

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD MINUTES**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**August 12, 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, August 12, 2024.

**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 August 12, 2024, board meeting was posted on the Lower Platte North NRD website and posted in the Wahoo Newspaper on August 2, 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	Goldsberry
Hilger	Johnson, Jerry	Lawrence
Meduna	McKnight	Olson
Saalfeld	Sabatka	Saeger
Seier	Tonnies	Yosten
Thompson		

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Engel (Zoom)	Johnson, Duane (Zoom)
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**STAFF AND GUESTS:**

Gottschalk	Breunig	Chapman
Heimann	Elliott (Zoom)	Lausterer (Zoom)
Sabatka (Zoom)	Travis Hazard	Matt Pillard
Bryan Shupe	Andrew Phillips (Zoom)	Tim Knott (Zoom)
Mark Brohman (Zoom)	Beethe	

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**a. Guest Comments**

**b. NRCS Report**

Bryan Shupe reviewed the NRCS monthly report.

**c. NARD Report**

Hilger gave the NARD report.

**d. NRC Report - None**

**e. Manager Report**

Manager Gottschalk gave his report.

**f. Education Program**

Travis Hazard with Hazard Engineering presented the two proposed alternatives for Cottonwood 21A project.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve the minutes from the July 8, 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 Fall Conference – Update Given**

**b. Reports – None**

**3. Management Items**

**a. Director Absences**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve Directors Yosten (April – Dr. Appointment) and Saeger (June – zoom) absences. Motion carried on consent agenda.

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

**c. New Office Update – Update Given**

**d. July 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting with the Governor – Update Given**

**4. Equipment – None**

**5. Personnel**

**a. Brueggemann Leave– Update Given**

**b. Assistant Water Manager Position – Update Given**

**6. Finance**

**a. Approval of Financial Reports**

Attached to the Executive Minutes is the Draft June Financial Report.

**b. Approval of Managers Expenses**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, 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. Review of FY2025 Budget**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Johnson, Jerry, to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 budget with total expenditures of \$14,085,234. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, that the August 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. FEMA/NEMA Flood Damage - Update Given**

**c. Clear Creek Levee & Tie Back Levee Elevations – Update Given**

**d. Rawhide Ditch 8 Request – Update Given**

**e. Bellwood Ditch 4 Flood Damage – Update Given**

**f. Wanahoo Basin Investigation for Damage**

Meduna made the motion, seconded by Olson, to hire Houston Engineering to inspect the Wanahoo Dam basin for damage at the quoted price of \$6,988. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**g. No-Till Grass Drill**

Tonnie made the motion, seconded by Seier, to authorize staff to write a NET grant to purchase a new no-till grass drill in 2025 at an estimated cost of \$50,000. 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. Lake Wanahoo Camping – Update Given**

**d. Lake Wanahoo Camera Purchase**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to purchase PTZ camera from diode Technologies not to exceed \$5,145 with the 5-year license. Motion carried on consent agenda.

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

**6. INFORMATION & EDUCATION**

**a. Information**

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

**2. Analytics – Update Given**

**3. County Fair Recap – Update Given**

**b. Education – None**

**7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS**

**a. Rural Water Operations**

Olson made the motion, seconded by Johson, J., to approve \$12,570 software and meter reading hardware upgrade as presented by Municipal Supply. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**b. Colon – Update Given**

**c. Bruno – Update Given**

**8. Budget Review – Update Given**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, that the August LPNRRD Operations Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**C. WATER COMMITTEE REPORT**

**1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE**

**2. REGULATORY**

**a. GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT AREA**

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

**2. Variance Request in the Non-Hydrologically Connected Area (Normal Development Area) Update Given**

**3. Variance Request in the Restricted Development Areas – Update Given**

**4. Well Permit Program - Update Given**

**a. Well Permits Application**

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve the well permit for Judy Zimmerman for the NE-NE-S36-16N-1E, Butler County for irrigation management efficiency by no increase in irrigated acres. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**5. Groundwater Management Plan**

Hilger made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the contract with LRE for the GWMP Scope Update for \$35,000. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

- 6. Nitrate Assessment Project – Update Given**
- 7. Cost-Share Programs**
  - a. Irrigation Well Sample Kits – Update Given**
  - 8. Bellwood Phase 2 Area – Update Given**
  - 9. Richland – Schuyler Phase 3 Areas – Update Given**
  - 10. Voluntary IMP - Update Given**
  - b. Chemigation – Update Given**
  - c. Ground Water Sampling – Update Given**
  - d. Domestic Well Water Treatment Policy – 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**

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, to approve payment for the flow meter cost share invoices for Oehlrich Farms - \$3,000; Keith Novak - \$1,000; A&M Farms LLC - \$1,000; Melivn Bailey - \$6,000; RDC Farms - \$13,000; Larry Kohler - \$2,000; Gary Wachel - \$1,000; John Healy - \$1,000 for a total of \$28,000. Motion carried.

