

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources
Board of Directors Meeting
December 4, 2023**

The meeting of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Engelhaupt at 2:00 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	Don Holtgrew	Charles Zegers
Brian Kaczor	Randy Klawitter	Shane Lechtenberg	Dwain Marcellus
Ray Naprstek	Kevin Randa	Larry Baumeister	Karl Connell
Deborah Hansen	Jack Engelhaupt		

Directors Absent: Steve Mahlendorf, Curt Morrow, J. J. Pritchett

Staff Present: Wade Ellwanger Britanie Brewster Connie McCarthy Gary Richardson

Guests Present: Adam Nolan

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Holtgrew to approve the December 6, 2023 agenda, **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Naprstek **Absent:** Mahlendorf, Morrow, Pritchett.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of the November 6, 2023 Minutes :

Motion was made to approve the November 6, 2023 minutes by Holtgrew seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt.

Nay: None. **Abstain:** Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Naprstek **Absent:** Mahlendorf, Morrow, Prichett . **MOTION CARRIED**

Presentation and Approval of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit

Donita Pokorny presented the 2022-2023 Audit to the Lower Niobrara NRD board Via zoom.

Approval of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit:

Motion was made to approve the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit by Naprstek seconded by Randa. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Mahlendorf, Morrow, Prichett . **MOTION CARRIED**

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 reported the Lower Niobrara NRD Long Term Implementation Plan has been reviewed and accepted with no additional comment. West Knox Rural Water well #2 has been pumped and samples will be submitted to the State of Nebraska. Ellwanger stated Dan Ebel will be taking the Project Manager position at West Knox Rural Water starting January 1, 2024.

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 Legislative Conference will be held January 23-24, 2024 in Lincoln. The 2024 Chemigation and Nitrogen certification training will be held in March at Verdigre. McCarthy reported work has started on a Hazard Mitigation Plan in conjunction with the Middle Niobrara NRD, Rock County, Brown County, and Keya Paha County. McCarthy will be presenting to the Boyd County FBLA on December 7, 2023.

Approval of Letter of Support for Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Motion was made to submit a letter of support for the Hazard Mitigation plan by Hansen seconded by Lechtenberg. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Mahlendorf, Morrow, Prichett . **MOTION CARRIED**

Water Resources Report: Richardson report was mailed to directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Richardson presented current in office Nitrogen testing equipment. Discussion was held.

Approval to purchase Portable Nitrogen Testing Equipment:

Motion was made to purchase new portable Nitrogen testing equipment as soon as possible by Marcellus seconded by Holtgrew. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Mahlendorf, Morrow, Prichett . **MOTION CARRIED**

BGMA Coordinator Report: Included in meeting packets.

Association Report: Hansen reported that the Legislative Conference is January 23-24, 2024 she encouraged Directors to attend. Hansen discussed proposed changes to the employee retirement plan. Ellwanger stated the handout was included in the meeting packet showing proposed changes. Discussion was held on Legislative Conference Voting Delegate and Alternate.

Appointing Voting Delegate and Alternate:

Motion was made to appoint Engelhaupt as Voting Delegate, and Hansen as Alternate by Randa seconded by Naprstek. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Mahlendorf, Morrow, Prichett . **MOTION CARRIED**

Agency Reports:

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Nolan reported the NRCS has been certifying EQIP contracts and working with protentional 2024 applicants. Nolan stated 80 applications for the 2024 EQIP program have been received. They have been checking practices and implementation of active CSP, and CRP contracts.

Niobrara Council: No Meeting Held

NE RC&D Report: Hansen reported Christmas party was held, no new business to report.

NC RC&D Report: Connell reported that met on November 8, 2023. Connell stated they are working on the 2024 Tire Amnesty for 600 tons, planned for late March early April will know if the grant was approved in mid-December. Next meeting to be held December 13, 2023.

Friends of the Missouri: Next Meeting to be December 12, 2023

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: Nothing to Report

Staff Presentation- Navigating HydroVu and Mesonet:

Richardson presented the HydroVu link showing Static Water Levels on the Lower Niobrara NRD website. Richardson demonstrated how to navigate the map, depth to water and time frame. Brewster showed recent changes added to the website including Mesonet, Phase II reports, and tree descriptions.

Klawitter departed at 3:57pm

USBOR Water Smart Grant:

Ellwanger expressed interest in applying for the Water Smart Grant. Discussion was held and additional interest expressed.

NSWCP Activities: McCarthy reported that they had one cancelation.

Approval of Treasurer Report:

A motion was made by Randa seconded by Holtgrew to approve the December 4, 2023 treasurer's report. **Aye:** Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Morrow, Pritchett. **MOTION CARRIED**

January Meeting Date:

January Meeting Date set for January 3, 2024 at 2:00PM.

Comment Period:

Discussion was held on NRBA and NGPC Interlocal agreement.

Excused absent Directors: Mahlendorf, Morrow, and Pritchett were excused.

Chairman Engelhaupt declared the meeting adjourned at 4:26PM.

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 December 4, 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