

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources  
Board of Directors Meeting  
July 7, 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:**

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

**Directors Absent:** Ray Naprstek, Linda Hoffman.

**Staff Present:** Wade Ellwanger Britanie Brewster Connie McCarthy Gary Richardson Brandon Fischer

**Guests Present:** Adam Nolan, Kaedyn Rogers and guest, Tom Schaaf and guest, Paul Allen and Lana Bell.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval of June 2, 2025, Minutes:**

Motion was made to approve June 2, 2025, minutes by Hansen seconded by Holtgrew. Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt, Wendt. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Zegers, Lechtenberg. **Absent:** Naprstek, Hoffman.

**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 there will be a Niobrara Council Meeting on July 17, 2025, in Valentine to discuss state management of the Wild and Scenic Designation. The legislature usually conducts legislative resolution hearings on Fridays in September. There is an attempt to get the LR158 hearing in Valentine in August and to have some federal delegation present. Ellwanger reported that he met with Knox County NRCS in Bloomfield on June 4, 2025, to discuss the Erosion and Sedimentation plan for Rudloff's. He discussed the two options that have been discussed. Ellwanger addressed concerns presented by Tom Schaaf in the June 2, 2025 meeting regarding wells being placed within 600ft. He shared that he found the data on Baurer's well location was incorrectly reported to the state of Nebraska. Baurer's wells actual location and data submitted vary by 700ft. Jim Maly's well was dug based on the data that was reported to the state based on Baurer's information. Jim Maly's well location and data were accurate and correctly submitted to the state of Nebraska. Ellwanger discussed the three articles shared at the board meeting, a copy attached to the official minutes.

**Programs Assistant Report:** McCarthy's report was mailed to directors prior to the Board meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Kaedyn Rogers presented on his experience at ACE camp in Burwell June 22-25, 2025. Kaedyn was awarded a scholarship from the LNNRD to attend Adventure Camp for the Environment. McCarthy reported the BGMA Area will be presented at the Great Plains Water Conference. She stated that she attended Tailgate Talks at Roger Lechtenberg's field to discuss pivot bio and how it cuts back on nitrates, the FSA meeting on July 2, 2025, and scouted potential sites for the State Range Judging competition in September. There will be a prescribed burn workshop in O'Neill on July 17, 2025, at 9:00am.

**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 stated we have 11 outstanding Phase II forms. Larry has completed 325 chemigation inspections, he has had two failures. Richardson attended the Longitude 103 conference call with discussion on the building out of the chemigation platform.

**Natural Resource Technician Report:** Fischer reported that he is all set on water tests, he has been out the last 4 days they have been hit or miss. Brandon stated he helped the tree crew at the beginning of June; he did a ride along with Larry doing chemigation inspections and has built out and ordered two drip systems.

**NARD Association Report:** Hansen stated the NARD meeting was held prior to the Basin Tour in Valentine on June 9, 2025, where they discussed the budget. She brought the tour book to share; it had a lot of interesting information on the tour.

**West Knox Rural Water Report:** Ebel's report was mailed to director prior to the Board Meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes. Ellwanger reported that they are preparing to repaint the large tank. The Advisory Board met on June 26, 2025, the minutes were included in the meeting packet and a copy is attached to the official minutes.

**Recognize Receipt of Advisory Board Minutes and Approve Action Items.**

A motion was made to recognize and approved action items for West Knox Rural Water by Morrow seconded by Wendt. **Aye:** Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Klawitter. **Absent:** Naprstek, Hoffman. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Generator Purchase**

A motion was made for the Lower Niobrara NRD to purchase a permanent generator at well 4 by Klawitter seconded by Randa. **Aye:** Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Higgins, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Hoffman. **MOTION CARRIED**

**BGMA Coordinator Report:** included in the meeting packet and copy is attached to official minutes.

**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 the meeting was held on June 19, 2025. He stated they will be hold meeting on LB158, July 17, 2025, to discuss the Niobrara Scenic River designation.

**NE RC&D Report:** Hansen reported they met on June 24, 2025. She stated they are planning an electronic recycling event in September; discussion was held about partnering to do battery recycling with local libraries. They are looking at hosting a grant writing class and hosting rural Ghost Tours

**NC RC&D Report:** No Meeting held, the next meeting will be June 9, 2025.

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

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

## **Committee Reports and Recommendations:**

### **Groundwater Committee:**

Ellwanger reported that the Groundwater Committee met July 7, 2025, prior to the start of the regularly scheduled LNNRD Board of Directors meeting. Discussion was held on rules and regulations updates.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation to update the LNNRD's rules and regulations by Holtgrew seconded by Hansen. **Aye:** Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Hoffman. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **Additional Business:**

#### **Tom Schaaf Cease and Desist:**

Ellwanger stated the letter from Blankenau was sent out in the directors' packet stating that we could not impose fines on Mr. Schaaf at this time. We cannot move forward with the cease and desist without a motion and a vote. Discussion was held on Mr. Schaaf compliance, Ellwanger stated he is not in compliance.

A motion was made to execute Mr. Schaaf's cease and desist by Connell seconded by Klawitter. **Aye:** Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek. **MOTION CARRIED**

#### **Butte State Bank: Intrafi Cash Service (ICS) and CDARS:**

Discussion was held on ICS and CDARS.

A motion was made to authorize the use of Intrafi and CDARS by Connell seconded by Zegers. **Aye:** Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Randa, Higgins, Klawitter. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Hoffman. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **NSWCP Activities:**

McCarthy reported that there was one new application for \$7,000 and an extension. The LNNRD will be receiving their new allocations in July.

A motion was made to extend contract 2408 by Kaczor seconded by Holtgrew. **Aye:** Marcellus, Morrow, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Hansen, Higgins, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Klawitter, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Naprstek, Hoffman. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Discussion on NSWCP Priorities:**

Discussion was held on current NSWCP priorities. No action taken.

**Treasurer Report:**

**Approval of Treasurer Report:**

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

**Public Comment:**

**Tom Schaaf:** Stated he was the only one who was having a cease and desist brought against him because he is the only one who went through the hearing process. Jim Maly can drill wherever he wants because he has money and all he has to do is fill out something with the state and gets away with it.

**Lana Bell:** stated the agenda was not on the website and had to drive up here to see what we were talking about.

**Wade Ellwanger:** stated the videos of the Ranch Expo producer panel were on the website

**Connie McCarthy:** stated the BGMA will be doing two bus tours in August

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

Chairman Shane Lechtenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 8:34PM.

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 July 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.

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Larry Baumeister, Secretary