

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
April 8, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Lower Platte North NRD Board of Directors was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Lower Platte North NRD Office, Wahoo NE on Monday, April 8, 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 April 8, 2024, board meeting was posted on the Lower Platte North NRD website and posted in the Fremont Tribune on March 29, 2024.

Chair Thompson 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	Birkel	Engel
Goldsberry	Hilger	Johnson, Jerry
Kavan	Lawrence	Meduna
Sabatka	Saeger	Seier
Thompson		

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Johnson, Duane	McKnight (Zoom)	Olson
Saalfeld	Tonnies (Zoom)	Yosten

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Gottschalk	Breunig	Chapman
Heimann (Zoom)	Lausterer	Elliott
Andersen	ten Bensel	Allen, Danielle (Zoom)
Bush	French	Dennis Fujan
David Brodahl	Keith Johnson	PJ Crawford

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. COMMENTS - ADVISORS/GUESTS/DIRECTORS

a. Guest Comments

b. NRCS Report

Bryan Shupe monthly report was attached.

c. NARD Report

Bob Hilger gave the NARD report.

d. NRC Report - None

Mountford sent in his report and noted that there were 4 large project applications for the Water Sustainability Fund and 7 for small projects. There will be approximately \$11 million available for new

approval which will occur at the August Commission Meeting.

e. Manager Report

Manager Gottschalk gave his report.

f. Education Program

Drew ten Bensel, GIS Specialist presented interactive maps that are now available on the website.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2024, and March 28, 2024, Special 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. GMDA Summer Meeting – Update Given

b. Reports – None

1. NARD Washington DC Annual Meeting – Update Given

3. Management Items

a. Director Absences - None

b. Monthly Education Program – Update Given

c. NARD 414(h) Retirement

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Seier, that Lower Platte North NRD increase both the employer and employee contribution by 1% to the 414(h)-retirement plan. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

d. New Office – Update Given

e. Potential Amphitheater Located on Wanahoo Property - Update Given

4. Equipment

a. FEMA 428 Equipment Purchase

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to purchase the FEMA approved equipment as listed totaling \$242,706.98 with 90% cost-share FEMA reimbursement of \$218,436.28. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

5. Personnel -None

6. Finance

a. Approval of Financial Reports

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve the February Financial Statements as attached to the Executive Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Approval of Managers Expenses

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, 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

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, that the April 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. Lower Platte Weed Management Interlocal agreement

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve the amendment to the second amended Interlocal Agreement between the LPS, LPN and Papio NRD's for the control of Phragmites using Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones) for application. Motion carried on consent agenda.

d. Equipment for Sale – Update Given

e. Haying NRD Recreation Areas – 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

e. Potential Amphitheater Located on Wanahoo Property – Update Given

6. INFORMATION & EDUCATION

a. Information

1. Radio and Digital Ads – Update Given

2. Analytics – Update Given

3. County Fair Sponsorship

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to sponsor the Dodge County Fair and Saunders County Fair at the \$500 level. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Education – Update Given

1. Shell Creek Watershed Scholarship

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by Sabatka, to award \$1,000 scholarships to the following students: Hannah Ogan from Lakeview; Trenton Patzel and Christyan Anderson from Newman Grove.

Meduna moved to amend the motion, seconded by Birkel, to add an additional \$1,000 scholarship for Austin Wiese from Newman Grove. The amendment carried all members present voting aye.

The amended motion now reads: to award \$1,000 scholarships to the following students: Hannah Ogan from Lakeview; Trenton Patzel, Christyan Anderson, and Austin Wiese from Newman Grove. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

2. Past Events - Update Given

3. Future Events – Update Given

4. Spring Conservation Sensation – Update Given

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

a. Colon – Update Given

b. Bruno – Update Given

c. Other - None

Sabatka, made the motion, seconded by Bailey, that the April 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)

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Birkel, to allow Randy Kavan to move his approved variance LPN-V-023-0599 from the SW¼ S14-T15N-R7E to SE¼-S14-T15N-R7E, Saunders County with no difference in approved acres. Motion carried.

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

ABSTAIN: Kavan

2. Variance Requests in the Non-Hydrologically Connected Area (Normal Development Area) - None

3. Variance Requests in the Restricted Development Area – Update Given

4. Well Permit Program - Update Given

5. Inter-District Transfer of Groundwater

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to adopt the policy for expansion of acres between LENRD and LPNNRD for transfer of Groundwater as attached to the Water Committee Minutes. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

An application from Lower Elkhorn was presented for Lee Comenzind, who owns a parcel of land in the NE1/4 S22-18N-R8E, Dodge County, located in LPNNRD. The well G-064422 is located in the NW S23-18N-8E, Dodge County, located in LENRD also owned by Lee. Keith Johnson wants to swing the pivot completely around on both tracts.

Hilger made the motion seconded by Meduna, to grant the Inter-District Transfer of Groundwater request from Lee Comenzind. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

6. Well Permit for Pond

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Birkel, to approve the well permit for the Curtis Corp for other use in filling a pond. Motion carried.

