

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 6, 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:**

Shaun Higgins	Kevin Randa	Larry Baumeister	Randy Klawitter
Deb Hansen	Brian Kaczor	Karl Connell	Jack Engelhaupt
Brenda Wendt	Curt Morrow	Shane Lechtenberg	

**Directors Absent:** J.J. Pritchett, Ray Naprstek, Linda Hoffman, Don Holtgrew, Chuck Zegers, Dwain Marcellus.

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

**Guests Present:** Adam Nolan, Brittney Bartak, Joseph Olson.

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval of September 3, 2025, Minutes:**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

Holtgrew arrived at 7:07pm

**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 the purchase of the Roth lot is now complete. The LR158 hearing that was scheduled for September was cancelled due to the death of Senator Storer's father. Ellwanger reported that NPPD has informed him that the bid to demolish Spencer Dam has been awarded and work should begin in early 2026 with completion by the end of 2026.

**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 that State Range Judging was held in Keya Paha County on September 24<sup>th</sup> there were nearly 500 kids present. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Conservation Day will be October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Butte Golf Course.

**Water Resources Report:** Richardson's report was included in the meeting packet a copy is attached to the official minutes. Richardson stated he trained Bradon on pumping equipment and helped him at 3 well sites. Richardson talked to Strom's and Morton's on the building.

**Natural Resource Technician Report:** Fischer reported that he is out testing monitoring wells.

**NARD Association Report:** Hansen reported they held a meeting at the Annual Conference in September. Hansen gave a detailed rundown of the conference, stating it was fantastic.

**West Knox Rural Water Report:** Ebel's report was included in the meeting packet a copy is attached to the official minutes. Ellwanger stated tank rehab is getting closer to being complete they finished painting on September 28<sup>th</sup> it will need to sit for 7 days prior to chlorinating and testing. All of the remote read meters have been installed.

**BGMA Coordinator Report:** Ellwanger stated we currently do not have a Coordinator, they extended the start date to October 15, 2025.

### **Agency Reports:**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service:** No report, Adam Nolan's printed report was included in the meeting packet and a copy attached to the official minutes.

**Niobrara Council:** Connell reported no meeting was held. The next meeting will be October 16, 2025.

**NE RC&D Report:** Hansen reported they held a meeting on September 23, 2025.

**NC RC&D Report:** Connell reported they met on September 10, 2025. Discussed bills, and paper shredding truck. The paper shredding truck will travel highway 12 on October 20, 2025.

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

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

### **Additional Business:**

**Brittney Bartak: Yield Plus Agronomics, LLC, Member of Governor Pillen's Water Task Force.**

Brittney Bartak discussed being on the Governors appointed task force, what discussions have been held and asked Directors if they had anything they wanted to see from the task force.

### **Committee Reports and Recommendations:**

#### **Operations Committee:**

Ellwanger reported that the Operation Committee met prior to the regular board meeting at the community hall in Butte starting at 5:45pm. Ellwanger reported that committee looked at proposed designs and discussed the building, and changes in operations. The next step on the building is the resolution which was mailed out and posted on the website.

A motion was made to authorize the Chairman to sign the Financial Resolution on the LNNRD Building Project by Connell seconded by Klawitter. **Aye:** Higgins, Randa, Baumeister, Klawitter, Hansen, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Connell, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Pritchett, Naprstek, Hoffman, Zegers, Marcellus.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Groundwater Committee:**

The LNNRD Groundwater Committee met on Monday September 22, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. at the Butte Community Center. Members present Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, and Hansen along with General Manager Wade Ellwanger. The official committee report was mailed out and posted on the website.

The group reviewed the 2025 Expanded Irrigated Acre Program applications and made approval recommendations.

A motion was made to approve Certified Acre Transfer 25-02 by Morrow, seconded by Hansen. **Aye:** Higgins, Randa, Baumeister, Klawitter, Hansen, Holtgrew, Connell, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Kaczor. **Absent:** Pritchett, Naprstek, Hoffman, Zegers, Marcellus.

**MOTION CARRIED**

A motion was made to approve Added Irrigated Acres EIA25-10, EIA25-04, EIA25-13, EIA25-09, EIA25-05, EIA25-07, and EIA25-08 by Holtgrew seconded by Morrow. **Aye:** Higgins, Randa, Baumeister, Klawitter, Hansen, Holtgrew, Connell, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Morrow. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Absent:** Pritchett, Naprstek, Hoffman, Zegers, Marcellus.

**MOTION CARRIED**

A motion was made to approve New Irrigated Acres Requiring Well Variance EIA25-11 and EIA25-12 by Holtgrew seconded by Hansen. **Aye:** Higgins, Randa, Klawitter, Hansen, Holtgrew, Connell, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Morrow. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Baumeister, Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Absent:** Pritchett, Naprstek, Hoffman, Zegers, Marcellus.

**MOTION CARRIED**

A motion was made to approve New Irrigated Acres EIA25-03 and amended EIA25-06 by Holtgrew seconded by Hansen. **Aye:** Higgins, Randa, Baumeister, Klawitter, Hansen, Holtgrew, Connell, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Morrow. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Kaczor, Lechtenberg. **Absent:** Pritchett, Naprstek, Hoffman, Zegers, Marcellus.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NSWCP Activities:**

No Report

**Treasurer Report:**

**Approval of Treasurer Report:**

A motion was made to approve October 6, 2025, treasurer's report by Randa seconded by Holtgrew. **Aye:** Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Connell, Higgins, Klawitter. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Pritchett, Naprstek, Hoffman, Zegers, Marcellus. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Public Comment:**

None

**Excused absent Directors:** Pritchett, Marcellus, Zegers, Naprstek, Hoffman

Chairman Shane Lechtenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

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 October 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

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