

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

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|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| J.J. Pritchett | Kevin Randa | Larry Baumeister | Karl Connell |
| Deb Hansen | Shaun Higgins | Linda Hoffman | Don Holtgrew |
| Chuck Zegers | Brian Kaczor | Randy Klawitter | Shane Lechtenberg |
| Dwain Marcellus | Ray Naprstek | | |

Directors Absent: Jack Engelhaupt, Curt Morrow, Steve Mahlendorf.

Staff Present: Wade Ellwanger Britanie Brewster Gary Richardson

Guests Present: Scott Brewster.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of the August 5, 2024 Minutes :

Motion was made to approve the August 5, 2024 minutes by Morrow seconded by Randa. **Aye** Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Marcellus. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Pritchett, Klawitter, Lechtenberg. **Absent:** Naprstek, Morrow, Engelhaupt, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

Naprstek arrived 7:02pm

Building Presentations:

Scott Brewster presented a proposed building option for the NRD offices.

Gary Richardson presented a proposed building addition for the NRD offices.

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 that the LNNRD and WKRW were both awarded a Water Sustainability Funds Grant. Ellwanger reported he attended the Manager meeting last week in Beatrice.

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 was excused for a Windbreak Workshop in Mead. Ellwanger reported that 8th grade Conservation Day will be held October 2, 2024.

Water Resources Report: Richardson's report was mailed to directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Richardson reported nitrate samples are complete, and he is currently entering all data for analyzation.

West Knox Rural Water Report: Ebel's report was included in the directors meeting packets and a copy is attached to the official minutes.

BGMA Coordinator Report: Mailed to directors prior to the board meeting and a copy attached to the official minutes.

Association Report: Hansen reported 2 resolutions will be presented at the NARD meeting on September 23, 2024. They will be discussing electronic payments, and monthly meeting requirements. Hansen was named NARD Delegate, Engelhaupt name as delegate.

Agency Reports:

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Adam Nolan's report was included in the meeting packet and a copy attached to the official minutes.

Niobrara Council: Connell reported meeting was held on August 15, 2024. The budget was discussed. Legislative Candidates have been invited to attend the October 17, 2024 meeting.

NE RC&D Report: Hansen reported the meeting was held on August 27, 2024. The NE RC&D will be having a household hazardous waste collection in Wayne in October.

NC RC&D Report: Connell reported they held a meeting on August 14, 2024. They will be holding a tire Amnesty in 2025 in O'Neill and Valentine. They will be having a paper shredding truck September 23rd or October 7th along Hwy 20 and Hwy 12. The NC RC&D hired Carla Stagemeyer to replace Kim Burge.

Friends of the Missouri: No Meeting held.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: Ellwanger reported the bedload collectors will arrive next week; they will begin sedimentation collection next week. They will hold an information meeting on September 11, 2024 at the Niobrara Fire Hall. The viewing of the Bed Load Collectors will be September 12, 2024 from Niobrara State Park RV Campground spot #25.

Committee Reports:

Budget Committee Report: Ellwanger reported that the FY 2024-2025 valuations increased by 14%. The LNNRD levy decreased by 1%.

Approval of FY 2024-2025 Draft Budget Recommendation:

A motion was made to approve the FY 2024-2025 Budget by Baumeister, seconded by Pritchett . **Aye:** Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor,

Klawitter, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Mahlendorf, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of FY 2024-2025 Budget Hearing:

A motion was made to approve the FY 2024-2025 Budget Resolution of \$1,090,800 by Naprstek, seconded by Hansen. **Aye:** Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Mahlendorf, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Groundwater Committee Meeting was held prior to the regular monthly meeting of the LNNRD. They discussed the Cease-and-Desist Violation, ARPA contract, and Groundwater Index.

Approval of Cease- and Desist:

A motion was made to approve the recommendation to continue with the Cease-and-Desist Violation proceedings by Klawitter, seconded by Marcellus. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Naprstek, Connell, Higgins. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Mahlendorf, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

ARPA Contract:

A motion was made to approve the recommendations using ARPA funds for well monitoring by Randa, seconded by Zegers. **Aye:** Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Mahlendorf, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Groundwater Index:

A motion was made to approve the recommendations to proceed with the Groundwater Index by Naprstek, seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Mahlendorf, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

NSWCP Activities:

Approval of NSWCP activities:

A motion was made to fund contracts 2406,2407 and extend 2364 by Hansen seconded by Baumeister. **Aye:** Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Morrow, Mahlendorf, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Approval of Treasurer Report:

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

Comment Period:

Excused absent Directors: Morrow, Mahlendorf, Engelhaupt.

Vice-Chairman Lechtenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

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 September 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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