

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD MINUTES**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**December 11, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Lower Platte North NRD Board of Directors was called to order at 1:30 p.m. at the Lower Platte North NRD Office, Wahoo NE on Monday, December 11, 2023.

**1. NOTICE OF MEETING**

The agenda and supporting documents are available on the district's website – [www.lpnrd.org](http://www.lpnrd.org). A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law has been posted on the NRD's website.

The advanced notice of our December 11, 2023, board meeting was posted on the Lower Platte North NRD website and posted in the Wahoo Newspaper on November 30, 2023.

Vice Chair Sabatka informed those present that a copy of the "Open Meetings Act" is posted for public viewing.

Pledge of Allegiance

**2. ROLL CALL - INTRODUCTIONS**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:**

Bailey (arrived 1:57)	Birkel	Engel
Hilger	Johnson, Duane	Johnson, Jerry
Meduna (arrived 1:42)	McKnight	Olson (arrived 1:42 left 2:31)
Saalfeld	Saeger	Seier
Tonnies	Sabatka	

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Goldsberry	Kavan	Lawrence
Yosten	Thompson	

**STAFF AND GUESTS:**

Gottschalk	Breunig	Chapman
Heimann	Lausterer	Schure
Shupe	Mountford	Overturf
ten Bensel (Zoom)	Abbott (Zoom)	Sabatka (Zoom)
Schomer (Zoom)	Andersen (Zoom)	

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**4. COMMENTS - ADVISORS/GUESTS/DIRECTORS**

**a. Guest Comments**

**b. NRCS Report**

Bryan Shupe reviewed his monthly report.

**c. NARD Report**

Bob Hilger gave the NARD report.

**d. NRC Report - None**

Mountford updated the board on the November 28<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting.

**e. Manager Report**

Manager Gottschalk reviewed his written report.

**f. Education Program**

Kyle Overturf was present to deliver the Annual Audit Report.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2023, Board Meeting. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**6. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

**2. Meetings**

**a. Pending**

**1. NARD Legislative Conference - Update Given**

**b. Reports – None**

**3. Management Items**

**a. Director Absences – Update Given**

**b. Monthly Education Program – Update Given**

**c. Cyber Coverage – Update Given**

**d. Nebraska Class Investments – Update Given**

**e. 2024 Board Meeting Schedule – Update Given**

**f. Committee Meeting Dates January – Update Given**

**g. New Office Update – None**

**h. Wanahoo Recreation Season Summary/'24 Budget**

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to transfer \$89,200.70 of net income from the NRD General account to the NPAIT Wanahoo Recreation account. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**4. Equipment - None**

**5. Personnel**

**a. Worker's Compensation Issue – Update Given**

**b. Potential Water Department Opening - Update Given**

**6. Finance**

**a. FY 2023 Annual Audit**

Tonnie made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, to accept and place on file the 2023 Audit Report as prepared and presented by Almquist, Malzahn, Galloway and Luth. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**b. Approval of Financial Reports**

Tonnie made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve the July, August, September and October Financial Statements. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**c. Approval of Managers Expenses**

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve Manager Gottschalk's time and expense sheets as attached to the Executive Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**d. Accounts Over 90 Days - Update Given**

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, that the December LPNDR Executive Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

**2. WILD NE AND OTHER PROGRAMS – Update Given**

**3. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS**

**a. Rehabilitation of Cottonwood 21-A – NRCS – Update Given**

**b. Hay Revenue – Update Given**

**c. Wanahoo Relief Well Cleaning– Update Given**

**d. Wanahoo Cat Paw Sediment Removal – Update Given**

**e. Intersection Highway 77 & 109 Roundabout**

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to have staff negotiate a contract with JEO to figure out what steps are needed to either relocate or seal utilities through the Wanahoo Dam at the roundabout intersection. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**f. Vehicle Replacement**

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J. to authorize staff to order and purchase a pick-up from the State of Nebraska vehicle contract. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**4. ROCK AND JETTY – None**

**5. LAKE WANAHOO**

**a. Lake Wanahoo Permit Sales - Update Given**

**b. Lake Wanahoo Camping Revenue – Update Given**

**c. Clint Johannes Education Building Rentals – Update Given**

**d. Wanahoo Recreation Season Summary/'24 Budget – Update Given**

**6. INFORMATION & EDUCATION**

**a. Information**

**1. Radio and Digital Ads – Update Given**

**2. Analytics – Update Given**

**3. Advertising with 10/11**

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to move forward with the :30 second commercial spot with 10/11 News at a cost of \$1,920 for the month of February. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**b. Education – Update Given**

**1. Past Events - Update Given**

**2. Future Events – Update Given**

**8. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS**

**a. Colon – Update Given**

**b. Bruno – Update Given**

**c. Other - None**

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, that the December LPNNRD Operations Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**C. WATER COMMITTEE REPORT**

