

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

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:

Shane Lechtenberg	Steve Mahlendorf	Dwain Marcellu	Larry Baumeister
Karl Connell	Deb Hansen	Shaun Higgins	Linda Hoffman
Don Holtgrew	Brian Kaczor	Charles Zegers	Randy Klawitter
Jack Engelhaupt			

Directors Absent: Curt Morrow, Ray Naprstek, J.J. Pritchett, Kevin Randa

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 Zegers to approve the June 3, 2024 agenda, **Aye:** Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of the May 6, 2024 Minutes :

Motion was made to approve the May 6 , 2024 minutes with correction by Zegers seconded by Baumeister. **Aye:** Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt. **Abstain:** Marcellus, Holtgrew, Klawitter. **Absent:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa. **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 the majority of what was included in his report will be covered in the following agenda items. Ellwanger thanked all the committee members who met last week there was great discussion and forward thinking.

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 will be in Niobrara on June 11, 2024 completing well water test for the Healthy Living Expo. Larry Kocian will be starting Chemigation well testing starting June 4, 2024.

Water Resources Report: Richardson report was mailed to directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Richardson reviewed current water trends that were sent with Director packets.

West Knox Rural Water Report: Richardson report was mailed to directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Ellwanger stated that a leak had been located at West Knox Rural Water will be completing repairs this coming week.

BGMA Coordinator Report: No Report.

Association Report: Hansen stated the Basin Tour will be June 10-11 in McCook. Hansen reported they will be discussing Retirement contributions and Health Insurance changes at the meeting to be held on June 10, 2024.

Agency Reports:

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Adam Nolan's report was included in the meeting packet. Nolan reported that have hired a Program Assistant, they are clearing background and will announce next month. NRCS is finishing up EQIP applications. CSP applications are in preapproval and should be finished and obligated by June 10, 2024. CRP application start date has been retracted, currently do not have an exact start date.

Niobrara Council: No Meeting Held.

NE RC&D Report: No Meeting Held.

NC RC&D Report: NO Meeting Held. Connell reported they did receive 2 applications for Kim Burge's position. Interviewed one who will be attending the next meeting. NC RC&D used tires from Tire Amnesty to create a bench that will be on display and raffled off at the Ranch Expo in Bassett. The next meeting will be June 10, 2024.

Friends of the Missouri: No Meeting held.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: No Meeting Held.

Committee Reports:

Budget Committee Report: Meeting held prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting. Discussed Dana F. Cole Audit Engagement. Budget Committee recommend approval of Dana F. Cole Audit Engagement.

Approval of Audit Engagement Recommendation

Motion was made to approve the recommendation to approve Dana F Cole Audit Engagement by Marcellus seconded by Hansen. **Aye:** Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Baumeister. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa. **MOTION CARRIED**

Building Report: Ellwanger reported that he attended the Boyd County Supervisors meeting on May 28, 2024. They are willing to sell the corner north of our current office location. This brings the total number of square feet to roughly 25,000. We will not have an exact number until after the survey is complete. At that time a purchase agreement will be crafted and presented to the Board for approval.

Land Purchase at Current Office Location:

Motion was made to approve the purchase of the corner lot North of the current office location. **Aye:** Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa. **MOTION CARRIED**

Groundwater Management Committee Report: Report was included in the meeting packet and a copy attached to official minutes. The meeting was held on May 29, 2024. The Groundwater Committee recommends foregoing the expanded acre program for 2024.

Approval of Groundwater Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the recommendation to forego the expanded acre program for 2024 by Marcellus seconded by Hansen. **Aye:** Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Klawitter, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Kaczor. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa. **MOTION CARRIED**

Personnel Committee Report: Report was included in the meeting packet and a copy attached to official minutes. The meeting was held on May 29, 2024. The Personnel Committee recommends changing Personnel Policy No. 35 Paragraph II Group Health, Dental Insurance Plan and Vision Reimbursement. The Personnel Policy recommended wage adjustments and hiring a Natural Resource Technician.

Approval of Benefit Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the recommendation to accept changes to Personnel Policy No. 35 Paragraph II Group Health, Dental Insurance Plan and Vision Reimbursement by Lechtenberg seconded by Marcellus. **Aye:** Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Connell, Hoffman. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Wage Recommendation:

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

Approval to Hire Natural Resources Technician:

Motion was made to approve the recommendation to hire a Natural Resource Technician by Lechtenberg, seconded by Marcellus. **Aye:** Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Baumeister, Hansen, Holtgrew, Zegers, Klawitter, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Connell, Higgins, Hoffman, Kaczor. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa. **MOTION CARRIED**

NSWCP Activities:

McCarthy reported that we had 1 completion, 2 cancelation, 2 extension.

Approval of NSWCP activities:

A motion was made to approve the motion to fund contract 2399, and extend contracts 2364,2371 by Mahlendorf seconded by Hansen. **Aye:** Lechtenberg, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Treasurer Report:

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

Comment Period:

Excused absent Directors: Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa.

Chairman Engelhaupt declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

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 June 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