

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
March 11, 2024**

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, March 11, 2024.

1. NOTICE OF MEETING

The agenda and supporting documents are available on the district’s website – www.lpnrd.org. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law has been posted on the NRD’s website.

The advanced notice of our March 11, 2024, board meeting was posted on the Lower Platte North NRD website and posted in the Fremont Tribune on March 1, 2024.

Chair Thompson informed those present that a copy of the “Open Meetings Act” is posted for public viewing. Chair Thompson declared this meeting as a “virtual meeting” so any director on Zoom will be able to vote.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL - INTRODUCTIONS

DIRECTORS PRESENT AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:

Bailey (left 5:06)	Birkel (left 5:00)	Engel
Goldsberry	Hilger	Johnson, Duane
Johnson, Jerry	Kavan	Lawrence (Zoom)
Meduna	McKnight	Olson (left 4:27)
Sabatka	Saeger	Seier
Tonnies(Zoom)	Yosten (left 5:06)	Thompson

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Saalfeld

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Gottschalk	Breunig	Chapman
Heimann	Lausterer	Elliott (Zoom)
Andersen	Shupe	Allen, Danielle (Zoom)
Mountford	Zimmerman	Sealander

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 gave a brief update on the February 21st NRC Meeting in Kearney.

e. Manager Report

Manager Gottschalk gave his report.

f. Education Program

Mountford introduced NRCS State Office employees Nicole Zimmerman and Ali Sealander who are involved with watershed projects within the LPNNRD.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2024, 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 Washington DC Annual Meeting – Update Given

2. LPNNRD Director Retreat – Update Given

b. Reports - None

3. Management Items

a. Director Absences - None

b. Monthly Education Program – Update Given

c. FEMA Reimbursement Payment Received – Update Given

d. New Office – Update Given

e. Wahoo Creek JEDI Funding - Update Given

f. Wahoo Creek Watershed – Update Given

g. New Highway 77/92 Roundabout Progress – Update Given

h. Land Rights - Update Given

i. Election Certification – Update Given

j. New Office Building

4. Equipment - None

5. Personnel

a. Water Resources Specialist Position

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to ratify the hiring of Jacob Stover to fill the vacant Water Resources Specialist Position. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Operation and Maintenance Position

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Johnson J., to ratify the hiring of Jon Speichinger to fill the vacant Operation and Maintenance Technician position. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

c. SWP/NWQI (Source Water Protection/National Water Quality Incentive)

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to have staff move forward with a new SWP/NWQI (Source Water Protection/National Water Quality Incentive) grant funded position. Motion carried on consent agenda.

d. Wanahoo Contracted Assistance

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to retain Bret Schomer on a contract basis for assistance with Wanahoo Recreation at a monthly rate of \$300 for up to 6 months or September 2024. Motion carried on consent agenda.

6. Finance

a. Approval of Financial Reports

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to approve the January Financial Statements as attached. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Approval of Managers Expenses

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

c. Accounts Over 90 Days - Update Given

d. Investment Discussions – Update Given

New Office Building

After much discussion from Directors and Public present. Olson made the motion, seconded by Saeger, to enter into a contract with the low bidder Scheele-Kayton Construction of Beaver Crossing and explore value engineering to reduce costs. Motion Failed.

AYE: Goldsberry, Johnson, J., McKnight, Olson, Saeger, Seier, Thompson

NAY: Bailey, Birkel, Engel, Hilger, Johnson, D., Kavan, Lawrence, Meduna, Sabatka, Tonnies, Yosten

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Meduna, to accept Scheele-Kayton Construction of Beaver Crossing as lowest responsible bidder and to table the awarding of the contract. Motion carried.

AYE: Bailey, Birkel, Engel, Goldsberry, Hilger, Johnson, D., Johnson, J., Kavan, Lawrence, Meduna, McKnight, Olson, Sabatka, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Yosten,

NAY: Thompson

Further direction was given by the board for the chair to nominate a subcommittee to inquire as to whether Scheele will agree to hold its bid for an additional 30 days; for the awarding of the contract to be placed on the public agenda at the upcoming retreat; to determine from JEO what delays and costs might be associated with redesign-rebid; and to generally get an understanding on what bid specs could be changed as part of the value engineering process.