**1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**2. REGULATORY**

**a. GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT AREA**

**1. Variance Requests in the Hydrologically Connected Area (Limited Development Area)**

Bailey made the motion, seconded by Johnson, D. to approve the variance request from Ralph Papa and allow the irrigation of 12.62 dryland acres in NE¼-S9-T16-R3E Butler County by converting 11.5 irrigated acres from NE-NE-T16-R3E, Butler County to dryland for more efficient irrigation management. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**2. Well Permit Program – Update Given**

**a. Well Permit Request – Update Given**

**3. Special Quantity Subareas**

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Johnson, D. to establish a 30-inch/3-year rolling allocation

starting December 15, 2023, with yearly reviews in the Special Quantity Subarea #1 and Special Quantity Subarea #2. Motion carried.

**AYE:** Bailey, Birkel, Hilger, Johnson D., Johnson J., Meduna, McKnight, Saalfeld, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Sabatka

**NAY:** Engel

**a. John Schure Irrigation Expansion**

Meduna made the motion, seconded by Johnson J., to approve an additional 10 acres for John Schure on the SW¼-S9-T19N-R1W, Platte County with a reduction of allocation from the 30-inch 3 year rolling allocation to 28 inches. Motion carried.

**AYE:** Bailey, Hilger, Johnson D., Johnson J., Meduna, McKnight, Saalfeld, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Sabatka

**NAY:** Birkel, Engel

**4. Cost-Share Programs – Update Given**

**5. Bellwood Phase 2 Area – Update Given**

**6. Richland – Schuyler Phase 3 Area – Update Given**

**b. Groundwater Energy Levels – Update Given**

**c. Groundwater Quality Sampling- Update Given**

**d. Water Quality Management Area – Update Given**

**3. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS**

**a. Decommissioned Well Program**

**1. Well Estimates – Update Given**

**2. Plugged Wells – None**

**b. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES**

**1. Phase Area**

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to re-distribute an additional \$50,000 to converting gravity to Pivot/SDI irrigation from other best management cost-share items in the Schuyler -Richland Nitrate management area. Motion carried on consent agenda.

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve cost-share payment on three meters to Dan Stevenson for a total of \$3,000 and one meter to Ken Stevenson for \$1,000. Motion carried on consent agenda.

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to move the cost-share deadline for \$1,000 on flow meter installation from December 31, 2023, to April 1, 2024. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**2. Lower Platte River Consortium – Update Given**

**c. New Monitoring Wells Equipment – Update Given**

**4. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to start advertising for Groundwater Management Plan RFQ and have proposals due at 10:00 a.m. on December 27. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**5. SURFACE WATER PROGRAMS – Update Given**

**6. COMMITTEE MEETING DATE AND TIME – Update Given**

**7. OTHER**

**a. Comments from the Public – None**

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, that the November LPNNRD Water Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**D. PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE**

**2. JOINT WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

**a. East Fremont/Elkhorn Township Drainage – FEMA HMPG – Update Given**

**b. West Fremont – FEMA BRIC – Update Given**

**c. Rawhide Creek Watershed – NRCS WFPO – Update Given**

**3. SHELL CREEK WATERSHEDS**

**a. Shell Creek Implementation – 319 and NET – Update Given**

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve \$3,256.81 payment to Randy Brabec for onsite wastewater treatment system upgrade. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**4. WAHOO CREEK WATERSHED**

**a. Dam Site Planning Update – Update Given**

**1. Olsson Design Update and Invoice – Update Given**

**2. Real Estate – Olsson and Great Plains Appraisal – Update Given**

**3. Funding NRCS WFPO & NeDNR JEDI – Update Given**

**b. Water Quality – NWQI & 319 – Update Given**

**5. LOWER PLATTE RIVER COORIDOR ALLIANCE**

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve \$6,320 payment to Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance - \$5,320 for Leshara Steam gage site as specified in Joint Funding agreement and \$1,000 for

2024 Alliance annual dues. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**6. MORSE BLUFF LEVEE – Update Given**

**7. OTHER – Update Given**

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, that the December LPNNRD Projects Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**7. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS – NONE**

**8. BILLS TO BE APPROVED**

Saalfeld the motion, seconded by Tonnie, that all bills be approved, and warrants be drawn in payment of the same. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**9. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION**

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve the December Consent Agenda. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**10. COMMENTS FROM DIRECTORS/GUESTS**

**11. MEETING ESTABLISHMENT AND ADJOURNMENT**

The December Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024, 1:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Discussion on all agenda items that have “Update Given” can be found in corresponding Committee Minutes.

The undersigned, the duly elected and acting Secretary of the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District (the “District”), hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held on December 11, 2023, that all of the matters and subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the above minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurred earlier; and, that reasonable efforts were made to provide all news media requesting notification of the meeting and of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

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Robert Meduna Jr., Secretary