

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources
Board of Directors Meeting
May 6, 2024**

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

Directors Present:

Shane Lechtenberg	Curt Morrow	Ray Naprstek	J.J. Pritchett
Kevin Randa	Larry Baumeister	Karl Connell	Deb Hansen
Shaun Higgins	Linda Hoffman	Charles Zegers	Brian Kaczor

Directors Absent: Randy Klawitter, Steve Mahlendorf, Dwain Marcellus, Linda Hoffman, Don Holtgrew, Jack Engelhaupt

Staff Present: Wade Ellwanger Britanie Brewster Connie McCarthy Gary Richardson

West Knox Rural Water: Dan Ebel

Guests Present: Adam Nolan

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Randa and seconded by Hansen to approve the May 6, 2024 agenda, **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Zegers, Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of the April 1, 2024 Minutes :

Motion was made to approve the April 1 , 2024 minutes by Higgins seconded by Morrow. **Aye:** Morrow, Baumeister, Connell, Higgins, Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Hansen, Zegers. **Absent:** Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **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 discussed legislative changes that were made during this session, handout was included in meeting packets. Ellwanger reported on the purchase of the 1300 square feet that the current LNNRD office location. Discussion was held.

Land Purchase at Current Office Location:

Motion was made to approve the purchase of 1300 square feet from Boyd County with the option to look into purchasing additional property adjacent to current office location by Higgins seconded by Randa. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Zegers, Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Programs Assistant Report: McCarthy's report was mailed to the directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy attached to the official minutes. McCarthy reported she has been in the classrooms with visits in Niobrara, Keya Paha, Boyd County, and Verdigre. She attended Aquafest in Wayne on May 6th, and Niobrara State Park Outdoor Educational Rendezvous on May 3rd. She will be working with Upper Elkhorn and Middle Niobrara to get machine tree plants completed. McCarthy stated she is currently submitting 2 conservation awards for Matt Keating for his tree planting efforts and Marvin Liewer for Hall of Fame.

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 phase II reports are currently at 90% compliance. Richardson picked up the four-wheeler from Mitchell Equipment. Richardson stated he investigated discrepancies with Nitrate testing machine results. He found that there are other testing agents that are more consistent than those that we are currently using, will be purchasing new testing agent.

West Knox Rural Water Report: Ebel report was included in meeting packets handed out during the Board meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Ebel reported that on April 16, 2024 the West Knox Rural Water (WKRW) Advisory Board met. Ebel stated that they discussed WKRW well #2, he is currently collecting information on cost of lining well #2 verses decommissioning. Wellhead protection signs are up in the WKRW area. Ebel reported the WKRW Advisory Board reviewed By-Laws, and no changes were made.

Approval of WKRW Advisory Board Minutes

Motion was made to recognize and approve action items of the West Knox Rural Water Advisory Board Minutes by Naprstek seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Zegers, Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of WKRW By-Laws:

Motion was made to approve West Know Rural Water By-Laws, by Hansen seconded by Baumeister. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Zegers, Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

BGMA Coordinator Report: Included in meeting packet.

Association Report: Hansen stated the Basin Tour will be June 10-11 in McCook. Encouraged Directors to attend. Hansen reported on being part of the State Envirothon in Ponca State Park.

Agency Reports:

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Adam Nolan report was included in the meeting packet. Nolan reported that are currently working on EQIP applications. CSP ranking deadline was May 3, 2024. CRP application start date has been backed off, currently do not have an exact start date. Nolan stated he attended a zoom meeting with Ellwanger to discuss the option of a RCCP application for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Niobrara Council: Connell reported meeting was held April 18, 2024. Connell stated that the Niobrara Council is currently working with Nebraska Game and Parks for funding.

NE RC&D Report: Hansen reported that they met on April 23, 2024. They did not have any agenda items to cover.

NC RC&D Report: Connell reported that the Tire Amnesty was extended from April 1-12, 2024 due to weather. They collected 650 tons of tires which have all been disposed of. Connell stated that they are looking at doing a fall paper shredding route.

Friends of the Missouri: No meeting held.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: Ellwanger reported that they have received a bedload collector. It will be deployed to remove sediment within the riverbed. They will be utilizing data collected to evaluate the long-term environmental effects.

Credit Card Authorization:

Motion was made to remove Terry Julesgard and Vivian Frasch as authorized persons on the Pinnacle Bank credit card account and add Wade Ellwanger and Britanie Brewster by Randa seconded by Pritchett. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Zegers, Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Groundwater Management Committee Report: Meeting held prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting. Discussed the acre transfer of Ed Moser and Tim Borer. Both transfers met the rules and requirements.

The Committee recommends the approval of acre transfer for Ed Moser and Tim Borer.

Approval of groundwater acre transfer

Motion was made to approve the acre transfer for Ed Moser and Tim Borere by Hansen seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Zegers, Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

NSWCP Activities:

McCarthy reported that we have 8 applications.

Approval of NSWCP activities:

A motion was made to approve the motion to fund contracts 2361, 2395, 2396, 2397, and 2398 by Morrow seconded by Zegers. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Zegers, Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Higgins. **Absent:** Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Treasurer Report:

A motion was made by Naprstek seconded by Baumeister to approve the May 6, 2024 treasurer's report. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Zegers, Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Comment Period:

Excused absent Directors: Klawitter, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Hoffman, Holtgrew, and Engelhaupt.

Vice-Chairman Lechtenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 8:42PM.

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 May 6, 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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