

**Minutes of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 1, 2025**

The meeting of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District was called to order by Chairman Lechtenberg at 2:00 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	J.J. Pritchett	Kevin Randa	Larry Baumeister
Randy Klawitter	Deb Hansen	Linda Hoffman	Karl Connell
Brenda Wendt	Curt Morrow	Chuck Zegers	Shane Lechtenberg

**Directors Absent:** Don Holtgrew, Brian Kaczor, Jack Engelhaupt, Dwain Marcellus.

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

**Guests Present:** Donita Pokorny, Kendra Reiser, Howard Tiefenthaler, Adam Nolan, Brett Fuchtman.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion was made to approve December 1, 2025, agenda by Klawitter and seconded by Pritchett, **Aye:** Higgins, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Klawitter, Hansen, Hoffman, Zegers, Connell, Wendt, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Kaczor, Engelhaupt, Marcellus.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Kaczor entered at 2:01 P.M.

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Butte State Agency Insurance Presentation:**

Kendra Rieser and Howard Tiefenthaler presented the 2026 Insurance proposal, discussed any changes and answered questions.

**Approval of 2026 Insurance:**

Motion was made to approve 2026 Insurance by Randa and seconded by Baumeister, **Aye:** Higgins, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Klawitter, Hansen, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Connell, Wendt, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Engelhaupt, Marcellus.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Dana F. Cole Audit Presentation:**

Donita Pokorny presented the Lower Niobrara NRD 2024-2025 Audit which includes both the LNNRD and West Knox Rural Water.

**Approval of FY 2024-2025 Audit:**

Motion was made to approve FY 2024-2025 Audit by Higgins and seconded by Klawitter, **Aye:**

Higgins, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Wendt, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Klawitter, Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Engelhaupt, Marcellus.

**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 that NPPD will be selling approximately 80 acres at the current Spencer Dam, once the dam has been decommissioned. The NRBA may consider the purchase using subordination fees. Ellwanger stated he completed the IMP review with DNR.

**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 County Government Day at the Boyd County Court House. She will be presenting on behalf of the BGMA at the Northeast Nebraska Ag Conference in Norfolk on December 16, 2025. Direct Curt Morrow and LNNRD Producer Laney Lechtenberg will also be presenting at the NNAC.

**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 has been working with Producer Connect, getting producers signed up and ready for Phase II reports. He has received applications totaling 4259 acres for the 2026 Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NRIA). He has started to receive 2025 NRIA field results. Richardson reported that the soil sample was sent to Morton's Building, they have marked the building with flags, talked with the Village of Butte regarding the current location on the watermain.

**Natural Resource Technician Report:** Fischer reported he has verified all Phase II producers, helped with Producer Connect training. Fischer completed ARC GIS program training has been working on district maps.

**NARD Association Report:** Hansen reported on November 10, 2025, NARD board, in Scottsbluff. They discussed NARD 457; they were presented with a 457 ROTH option that would be available to all employees at no cost to the NRD. The 457 ROTH will be presented to all 23 NRD's for vote prior to being adopted. Longitude 103 presented on Producer Connect and the software development of the program, they have prioritized 11 current projects. They will be launching Beta testing in 3-week increments where they will allow for feedback on changes to the functionality of the application.

**NARD Resolution: 457 Deferred Compensation Plan, Roth Amendment:**

Motion was made to approve the NARD Resolution-457 Deferred Compensation Plan, Roth Amendment by Klawitter and seconded by Hansen, **Aye:** Higgins, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Klawitter, Hansen, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Connell, Wendt, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Engelhaupt, Marcellus.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**West Knox Rural Water Report:** Ebel's report was included in the meeting packet a copy is attached to the official minutes. Ellwanger stated the Napoli PFAS litigation documents were sent out in the director's packets and a copy attached to the official minutes. Ellwanger stated that the Napoli settlement has offered a 7-year payment schedule or an immediate payout. Discussion was held on the Napoli settlement and payout.

**Closed Session to Discuss WKRW Litigation: No Action Taken**

A motion was made to approve the immediate payout for the Napoli PFAS Litigation Settlement by Wendt seconded by Pritchett. **Aye:** Higgins, Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Zegers, Kaczor, Connell, Engelhaupt, Wendt, Marcellus, Morrow. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Engelhaupt, Marcellus.

**BGMA Coordinator Report:** No coordinator currently.

**Agency Reports:**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service:** Nolan's report was handed out in the meeting packet a copy is attached to official minutes.

**Niobrara Council:** Connell reported no meeting held; the next meeting will be held on December 18, 2025.

**NE RC&D Report:** Hansen reported they met in Plainview they are looking at hazardous waste grants; Creighton would like to be considered as a waste collection site. The NE RC&D is looking to offer a Grant writing class in Plainview at the end of March.

**NC RC&D Report:** Connell reported they met on November 12, 2025. They collected 110 bins of paper between Highway 12 and 20 collections weighing roughly 14.4 tons. Discussion was had on hazardous waste collection and disposal. They talked about an electronic collection and recycling event at the 2026 Ranch Expo.

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

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

**Additional Business:**

**2026 Price List:**

McCarthy reported on the 2026 LNNRD Price List, noting changes and additions.

A motion was made to accept the 2026 Price List as presented by Klawitter seconded by Zegers. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Wendt, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Higgins, Klawitter, Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Engelhaupt, Marcellus

**Review and Consideration of Letters of Interest for Subdistrict 5 Board Vacancy:**

Ellwanger stated there were two letters of interest submitted to the LNNRD Board of Directors, the letters were included in the meeting packet and a copy attached to the official minutes. The parties interested were Brett

Fuchtman and David Wickett, both parties reside in Subdistrict 5. Fuchtman addressed the board stating his interest in being considered for Subdistrict 5. Dave Wickett could not attend the meeting.

A motion was made to accept the letter of interest for Brett Fuchtman and appoint him to fill the vacancy in subdistrict 5 by Randa, seconded by Pritchett. **Aye:** Higgins, Pritchett, Randa, Klawitter, Hansen, Hoffman, Kaczor, Connell, Wendt, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Baumeister, Zegers. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Engelhaupt, Marcellus.

### **NSWCP Activities:**

McCarthy reported they had one cancelation. No action taken

### **Treasurer Report:**

#### **Approval of Treasurer Report:**

A motion was made to approve December 1, 2025, treasurer's report by Wendt seconded by Randa. **Aye:** Pritchett, Randa, Baumeister, Hansen, Hoffman, Zegers, Kaczor, Wendt, Morrow, Lechtenberg. **Nay:** Higgins, Klawitter, Connell. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Holtgrew, Engelhaupt, Marcellus. **MOTION CARRIED**

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

#### **Groundwater Committee:**

Ellwanger reported the groundwater Committee met prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting. They will be holding a stakeholder meeting on December 17, 2025 at the Butte Community Center.

#### **Public Comment:**

None

**Excused absent Directors:** Holtgrew, Engelhaupt, Marcellus

Chairman Shane Lechtenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 3:37 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 December 1, 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