

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources
Board of Directors Meeting
March 4, 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:

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

Directors Absent: Curt Morrow

Staff Present: Wade Ellwanger Britanie Brewster Connie McCarthy Gary Richardson

Guests Present: Adam Nolan, Lisa Lauver, Amy Timmerman.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Zegers to approve the March 4, 2024 agenda, **Aye:** Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow.
MOTION CARRIED

Approval of the February 5, 2024 Minutes :

Motion was made to approve the February 5, 2024 minutes by Holtgrew seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow .
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 starting April 1, 2024 meeting times will change to 7:00pm. He reported that all Incumbent Candidate Filing Forms submitted to the state prior to February 15, 2024. No Non-Incumbent Candidates Filing forms were submitted. Ellwanger reported that a joint water committee meeting was held with Upper Elkhorn NRD on February 12, 2024 in O'Neill.

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 reported that she has been working with Mark Graf Water Well Specialist at the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) on a well north of Lynch. Nitrate levels have continued to climb to the excess of 200 + parts per million. NDEE has submitted well samples to the state for isotope testing, we are currently awaiting those results. McCarthy has tested surrounding wells and scheduled a talk and test in the Lynch area. She has wrapped up tree ordering for the year. She stated she ordered 9000 trees with 14 tree plans from the NRCS in Spencer. McCarthy informed that we will be making changes to the tree program and requested approval to attend the Forestry Across the Plains, in Pierre SD

Approval of Program Assistant attendance of Forestry Across the Plains, Pierre, SD

A motion was made by Mahlendorf and seconded by Hansen to approve McCarthy's attendance of Forestry Across the Plains, Pierre, SD. **Aye:** Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow. **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 reported that all telemetry is back up and running after the reboot. Richardson reported he has been working with WKRW on well #2.

West Knox Rural Water Report: Ebel report was mailed to directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes.

UNL Extension Report: Amy Timmerman reported that they will have a dryland test plot north of Spencer. She shared the chemigation and nitrogen certification schedule for the 2024 season.

BGMA Coordinator Report: Included in meeting packets. Lauver discussed the virtual field day that she attended regarding Wood Chip Bioreactors and Denitrification. On February 8, 2024 the EPA officially accepted the BGMA Plan Update.

Association Report: Hasen reported no meeting was held in February. The next meeting will be March 11, 2024.

Agency Reports:

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Nolan reported the NRCS is currently working on an agreement with NGPC, and Northern Prairies Land Trust for a Verdigris-Bazile Coordination Wildlife Biologist. They are working on EQIP and CSP applications that are IRA eligible. The staff is working on a few tree plans for the spring. FSA is currently taking applications for Continuous CRP.

Niobrara Council: Nothing to report

NRBA: Connell reported the meeting was held on February 14, 2024 in Valentine. Officers were reelected, and interlocal agreement discussion was held with NGPC.

NE RC&D Report: No Meeting Held. Next meeting will be March 5, 2024

NC RC&D Report: Connell reported that they met on February 14, 2024. The 2024 tire amnesty will be held April 1,2,3 in Newport. District 43 Senator Candidate Tanya Storer presented at the meeting.

Friends of the Missouri: Ellwanger reported that they discussed spring cleanup and kids summer activities.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: Nothing to Report

Groundwater Management Committee Report: Ellwanger reported that a joint meeting was held with Upper Elkhorn NRD in O'Neill on February 12, 2024. Ellwanger stated that there was a great turnout. Discussed joint programs across districts.

Variance Committee Report: Full report included in meeting packet. Ellwanger reported that the Variance Committee met February 28,2024 with Ed Moser. Moser applied for 40 historical acres. The

committee cannot justify recommending these acres for approval because they do not meet the ranking criteria set for in the rules. No action is recommended, and the application denied.

Operations Committee Report: Full report included in meeting packet. The Operations Committee met February 28, 2024 several items were discussed and recommended for approval. The Operations Committee recommends updating the Water Quality Cost Share Program, updates will be submitted to the board for approval.

Approval of Operations Committee Recommendations: Approval of iPad Purchase for office use:

A motion was made by Connell and seconded by Mahlendorf to approve the purchase of 4 iPads for office use. **Aye:** Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of 4-Wheeler Purchase:

A motion was made by Marcellus and seconded by Zegers to approve the purchase of 4-Wheeler purchase and accessories with Manger discretion. **Aye:** Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Connell, Hansen, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Baumeister, Higgins. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of LNNRD Expansion:

A motion was made by Marcellus and seconded by Klawitter to approve the General Manger Ellwanger to prepare a preliminary concept plan and estimate for building expansion to be presented to the board. **Aye:** Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Connell Higgins. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow **MOTION CARRIED**

NSWCP Activities:

McCarthy reported that we have five signed contracts for windbreaks. We have funding for all plans.

Approval of NSWCP activities:

A motion was made by Marcellus and seconded by Klawitter to approve the motion to fund contracts 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383. **Aye:** Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Treasurer Report:

A motion was made by Randa seconded by Holtgrew to approve the March 4,2024 treasurer's report. **Aye:** Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow. **MOTION CARRIED**

Comment Period:

Excused absent Directors: Morrow was excused.

Chairman Engelhaupt declared the meeting adjourned at 3:50PM.

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 March 4, 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

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