

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

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	Curt Morrow	Jack Engelhaupt	

**Directors Absent:** Ray Naprstek, Steve Mahlendorf.

**Staff Present:** Wade Ellwanger      Britanie Brewster      Gary Richardson      Connie McCarthy  
**Guests Present:** None

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Approval of the September 4, 2024 Minutes :**

Motion was made to approve the October 7, 2024 minutes by Higgins seconded by Klawitter. **Aye** Baumeister, Connell, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Pritchett, Randa, Hansen, Zegers . **Absent:** Naprstek, Mahlendorf. **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 reported that LNNRD board meetings will be held at 2:00pm starting in December running through April. Ellwanger stated the Governor attended the NRD Manager meeting in Nebraska City on October 30, 2024. Ellwanger reported the LNNRD Water Reduction Cost-Share Program press release will be in the Paper the week of November 11, 2024. He will be on KBRX November 27, 2024 to discuss the new programs.

**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 that she completed tree survival rate checks. Survival rates range between 71% to 86%, she was pleased with result after a very dry summer and fall.

**Water Resources Report:** Richardson's report included in the director meeting packet, and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Richardson reported that he is finalizing Phase II mailers.

**NARD Association Report:** Hansen reported that she attended that the NARD meeting on November 4, 2024 in Valentine. There is a lot of things coming with I&E for Range Judging and Land Judging. They are looking for volunteers to help with State FFA Convention in April. They are ramping up for the new legislative year in January.

**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:** No Report

### **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:** Met on October 17, 2024 in Valentine. Discussed loss in federal funding. Looked at ways to maintain the Niobrara Council. Discussed LNNRD helping fund a portion if needed.

**NE RC&D Report:** Hansen reported that had a household waste collection program in Wayne.

**NC RC&D Report:** Connell reported the paper shredding truck went down Highway 20 on September 23, 2024 and Highway 12 on October 7, 2024. Local collection rate was down from prior years.

**Friends of the Missouri:** No Meeting held.

**Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition:** No Meeting held

### **Approval of Water Reduction Cost-Share Program:**

A motion was made to approve the Water Use Reduction Cost-Share Program by Marcellus seconded by Pritchett. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **Approval of Basic Cost-Share Program Updates:**

A motion was made to approve the Basic Cost-Share Updates by Lechtenberg seconded by Zegers. **Aye:** Prichett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **Approval of 2025 Price List Updates:**

A motion was made to approve the 2025 Price List updates by Hansen seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Prichett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **Committee Reports:**

**The Operations Committee** Meeting was held prior to the regular monthly meeting of the LNNRD. Discussed LNNRD Building direction and design.

**Approval Operations Committee Recommendations:**

A motion was made to approve the recommendation for Ellwanger to pursue a purchase agreement and architect for the future location of the LNNRD Office Building by Lechtenberg seconded by Connell. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Closed Session:**

**Approval to move into Closed Session:**

A motion was made to move into closed session to for legal discussion with all LNNRD Directors and Employees present by Lechtenberg seconded by Zegers. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval to come out of Closed Session:**

A motion was made to come out of closed session with all LNNRD Directors and Employees present by Klawitter seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Cease-and-Deist:**

**Approval to Lift Cease-and- Desist Order:**

A motion was made to lift the Evergreen Acres cease-and-desist order by Hansen seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

**NSWCP Activities:**

**Approval of NSWCP activities:**

A motion was made to fund contracts 2403 and cancel contract 2364 by Lechtenberg seconded by Klawitter. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Mahlendorf. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Treasurer Report:**

**Approval of Treasurer Report:**

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

**Comment Period:**

**Excused absent Directors:** Naprstek, Mahlendorf.

Chairman Jack Engelhaupt declared the meeting adjourned at 9:02 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 November 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

DRAFT