

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources
Board of Directors Meeting
January 6, 2025**

The meeting of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District was called to order by Vice Chairman Lechtenberg at 2:00 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:

J.J. Pritchett	Kevin Randa	Larry Baumeister	Karl Connell
Deborah Hansen	Shaun Higgins	Linda Hoffman	Don Holtgrew
Brian Kaczor	Randy Klawitter	Shane Lechtenberg	Dwain Marcellus

Directors Absent: Ray Naprstek, Chuck Zegers, Steve Mahlendorf, Curt Morrow, Jack Engelhaupt

Staff Present: Wade Ellwanger Britanie Brewster Connie McCarthy

Guests Present: Adam Nolan, Laney Lechtenberg

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Pritchett to approve the January 6, 2025 agenda. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Baumeister, Zegers, Mahlendorf, Morrow, Engelhaupt.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of the December 2, 2024 Minutes :

Motion was made to approve the December 2, 2024 minutes by Higgins seconded by Holtgrew. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Lechtenberg, Marcellus. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Klawitter. **Absent:** Naprstek, Baumeister, Zegers, Mahlendorf, Morrow, Engelhaupt.

MOTION CARRIED

Baumeister arrived at 2:03pm

Acceptance of Director Resignation:

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

Election of Officers:

Motion made to elect Jack Engelhaupt as Chairman, nominations to cease, with a unanimous roll call vote by Connell seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Connell, Higgins, Holtgrew, Klawitter. **Nay:** Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Kaczor, Marcellus. **Abstain:** Lechtenberg. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **MOTION FAILED**

Motion made to nominate Shane Lechtenberg as Chairman by Marcellus seconded by Kaczor:
Motion made to amend motion to add Jack Engelhaupt by Connell seconded by Higgins: **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Connell, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter. **Nay:** Baumeister, Hansen, Marcellus. **Abstain:** Lechtenberg. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion as Amended:

Nominate Shane Lechtenberg and Jack Engelhaupt as Chairman for 2025:

Motion to cease nomination for Chairman for 2025 and a ballot vote to be held by Holtgrew seconded by Higgins: **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Ballot Vote: Lechtenberg 7, Engelhaupt 5

Lechtenberg 2025 Chairman

Chairman Lechtenberg called for nomination for the office of Vice Chairman: Klawitter nominated Pritchett

Motion by Holtgrew, seconded by Connell to cease nomination and Pritchett be declared Vice Chairman for 2025: **Aye:** Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Pritchett. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt.. **MOTION CARRIED**

Roll Call Vote to declare Pritchett as 2025 Vice Chairman: **Aye:** Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Pritchett. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Lechtenberg called for nomination for the office of Secretary: Hansen nominated Baumeister

Motion by Holtgrew, seconded by Connell to cease nomination: **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Baumeister. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt.

MOTION CARRIED

Roll Call Vote to declare Baumeister as 2025 Secretary: **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Baumeister. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Lechtenberg called for nomination for the office of Treasurer: Baumeister nominated Hoffman, Kaczor nominated Connell:

Motion by Randa, seconded by Klawitter to cease nomination and ballot vote to be held for Treasurer for 2025: **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter,

Lechtenberg, Marcellus . **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Hoffman. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt.
MOTION CARRIED

Ballet Vote: Hoffman 9; Connell 3
Hoffman 2025 Treasurer

Board of Directors Representatives by Appointment/Volunteer:
NARD Representative: Hansen
NRBA Representative: Connell
Niobrara Council Representative: Connell
NE RC&D Representative: Hansen
NC RC&D Representative: Connell
Friends of the Missouri Representative: Naprstek
Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition Representative: Naprstek

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 2024 Niobrara River Basin Caucus will be held in Valentine on January 14, 2025 followed by an NRBA meeting. Ellwanger reported we have had success with application for the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act, currently we have 3,400 acres applied for. Ellwanger stated the Office will be closed on January 9th as a National Day of Mourning.

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 attended the Northeast Nebraska Ag Conference on December 17, 2024. We had 3 directors present Hansen, Lechtenberg and Morrow. She will be judging FFA LEDs on January 15, 2024 in Atkinson.

Water Resources Report: Richardson's report included in the director meeting packet, and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Richardson was excused.

NARD Association Report: Hansen stated the 2025 Legislative Conference will be at the end of January. She encouraged others to attend the conference.

West Knox Rural Water Report: Ebel's report included in the director meeting packet, and a copy is attached to the official minutes. West Knox Advisory Board Minutes were mailed to directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy attached to the official minutes.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of West Knox Rural Water Minutes:

Motion was made to acknowledge and approve actions items of WKRW Minutes by Hansen seconded by Pritchett. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Lechtenberg, Marcellus. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Klawitter. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers. Morrow, Engelhaupt.
MOTION CARRIED

BGMA Coordinator Report: Included in the directors meeting packet.

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 that a meeting was held on December 19, 2024. Discussed changing meeting locations to rotate around the area to encourage attendance. Wendy Murphy resigned from the Niobrara Council. Discussion was held on the sale of Rocky Ford and Removing the Scenic River Designation.

Motion to table discussion the sale of Rocky Ford and Removing Scenic River Designation:

Motion was made to table discussion on the sale of Rocky Ford and removal of the Scenic Designation of the Niobrara River to the next board meeting by Hansen seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt.

MOTION CARRIED

NE RC&D Report: Hansen reported no meeting held; the next meeting will be held in February.

NC RC&D Report: Connell reported no meeting held; the next meeting will be January 8, 2025.

Friends of the Missouri: No Meeting held.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: No Meeting held

NSWCP Activities:

Approval of NSWCP activities:

No contracts for approval. One contract has been completed.

Additional Items of Business:

Approval of NARD Washington DC Conference Attendance:

A motion was made to Approve NARD Washington DC Conference Attendance by Holtgrew seconded by Pritchett. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Water Sustainability Fund Grant Application :

A motion was made to apply for the Water Sustainability Fund Grant by Hansen seconded by Baumeister. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus. **Nay:** Higgins. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt.

MOTION CARRIED

Treasurer Report:

Approval of Treasurer Report:

A motion was made by Baumeister seconded by Holtgrew to approve the January 6, 2025 treasurer's report. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Lechtenberg,

Marcellus . **Nay:** Connell, Klawitter. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt.
MOTION CARRIED

Comment Period:

Excused absent Directors: Naprstek, Zegers, Morrow, Engelhaupt.

Chairman Shane Lechtenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 4:04PM.

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 January 6, 2025 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