemann – 8; Scott McHenry - 6)

Treasurer Dennis Schultz retained his position.

Nominated for NARD Delegate was Joel Hansen. After ballots were counted it was announced that Director Joel Hansen was elected NARD Delegate for 2021. (Hansen – 13; Mickey Mouse - 1)

Nominated for NARD Alternate was Scott McHenry. After ballots were counted it was announced that Director Scott McHenry was elected NARD Alternate for 2021. (McHenry – 13; Mickey Mouse - 1)

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 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 February 25, 2021 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

Others Present:
Gerry Krueger
Gary Krueger
Tom Nathan