AYE: Bailey, Birkel, Goldsberry, Hilger, Johnson J., Kavan, Lawrence, Meduna, Saeger, Seier

NAY: Engel, Sabatka, Thompson

7. Cost-Share Programs – Update Given

8. LPNNRD Operator Certification – Update Given

9. Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition (LPRBC) Update Given

b. Chemigation – Update Given

c. Ground Water Energy Levels – Update Given

d. Nitrate Assessment Shell Creek

Hilger made the motion seconded by Lawrence, to approve the joint nitrate assessment project with Newman Grove and Platte Center for \$36,500 with Board Chair signature of the agreement with LRE. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

3. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

a. Decommissioned Well Program

1. Well Estimates – Update Given

2. Plugged Wells

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve 4 well decommissioning payments to Mike Heldt for \$1,710; University of Nebraska for \$1414.50; with assistance from Shell Creek cost share Carol Goering for \$1,014.55 and Roger and Nancy Gehring for \$989.52. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

1. Phase Area Update - Update Given

Meduna made the motion, seconded by Engel, to approve paying invoices for \$26,000 in flow meter cost share for the following individuals: Betty Wachal - \$5,000; Joan Wachal - \$4,000; Jeff Wachal - \$2,000; Jack Seckman - \$1,000; Allen Svatora - \$2,000; Dan Bock - \$1,000; Maxine Jedlicka - \$1,000; Colleen Wachal - \$2,000; Jay Jedlicka - \$2,000; Todd Bailey - \$2,000; Jeremy Vanicek - \$1,000; Dennis Waak - \$1,000; and Connie Wachal - \$2,000. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

c. Variable Rate Nitrogen Demonstration Sites – Update Given

d. Lower Platte River Consortium – Update Given

e. Phoenix Database Support Plan

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve the invoice for the Silver Support Plan to the Phoenix Web Group for \$3,600 for the LPNNRD Database. Motion carried on consent agenda.

f. Monitoring Well Equipment – Update Given

4. SURFACE WATER PROGRAMS – Update Given

a. USGS Stream Flow Gauging Sites – Update Given

5. OTHER

a. Comments from the Public – None

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, that the April LPNNRD 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

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve the four listed tree planting cost-share applications totaling \$5,919.67. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. SWCP Payments

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve \$5,875 Lands for Conservation payment to Carol and Dorothy Peterson Trust for work completed. 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

d. North Bend Drainage District - Update Given

e. Cotterell Diking and Drainage District - Update

4. SHELL CREEK WATERSHEDS

a. Shell Creek Implementation – 319 and NET

Bailey made the motion, seconded by Johnson J., to authorize Chairman Thomspson to sign an Amendment to Interlocal Agreement with Colfax County for the Shell Creek Benching Project. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve Newman Grove 2024 SCWIG testing supplies at an estimated cost of \$555.45. Motion carried on consent agenda.

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to purchase 20 - 24"x36" realtor style signs from Cornhusker State Industries at \$109.10 per sign by utilizing grant funds. Motion carried on consent agenda.

5. 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

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Bailey, that we go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Upper Wahoo Creek Watershed land rights and authorize the following to stay: Danielle Allen (Zoom), Legal Counsel Lausterer, Gottschalk, Chapman, Elliott and Breunig. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Meduna, that we come out of Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Bailey made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to authorize Chair Thompson to sign a purchase agreement with Mark and Linda Kasper, John Kasper for easements on Wahoo Creek Site 26a and 26b with the purchase price to be determined upon guidance from Legal Counsel.

It was further recommended to authorize Chair Thompson to sign a purchase agreement with Robert Kubik for an easement on Wahoo Creek Site 26a.

It was further recommended to authorize Chair Thompson to sign a purchase agreement with Jesse Pokorny, Theodore and Cathleen Pokorny for an easement on Wahoo Creek site 27 with purchase

price determined upon guidance from Legal Counsel and including condition of three strand fence replacement as highlighted on easement exhibit map.

It was further recommended to authorize Chair Thompsom to sign a purchase agreement with Bryan Bartek for easement on Wahoo Creek Site 26b with purchase price determined upon guidance from Legal Counsel and including condition to meet septic system and outbuilding impacts as highlighted on easement exhibits.

Motions carried.

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

ABSTAIN: Hilger

3. Funding NRCS WFPO & NeDNR JEDI – Update Given

b. Water Quality – NWQI & 319 – Update Given

6. LESHARA DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT – Update Given

7. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE – Update Given

8. OTHER

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to renew the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Membership at \$350. Motion carried on consent agenda.

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, that the April LPNNRD Projects Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

7. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS – NONE

7a. Municipal Well Permit

Bailey made the motion, seconded by Engel, to approve the Municipal well permit for the Schuyler Department of Utilities located in the NE¼-SE¼-10-17-3 Colfax County. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

7b. Employee Leave Discussion – Update Given

8. BILLS TO BE APPROVED

Saeger 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

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve the April Consent Agenda. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

10. COMMENTS FROM DIRECTORS/GUESTS

11. MEETING ESTABLISHMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

The May Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 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 April 8, 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