

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources
Board of Directors Meeting
January 3, 2024**

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:

Linda Hoffman	Don Holtgrew	Brian Kaczor	Randy Klawitter
Shane Lechtenberg	Steve Mahlendorf	Dwain Marcellus	Curt Morrow
J.J. Pritchett	Kevin Randa	Larry Baumeister	Karl Connell
Deborah Hansen	Shaun Higgins	Jack Engelhaupt	

Directors Absent: Charles Zegers, Ray Naprstek

Staff Present: Wade Ellwanger Britanie Brewster Connie McCarthy Gary Richardson
Dan Ebel

Guests Present: Adam Nolan, Kendra Rieser, Howard Tiefenthaler

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Marcellus and seconded by Hansen to approve the January 3, 2024 agenda, **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Klawitter **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of the December 4, 2023 Minutes :

Motion was made to approve the December 4, 2023 minutes by Higgins seconded by Holtgrew. **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Klawitter, Morrow, Pritchett. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek.

MOTION CARRIED

Election of Officers:

Chairman Engelhaupt called for nomination for the office of Chairman: Connell nominated Engelhaupt

Motion by Klawitter, seconded by Higgins to cease nomination and Engelhaupt be declared Chairman for 2024 by unanimous vote: **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Engelhaupt. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Engelhaupt called for nomination for the office of Vice Chairman: Marcellus nominated Lechtenberg

Motion by Holtgrew, seconded by Mahlendorf to cease nomination and Lechtenberg be declared Vice Chairman for 2024 by unanimous vote: **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Mahlendorf,

Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Lechtenberg. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Engelhaupt called for nomination for the office of Secretary: Connell nominated Baumeister

Motion by Mahlendorf, seconded by Connell to cease nomination and Baumeister be declared Secretary for 2024 by unanimous vote: **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Baumeister. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Engelhaupt called for nomination for the office of Treasurer: Klawitter nominated Hoffman

Motion by Connell, seconded by Mahlendorf to cease nomination and Hoffman be declared Treasurer for 2024 by unanimous vote: **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek.

MOTION CARRIED

Board of Directors Representatives by Appointment/Volunteer:

NARD Representative: Hansen

NARD Representative Alternative: Engelhaupt

NRBA Representative: Connell

Niobrara Council Representative: Connell

NE RC&D Representative: Hansen

NC RC&D Representative: Connell

Friends of the Missouri Representative: Naprstek

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition Representative: Naprstek

Insurance Renewal:

2024 Insurance premium were presented by Kendra Rieser and Howard Tiefenthaler from Butte State Agency

Approval of 2024 Insurance Premium:

Motion was made to approve the 2024 Insurance Premium by Mahlendorf seconded by Holtgrew. **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Prichett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek.

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 stated that Nebraska Mesonet plans to expand their reach to roughly 200 sites across the state. The data is used for several reporting agencies. He informed the board of the proposed legislation that is to be presented at this year's conference.

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 time registration time for BGMA Winter

Meeting has changed from 10:00am to 10:30am on January 30, 2024. It will be held at the Orchard Public School Gym. McCarthy reported that she was on KBRX Morning Show December 22, 2023.

Water Resources Report: Richardson report was mailed to directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Richardson stated we are at 70% compliance with 1200 Phase II reports received. He reported that the Hach Portable Nitrogen testing equipment has been received. A demonstration was held. He will be attending Water Leaders in Lincoln January 17-19, 2024.

West Knox Rural Water Project Manager Report: West Knox Rural Water Advisory Board minutes were included in the meeting packet and a copy attached to the official minutes. Ebel was introduced as WKRW Project Manager, Ebel took over the position as of January 1, 2024. Ebel reported Well #2 has been tested and is in the process of being brought back online with the State of Nebraska.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of West Knox Rural Water Minutes:

Motion was made to acknowledge and approve actions items of WKRW Minutes by Higgins seconded by Lechtenberg. **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek.

MOTION CARRIED

BGMA Coordinator Report: Nothing to Report

Association Report: Hansen reported that the Legislative Conference is January 23-24, 2024.

Agency Reports:

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Nolan reported the NRCS has been certifying EQIP contracts and working with 2024 applicants. Nolan stated they have been preparing 2024 tree plans with producers. Angela Schaecher was introduced as Natural Resource Specialist. She started at the NRCS office in October of 2023.

Niobrara Council: No Meeting Held, next scheduled meeting will be held January 18, 2024

NE RC&D Report: No Meeting Held.

NC RC&D Report: Connell reported they received the 2024 Tire Amnesty Grant. The 2024 Tire Amnesty will be held North of Newport April 1-3, 2024.

Friends of the Missouri: Nothing to Report

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: Nothing to Report

NRBA/NGPC Interlocal Agreement Regarding Subordination:

NBRA/NGPC Interlocal Agreement was mailed to directors prior to the Board Meeting and copy attached to official minutes. Discussion was held

Motion was made to approve NRBA/NGPC Interlocal Agreement Regarding Subordination by Hansen seconded by Morrow. **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Kaczor, Connell, Higgins. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek.

MOTION CARRIED

Baumeister departed at 3:55pm

BGMA Negotiations with NRCS Source Water Protection Position:

Ellwanger stated interest in participating in the Source Water Protection Position. Discussion was held.

A motion was made to approve participation in BGMA Negotiations with NRCS Source Water Protection Position by Lechtenberg seconded by Marcellus. **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Engelhaupt.

Nay: None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek, Baumeister.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of NARD Washington DC Conference Attendance:

A motion was made to Approve NARD Washington DC Conference Attendance by Marcellus seconded by Morrow. **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Hansen, Higgins, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek, Baumeister.

MOTION CARRIED

NSWCP Activities: McCarthy reported that they had one cancelation.

Approval of Treasurer Report:

A motion was made by Marcellus seconded by Lechtenberg to approve the January 3, 2024 treasurer's report. **Aye:** Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Hansen, Higgins, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Klawitter, Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Zegers, Naprstek, Baumeister.

MOTION CARRIED

Comment Period:

No Discussion.

Excused absent Directors: Zegers, Naprstek were excused.

Chairman Engelhaupt declared the meeting adjourned at 4:09PM.

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 January 3, 2024 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