

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

The meeting of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District was called to order by Vice Chairman Pritchett at 7:00 P.M. at the Butte Community Center. Vice Chairman J.J. Pritchett called attention to the Open Meeting Law and statement of advertisement throughout our district.

Director's Present:

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

Directors Absent: Randy Klawitter, Ray Naprstek, Shane Lechtenberg.

Staff Present: Wade Ellwanger Connie McCarthy Gary Richardson Brandon Fischer Dan Ebel

Guests Present: Charlie Larsen, Joseph Olson

Approval of Agenda:

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

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of October 6, 2025, Minutes:

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

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 reported that the meeting times will change starting in December and running through March meeting will be held at 2:00pm. Ellwanger stated they will not be rescheduling the LR158 Hearing, they will be accepting write in documentation. Ellwanger discussed the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program. Ellwanger reported the 2026 is an election year with half of the directors being up for reelection notifying those whose terms are up in 2026. Ellwanger stated that the LNNRD IMP was to be reviewed on November 6, 2025, in Norfolk with DWEE.

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 she attended the I&E meeting in Chadron on the 14th and 15th. She currently has two new Reverse Osmosis cost-share applications.

Water Resources Report: Richardson's report was included in the meeting packet a copy is attached to the official minutes.

Natural Resource Technician Report: Fischer reported on the 2025 nitrate report.

NARD Association Report: Hansen reported that it will hold a meeting on November 10, 2025, in Scottsbluff.

West Knox Rural Water Report: Ebel's report was included in the meeting packet a copy is attached to the official minutes. Ebel discussed the meter project, tank repairs and painting.

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

BGMA Coordinator Report: No coordinator currently.

Agency Reports:

Natural Resources Conservation Service: No report due to shutdown.

Niobrara Council: Connell reported meeting was held on October 16, 2025.

NE RC&D Report: Hansen reported they met last week, they wrapped up their Ghost Tour. It was very popular, and we are looking at doing something historical a couple times a year. Will hold a couple household waste collections coming up. The Weed board application was considered and moved on to scoring. Grant writing seminar is coming after the first of the year.

NC RC&D Report: Connell reported they had a paper shredding truck down highway 12 on October 20, 2025. Are working on a electronic collection during the Ranch Expo.

Friends of the Missouri: No Meeting Held.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition: No Meeting held.

Additional Business:

Resignation of Sub-District 5 Director Ray Naprstek.

Ellwanger reported that on October 10, 2025, Ray submitted his resignation letter to the LNNRD. A copy of the letter was mailed out prior to the board meeting and a copy attached to the official minutes.

A motion was made to accept the resignation of Sub-District 5 Director Ray Naprstek and declare the seat vacant by Engelhaupt seconded by Randa. **Aye:** Higgins, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Connell, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Morrow. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Naprstek, Lechtenberg.

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 5:30pm. Ellwanger reported that committee met with Charlie Larsen from Morton Building. Discussion was held on the site prep. The construction proposal was mailed to all directors and posted on our website.

A motion was made to authorize the chairman and general manager to sign the site prep contract upon a satisfactory soils report by Marcellus seconded by Zegers. **Aye:** Higgins, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Connell, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Morrow. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Naprstek, Lechtenberg.

MOTION CARRIED

NSWCP Activities:

McCarthy Reported there are new application. The LNNRD has received this year's allocation in the amount of \$59,123.03. We would like to allocate \$20,000.00 towards trees like we did last year, leaving \$39,123.03 to NSWCP.

A motion was made to approve \$20,000 of NSWCP funding to the tree program by Marcellus seconded by Higgins. **Aye:** Higgins, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Connell, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Morrow. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Klawitter, Naprstek, Lechtenberg.

MOTION CARRIED

Treasurer Report:

Approval of Treasurer Report:

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

Public Comment:

None

Excused absent Directors: Klawitter, Naprstek, Hoffman

Vice-Chairman J.J Pritchett declared the meeting adjourned at 8:37 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 November 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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