

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources
Board of Directors Meeting
August 7, 2023**

The meeting of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Engelhaupt at 7:00 P.M. at the Butte Community Center. Chairman Jack Engelhaupt called attention to the Open Meeting Law and statement of advertisement throughout our district.

Directors Present:

Shaun Higgins	Linda Hoffman	Charles Zegers	Brain Kaczor
Randy Klawitter	Shane Lechtenberg	Dwain Marcellus	Curt Morrow
Ray Naprstek	J.J. Pritchett	Kevin Randa	Larry Baumeister
Karl Connell	Deborah Hansen	Jack Engelhaupt	

Directors Absent: Don Holtgrew, Steve Mahlendorf

Staff Present: Wade Ellwanger Connie McCarthy Britanie Brewster Gary Richardson

Guests Present: Adam Nolan

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Pritchett to approve the August 7, 2023 agenda, **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Kaczor, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of the July 3, 2023 Minutes :

Motion was made to approve the July 3, 2023 minutes by Higgins seconded by Pritchett. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Naprstek. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Kaczor, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Kaczor arrived at 7:03pm

Staff and Agency Reports:

Manager's Report : Ellwanger's report was mailed to the directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy attached to the official minutes. Ellwanger stated that the Higgins weather station has been installed and will be up and running in September. Ellwanger reported on West Knox Rural Water well #2.

Programs Assistant Report: McCarthy's report was mailed to directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes. McCarthy stated the BGMA will be holding a farmer appreciation event on August 23rd from 4:00-7:00pm at Grove Lake in Royal. Chemigation inspections were completed as of 8/3/2023.

Water Resources Report: Richardson reported that he is at 86% for water samples completed across the district. He attended the Basin Tour Meeting in July in Valentine.

BGMA Coordinator Report: was handed out in the meeting packet.

Association Report: Hansen stated that they will be having the annual meeting in September. Recommended that all directors attend a session to acquire knowledge. Highlighted that they offer single day sessions as well as multiple days.

Agency Reports:

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Adam Nolan reported the office has obligated 14 EQIP contracts totaling \$372,000, 6 CSP contracts totaling \$636,000. The office has been completing field visits on the 11 grassland CRP offers that were accepted.

Niobrara Council: No meeting in June. Next meeting will be August 17, 2023

NE RC&D Report: Hansen reported they are working on a grant for a tire amnesty in 2024 for multiple locations.

NC RC&D Report: Connell reported current treasurer report. He stated that they are looking at an electronic collection in the spring of 2024. They are working on getting a paper shredding truck along Hwy 12 or Hwy 20. Connell stated that the 2023-2024 dues stayed the same. The next meeting will be September 13, 2023.

Friends of the Missouri: No meeting held. A newsletter was sent out in July.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: Ellwanger reported that they have completed phase II and are looking at moving on to phase III of the sediment study.

Approval of Direct Deposit for LNNRD Staff and Directors:

Motion was made by Lechtenberg seconded by Randa to approve direct deposit for LNNRD staff and directors on a volunteer basis. **Aye:** Higgins, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Hoffman, Baumeister, Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of date change for September board meeting:

A motion was made by Kaczor and seconded by Baumeister to move the September board meeting to Thursday September 7, 2023. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Holtgrew, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Budget Committee Report: Budget Committee held a meeting on July 26, 2023. The report was included in the meeting packet and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Ellwanger presented a PowerPoint highlighting where LNNRD has been in the past and where we need to be at. Demonstrated how the LNNRD annual budget is created and when it is submitted.

Approval of NPAIT resolution:

A motion was made by Randa and seconded by Lechtenberg to accept the Budget Committees recommendation to approve the signing of the NPAIT resolution. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Holtgrew, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Additional 1% Board Approved Restricted Fund Increase:

A motion was made by Kaczor and seconded by Klawitter to approve the Budget Committee recommendation to approve the additional 1% Board Approved Restricted fund increase. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Holtgrew, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of LNNRD Draft Budget:

A motion was made by Kaczor and seconded by Klawitter to approve the Budget Committee recommendation to approve the draft budget presented at the August 7, 2023 meeting. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Holtgrew, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Budget Hearing date and time:

A motion was made by Kaczor and seconded by Klawitter to approve the Budget Hearing date and time for 2:00pm-3:00pm Thursday September 7, 2023. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Holtgrew, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Levy Hearing date and time:

A motion was made by Kaczor and seconded by Klawitter to approve the Levy Hearing date and time for 3:00pm-4:00pm Thursday September 7, 2023. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Holtgrew, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

NSWCP Activities: McCarthy reported no allocation has been received yet. She stated that there was one cancellation. Discussion was held and vote held on approving contracts for funding once allocation is received.

Approval of NSWCP activities:

A motion was made by Connell and seconded by Lechtenberg to approve the movement of \$15,000 to tree reserve, fund contracts 2363, 2364, 2366 and extend contract 2357. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Holtgrew, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Treasurer Report:

A motion was made by Randa seconded by Higgins to approve the August 7th treasurer's report. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Holtgrew, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Comment Period:

Excused absent Directors: Holtgrew and Mahlendorf were excused.

Chairman Engelhaupt declared the meeting adjourned at 9:12PM.

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Board of Directors on August 7, 2023. That all subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. The minutes of the Chairman and Board of Directors were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body. All news media requesting notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting were notified.

_____ Larry Baumeister, Secretary

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