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, that the March LPNNRD 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. Intersection Highway 77 and 109 Round-About – Update Given

c. FEMA/NEMA Flood Damaged Projects – Update Given

d. Wanahoo Stilling Basin – Update Given

e. Equipment For Sale – Update Given

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

6. INFORMATION & EDUCATION

a. Information

1. Radio and Digital Ads – Update Given

2. Analytics – Update Given

3. BRAN Advertising Opportunity – Update Given

b. Education – Update Given

1. Past Events - Update Given

2. Future Events – Update Given

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

a. Colon – Update Given

b. Bruno – Update Given

c. Other - None

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

C. WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – UPDATE GIVEN

2. REGULATORY

a. GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT AREA

1. Variance Request in Hydrologically Connected Area (Limited Development Area)- Update Given

2. Well Permit Application – Update Given

3. Well Permit Extension Request

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to allow a 6-month extension for well permit LPN-023-1830 issued to the University of Nebraska. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. Doug Bartek Well Permit

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Birkel, to approve Doug Bartek’s well permit in the SE-SE-S13-T15N-R7E, Saunders County. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

5. Lake Allure Well Permit – Update Given

6. Galen Juranek Well Permit

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Meduna, to approve all three well permits for Galen Juranek for NW-NW-S32-T17N-R4E, S½-SE-S5-T16N-R3E, NW-S6-T16N-R4E, Butler County. Motion carried.

7. Cost-Share Programs

1. Flow Meter Maintenance Program – Update Given

8. LPNNRD Operator Certification – 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 Update - Update Given

4. SURFACE WATER PROGRAMS – Update Given

5. OTHER

a. Comments from the Public – None

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, that the March LPNDRD Water Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

D. PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

2. SWCP

a. Applications Approvals – None

b. SWCP Payments

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to approve 2023 LFC payment to Austin Vermeline for \$9,400. Motion carried on consent agenda.

c. SWCP Cancellations – None

d. Wahoo Creek Cost-Share Approvals – None

3. 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 – Update Given

4. SHELL CREEK WATERSHEDS

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

1. Shell Creek Onsite Wastewater Upgrade Payment

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to approve final payment to Roger Goedeken - \$7,046.92 and Terry Helmer - \$9,165.19 for onsite wastewater treatment upgrades through approved Shell Creek 319. Motion carried on consent agenda.

2. Shell Creek Onsite Wastewater Improvement Application

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to approve applications to Dana Olmer - \$11,500 and Jesse Labenz - \$5,562 for onsite wastewater improvement through Shell Creek 319 with an expiration of 06/30/25. Motion carried on consent agenda.

3. Well Decommissioning Application

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to approve SCWIG 319 funds for 25% well decommissioning cost-share for: Carl Goering (domestic well) \$199.57 and Roger Gehring (stock well) \$112.46. Motion carried on consent agenda.

5. WAHOO CREEK WATERSHED

a. Dam Site Planning Update – Update Given

1. Olsson Design Update and Invoice

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to enter into a contract with Olsson’s for up to \$66,000 for a bird and bat survey on Wahoo Creek Sites 26A/B and 27. Motion carried.

AYE: Bailey, Birkel, Engel, Goldsberry, Hilger, Johnson, D., Johnson, J., Kavan, Lawrence, Meduna, McKnight, Sabatka, Saeger, Seier, Tonnie, Thompson

NAY: Yosten

2. Real Estate – Olsson and Great Plains Appraisal

Meduna made the motion, seconded by Engel, to authorize Chair Thompson to sign a purchase agreement with Mike Kubik for an easement on Wahoo Creek Site 27 with the purchase price to be determined based upon guidance from Legal Counsel. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

3. Funding NRCS WFPO & NeDNR JEDI – Update Given

b. Water Quality – NWQI & 319 – Update Given

6. SKULL CREEK WATERSHED – Update Given

7. LOWER PLATTE RIVER COORIDOR ALLIANCE – Update Given

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, that the March 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

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Johnson J., 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

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to approve the March Consent Agenda. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

10. COMMENTS FROM DIRECTORS/GUESTS

11. MEETING ESTABLISHMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

The April Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 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 March 11, 2024, 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.

Robert Meduna Jr., Secretary