**AYE:** Birkel, Goldsberry, Hilger, Johnson, J., Lawrence, Meduna, McKnight, Olson, Saalfeld, Sabatka, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Yosten, Thompson

**ABSTAIN:** Bailey
    - 2. Nitrogen Variable Rate Demonstration Project - Update Given**
    - 3. GMDA - Update Given**
    - 4. Lower Platte River Consortium – Update Given**
  - c. Budget - Update Given**
- 4. SURFACE WATER PROGRAMS – Update Given**
  - a. State Lakes – Update Given**
  - b. Stream Gages and Groundwater Gage - Update Given**

**5. OTHER**

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

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, that the August July 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. Application Approvals**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve four listed SWCP applications for FY25 totaling \$47,735.50. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**b. SWCP Payments - None**

**c. SWCP Cancellations – None**

**d. Wahoo Creek 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 NRCSA WFPO – Update Given**

**d. North Bend Drainage District - Update Given**

**e. Cotterell Diking and Drainage District – Update Given**

**f. Camera and Stage Agreement – Update Given**

**4. SHELL CREEK WATERSHEDS**

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

Bailey made the motion, seconded by Seier, to approve a \$100 residential irrigation reduction rebate program within the Shell Creek Watershed. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**1. Septic System Upgrade Payment Approval**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence to approve septic system upgrade payment to Jesse Labenz \$11,108.01 and Mike Dvorak for \$8,131.05. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**2. Septic System Upgrade Application**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve septic system upgrade cost-share application to Dawn Schulz for \$5,500. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**5. WAHOO CREEK WATERSHED**

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

**1. Olsson Design - Update Given**

Saeger made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to advertise for construction bid package for 26A, 26B and 27 pending review by Legal Counsel and Chair Thompson. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**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**

**6. SKULL CREEK WATERSHED**

**a. Landowner Assistance**

Bailey made the motion, seconded by Tonnies, to assist Steve Beyers up to \$4,500 for Skull Creek bank restoration after he obtains COE permitting clearance. Motion carried.

**AYE:** Bailey, Goldsberry, Hilger, Johnson, J., Meduna, McKnight, Olson, Saalfeld, Sabatka, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Yosten, Thompson

**NAY:** Birkel, Lawrence

**6. LOWER PLATTE RIVER CORRIDOR ALLAINCE – Update Given**

**7. CENTRAL CUTOFF DITCH**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Tonnies, that the NRD commit \$60,000 to assist North Bend Drainage District with the Central Cut-Off Ditch repair from damages received during the 2019 flood. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**8. LOWER PLATTE RIVER COORIDOR ALLIANCE – Update Given**

**9. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN - Update Given**

**10. OTHER**

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Saeger, that the NRD assist the Loess Hills RC&D up to \$5,000 for their household hazardous waste collection. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, that the August LPNNRD Projects Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

**7. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS**

**7a. Wachiska Audubon Society**

Sabatka, made the motion, seconded by Seier, that the NRD support the Wachiska Audubon Society NET grant and pledge \$1,000 for three years beginning July 1, 2025. Motion carried.

**AYE:** Bailey, Birkel, Goldsberry, Hilger, Johnson, J., Lawrence, Meduna, McKnight, Olson, Saalfeld, Sabatka, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Thompson

**NAY:** Yosten

**7b. Hwy. 77/109 Round About**

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to authorize Chair Thompson to sign the interlocal agreement between the City of Wahoo, Windstream and NRD for Hwy 77/109 Intersection Project. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**8. BILLS TO BE APPROVED**

Sabatka 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**

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve the amended August Consent Agenda by removing item 6.B.3.f. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

**10. COMMENTS FROM DIRECTORS/GUESTS**

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to authorize Chair Thompson to sign the Petition for Annexation with Patricia A. Hoffman and City of Wahoo. Motion carried on all members present voting aye.

**11. MEETING ESTABLISHMENT AND ADJOURNMENT**

The September Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 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 August 12, 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.

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Robert Meduna Jr., Secretary