

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources
Board of Directors Meeting
February 3, 2025**

The meeting of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Lechtenberg at 2:01 P.M. at the Butte Community Center. Chairman Shane Lechtenberg called attention to the Open Meeting Law and statement of advertisement throughout our district.

Director's Present:

Ray Naprstek	Larry Baumeister	Karl Connell	Deborah Hansen
Shaun Higgins	Linda Hoffman	Don Holtgrew	Chuck Zegers
Brian Kaczor	Randy Klawitter	Jack Engelhaupt	Shane Lechtenberg

Directors Absent: J.J. Pritchett, Kevin Randa, Dwain Marcellus, Curt Morrow

Staff Present: Wade Ellwanger Britanie Brewster Connie McCarthy Gary Richardson

Guests Present: Dan Ebel, Adam Nolan, Brenda Wendt

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Zegers to approve February 3, 2025, agenda. **Aye:** Naprstek, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Pritchett, Randa, Higgins, Marcellus, Morrow.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of January 6, 2025, Minutes:

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

Higgins arrived at 2:06pm

Acceptance of Director Applications and Appointment:

Motion was made to accept the application for District #3 from Brenda Wendt by Holtgrew seconded by Klawitter. **Aye:** Naprstek, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Zegers, Mahlendorf, Morrow, 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 stated we have 81 applications for a total of 7,154 acres. Resulting in a total funded amount of \$95,101. Ellwanger reported he and Dennis Schueth attended the Holt County Commissioner meeting to discuss flying of the two NRD districts. Holt county has pledged a letter of support and \$10,000 to assist with the projected Water Sustainability Fund grant application. The Basin Caucus was held in Valentine on January 14, 2025. Ellwanger reported the 2025 Basin Tour will be in the Niobrara Basin.

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 reported she met with Pure Nebraska for a segment on tree planting.

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 on current nitrate levels and phase II data. Richardson gave an update on building designs.

NARD Association Report: Hansen stated the 2025 Legislative Conference was held at the end of January.

West Knox Rural Water Report: Ebel's report included in the director's meeting packet, and a copy is attached to the official minutes. West Knox Advisory Board Minutes were attached to the meeting packets and included in the official minutes. Ebel stated the advisory board has approved the painting of the West Knox Rural Water Tower.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of West Knox Rural Water Minutes:

Motion was made to acknowledge and approve actions items of WKRW Minutes by Klawitter seconded by Hansen. **Aye:** Naprstek, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **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 January 16, 2025. Connell stated they discussed the 2025 budget and where funding will be coming from. Discussion was held on the sale of Rocky Ford.

Sale of Rocky Ford:

Motion was made to decline to take a stance on the potential sale of Rocky Ford to the National Parks Service by Hansen seconded by Baumeister. **Aye:** Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Kaczor, Lechtenberg.

Nay: Naprstek, Connell, Higgins, Holtgrew, Zegers, Klawitter, Engelhaupt. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Pritchett, Randa, Marcellus, Morrow

MOTION FAILED

Motion was made to oppose the potential sale of Rocky Ford to the National Park Service by Higgins seconded by Klawitter. **Aye:** Naprstek, Connell, Higgins, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt.

Nay: Hansen, Lechtenberg **Abstain:** Baumeister, Hoffman. **Absent:** Pritchett, Randa, Marcellus, Morrow

MOTION CARRIED

Scenic River Designation:

Motion was made to support the interim study to explore an application for the state of Nebraska to permanently administer the Wild and Scenic River by Naprstek seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Naprstek, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Pritchett, Randa, Marcellus, Morrow

MOTION CARRIED

Lechtenberg excused at 4:11pm Secretary Baumeister assumed the Chair

NE RC&D Report: No Report

NC RC&D Report: Connell reported meeting was held January 20, 2025. Connell reported that they received a grant for a Tire Amnesty for 200 tons to be held April 30th to May 1st in Valentine.

Friends of the Missouri: No Meeting held.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: No Meeting held

Additional Items of Business:

Signature Card Butte State Bank:

No action taken; signature cards will remain the same

Approval of Additions to the By-Laws:

A motion was made to accept additions as presented to Article IV of the LNNRD By-Laws by Higgins seconded by Klawitter. **Aye:** Naprstek, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Pritchett, Randa, Marcellus, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **MOTION CARRIED**

NSWCP Activities:

Approval of NSWCP activities:

One contract has been completed. One contract extension.

Motion was made to approve the extension of contract 2361 by Holtgrew, second by Zegers. **Aye:** Naprstek, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt. **Nay:** Nope. **Abstain:** Higgins. **Absent:** Pritchett, Randa, Marcellus, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **MOTION CARRIED**

Treasurer Report:

Approval of Treasurer Report:

A motion was made by Holtgrew seconded by Higgins to approve the February 3, 2025, treasurer's report. **Aye:** Naprstek, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, **Nay:** Connell, Klawitter. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Prichett, Randa, Marcellus, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **MOTION CARRIED**

Comment Period:

Excused absent Directors: Prichett, Randa, Marcellus, Morrow.

Secretary Larry Baumeister declared the meeting adjourned at 4:24PM.

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 February 3, 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

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