

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources
Board of Directors Meeting
April 4, 2025**

The meeting of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Lechtenberg at 7:00 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:

Curt Morrow	Ray Naprstek	J.J Pritchett	Kevin Randa
Larry Baumeister	Karl Connell	Deb Hansen	Shaun Higgins
Linda Hoffman	Don Holtgrew	Chuck Zegers	Brian Kaczor
Jack Engelhaupt	Brenda Wendt	Dwain Marcellus	Shane Lechtenberg

Directors Absent: Randy Klawitter

Staff Present: Wade Ellwanger Britanie Brewster Connie McCarthy Gary Richardson

Guests Present: Adam Nolan, NRCS.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Zegers to approve April 7, 2025, agenda, **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Baumeister, Klawitter
MOTION CARRIED

Approval of February 3, Minutes:

Motion was made to approve March 3, 2025, minutes with corrections by Engelhaupt seconded by Randa. Morrow, Randa, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Naprstek, Pritchett, Wendt. **Absent:** Baumeister, Klawitter
MOTION CARRIED

Baumeister Arrived at 7:09pm

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 that on March 25, 2025, the Boyd Co. Supervisor backed out on the purchase agreement that was handed out during the February 3, 2025, regular board meeting. Ellwanger reported that this year's Basin Tour will be held in the Niobrara Basin June 9th and 10th. Governor Pillen has formed a Nebraska Water Quality and Quantity Task Force; it currently has 7 core members representing organization across the state. They are working toward a full board of 25 members. Ellwanger discussed the importance of having representation from our area, discussion was held on the task force and representation from our area.

Lower Niobrara NRD Board of Directors Approval of Letter of Recommendation to Nebraska Water Quality and Quantity Task Force:

A motion was made to submit a letter of recommendation for Ellwanger to the Nebraska Water Quality and Quantity Task Force, by Holtgrew seconded by Marcellus. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter. **MOTION CARRIED**

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 has been busy with trees. She currently has 15 tree plans, and 3 to 4 hand plant plans. She will be picking up trees on April 16, 2025. The LNNRD has 2 Reverse Osmosis applications. McCarthy stated she will be out planting trees and making classroom visits in the next month.

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 he met with NRCS at Glen Rudloff's. They discussed different recommendations and working on finalizing an effective erosion and sediment correction plan. Richardson stated he attended a Longitude 103 meeting; they are currently working through and challenges that have been found while in use at Lewis and Clark NRD. Richardson reported Phase II reports are currently at 87% complete with 244 reports outstanding. Discussion was held on Intent to Cease-and-Desist letters to be sent to any landowners out of compliance with LNNRD Phase II by laws.

Phase II Compliance, Intent to Cease-and-Desist:

A motion was made to send out Intent to Cease and Desist letters to any landowner who had not submitted Phase II reports as of April 7, 2025, by Marcellus seconded by Pritchett. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter. **MOTION CARRIED**

NARD Association Report: Hansen stated she was at the FFA State Convention representing the NARD and LNNRD in Lincoln.

West Knox Rural Water Report: Ebel's report included in the director's meeting packet, and a copy is attached to the official minutes.

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: No meeting Held; Next meeting will be April 17, 2025

NE RC&D Report: No Report

NC RC&D Report: No Meeting held; the next meeting will be April 9, 2025

Friends of the Missouri: No Meeting held.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: No Meeting held

Additional Items of Business:

County (Public) Parcel Purchase:

Ellwanger reported that on March 25, 2025, the Boyd Co Supervisor back out on the Purchase Agreement that was handed out at the March 3, 2025, Regular Meeting of the LNNRD Board of Directors. No action will be taken at the time by the LNNRD Board.

JEO Internship Projects:

Ellwanger reported that he was contacted by JEO Consulting regarding their internship program. They are looking for potential projects within our district. JEO Consulting provides interns the opportunities to learn on NRD specific projects, with the only expense incurred by the NRD is that of travel. Discussion was held on potential flood control projects for the Niobrara Valley Hospital, and Highway 12, recreation area at Hull Lake, and West Knox Rural Water well sites.

JEO Internship Projects:

A motion was made to pursue the JEO internship opportunity by Hansen seconded by Morrow. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter.

MOTION CARRIED

Committee Reports and Recommendations:

Variance Committee Report:

The Variance Committee met on April 7, 2025, prior to the regularly scheduled meeting of the LNNRD Board of Directors. They had two applications Gary and Gail Johnson, and Wayne Kaup. The Variance Committee recommended the approval of the Gary and Gail Johnson application. The Variance Committee did not recommend the approval of the Wayne Kaup application.

Gary and Gail Johnson Recommendation:

A motion was made to accept the recommendation to approve the Gary and Gail Johnson Variance Application by Holtgrew seconded by Pritchett. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter. **MOTION CARRIED**

Wayne Kaup Recommendation:

A motion was made to accept the recommendation to deny the Wayne Kaup Variance Application by Holtgrew seconded by Pritchett. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter. **MOTION CARRIED**

Operation Committee Report:

The Operation Committee met on March 18, 2025, at 1:00pm. The Operations Committee report was mailed to the directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy attached to the official minutes. Discussion was held on the Public Hearing Process for March 26, 2025, hearing to be held at the LNNRD office, preliminary concepts, designs and cost estimate were presented on the potential LNNRD building, and management of Hull Lake Recreational Area.

Public Hearing Report:

The LNNRD Public Hearing was held on March 26, 2025, at 1:00pm at the LNNRD Office in Butte, NE. The Public Hearing report was mailed to the directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy attached to the official minutes. One constituent, two LNNRD Directors and four LNNRD staff were present. The public hearing was opened at 1:00pm and closed at 2:30pm.

NSWCP Activities:

Approval of NSWCP activities:

Motion was made to approve contract 2414 through 2422 by Randa, second by Holtgrew. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter. **MOTION CARRIED**

Treasurer Report:

Approval of Treasurer Report:

A motion was made by Engelhaupt seconded by Holtgrew to approve the April 7, 2025, treasurer's report. **Aye:** Morrow, Naprstek, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter. **MOTION CARRIED**

Comment Period:

Excused absent Directors: Klawitter.

Chairman Shane Lechtenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 8:54PM.

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 April 7, 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