

LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Business Agenda

**October 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
Butte Community Center, Butte, NE**

1. Call to Order / Statement of Publication / Open Meeting Law Poster
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda*
4. Approval of September 3, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes*
5. General Managers Report
6. Programs Assistant Report
7. Water Resources Coordinator Report
8. NARD Report (Hansen)
9. West Knox Rural Water Report (Dan Ebel)
10. BGMA Coordinator Report
11. Partner Reports
 - a. Natural Resources Conservation Service (Adam Nolan)
 - b. Niobrara Council (Connell)
 - c. NE RC&D Report (Hansen)
 - d. NC RC&D Report (Connell)
 - e. Friends of the Missouri (Naprstek)
 - f. Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition (Naprstek)
12. Brittney Bartak – Yield Plus Agronomics, LLC, Member of Governor Pillen’s Water Task Force
13. Operations Committee Report and Recommendations
 - a. Financing Resolution*
 - b. Building Recommendations*
 - c. Operating Recommendations*
14. Groundwater Management Committee Recommendations
 - a. Approval of Certified Acre Transfer*
 - b. Approval of Added Irrigated Acres*
 - c. Approval of New Irrigated Acres Requiring a Variance*
 - d. Approval of New Irrigated Acres*
15. NSWCP Activities*
16. Approval of the September Treasurer’s Report*
17. Public Comment
18. Excuse Absent Directors
19. Adjourn

*Indicates potential action item

Review Expenditure Receipts:	Linda Hoffman	Deb Hansen
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Groundwater Management Committee Report

The LNNRD Groundwater Management Committee met on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Butte Community Center. Committee members present were Klawitter, Lechtenberg, Marcellus, Morrow, and Hansen, along with GM Ellwanger.

Ellwanger presented the committee with a certified irrigated acre transfer, 25.02, of 21.27 acres from SE 8-32-11 to NW 24-32-12. The transfer met all rules requirements of transferring to an area of equal or lesser stream depletion, in the same HUC unit, and groundwater offset by decommissioning a well.

Agenda item 14a, the Groundwater Management Committee recommends approval of certified irrigated acre transfer 25.02.

The group reviewed the previously approved 2025 Expanded Irrigated Acre Program for up to 500 added and up to 500 new irrigated acres, along with general information regarding the application process. Ellwanger gave a slideshow presentation of the current pending surface water applications and how they are affected by our IMP. There are currently 6 direct flow, and 2 storage use applications on the list for 1,106 acres. 250 of them will be appropriated by the State and most likely the remaining 83 will go unappropriated.

Ellwanger’s presentation then gave an overview of the 7 added irrigated applications for 141 acres. The committee was shown the applications individually with acre ranking scores and aerial maps. All 7 applications met the minimum acre ranking criteria of 20 points and the total acres is below the 500-acre limit. No new wells were allowed for added acres in this program. The ranking table is below.

App. #	Legal	Type	Acres	Method	Acre Ranki
EIA25-10	SW NE 19-35-16	Added	30	Sub Surface Drip	68
EIA25-04	SE 34-29-9	Added	7	Center Pivot	32
EIA25-13	NW SW 4-31-13	Added	12	Center Pivot	30
EIA25-09	SW 24-29-8	Added	32	Center Pivot	22
EIA25-05	SW 13-30-13	Added	15	Center Pivot	21
EIA25-07	NW SW 26-29-9	Added	30	Center Pivot	21
EIA25-08	C 27-29-8	Added	15	Center Pivot	20
			141		

Agenda item 14b, the Groundwater Management Committee recommends approval of added irrigated acre applications EIA25-10, EIA25-04, EIA25-13, EIA25-09, EIA25-05, EIA25-07, and EIA25-08.

Ellwanger’s presentation continued with an overview of the 6 new irrigated acre applications for 725 acres and 7 wells. Each application was presented individually with acre ranking scores, well ranking scores where applicable, and aerial maps. Well variances were discussed for a 1,300 foot deep well for EIA25-11 and well location for EIA25-12. All applications exceeded the minimum acre ranking criteria of 20, as well as the minimum well ranking score of 250 points where applicable. Therefore, applications will be considered from the highest acre ranking down, until the 500-acre program limit is met. EIA25-

06 was amended from 160 acres to 130 acres to stay within the 500-acre program guidelines. The ranking table is below.

2025 Expanded Irrigated Acre Ranking Table - New Acres							
App. #	Legal	Type	Acres	Well	Method	Acre Ranki	Well Rankir
EIA25-11	NE 25-34-34	New	130	1	Sub Surface Drip	71	Variance
EIA25-12	SW 24-34-35	New	80	0	Sub Surface Drip	62	Variance
EIA25-03	NE 25-33-21	New	160	2	Sub Surface Drip	55	268/257
EIA25-06	SW 32-32-13	New	160	2	Center Pivot	25	288/276
EIA25-01	SW 14-33-9	New	70	1	Center Pivot	23	274/FP
EIA25-02	SW 17-33-14	New	125	1	Center Pivot	21	320
			725	7			

EIA25-06 amended to 130 acres.

Agenda item 14c, the Groundwater Management Committee recommends approval of EIA25-11 and EIA25-12 with well variances.

Agenda item 14d, the Groundwater Management Committee recommends approval of EIA25-03 and EIA25-06 as amended.

The committee meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wade Ellwanger
General Manager

