

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
September 9, 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, September 9, 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 September 9, 2024, board meeting was posted on the Lower Platte North NRD website and posted in the Wahoo Newspaper on August 30, 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 (arrived 6:15)
Hilger	Johnson, Duane	Johnson, Jerry
Lawrence	Meduna (arrived 6:02)	McKnight
Olson	Saalfeld (left 8:26)	Sabatka
Saeger	Seier	Tonnies(arrived 6:05)
Yosten	Thompson	

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Goldsberry

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Gottschalk	Breunig	Chapman
Andersen	Elliott	Beethe
Lausterer (left early)	Freeman/Caddy	Bryan Shupe
Danielle Allen (Zoom)		

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 - None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve the minutes from the August 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 Fall Conference – Update Given

b. Reports – None

3. Management Items

a. Director Absence Policy – Update Given

b. Director Absences

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Johnson, Jerry, to approve the following Directors’ Absences: May – Bailey and Yosten; June – Bailey, Hilger, D. Johnson, Yosten and Meduna. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

c. Monthly Education Program – None

d. New Office Update – Update Given

e. Sub-District #8 Vacancy

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to advertise the Director vacancy in Sub-District #8. Motion carried on consent agenda.

f. Long Range Plan – Update Given

g. FEMA Disaster Declaration – Update Given

h. Wahoo Creek – Update Given

i. November Board Meeting – Update Given

j. NARD Resolutions – Update Given

4. Equipment – None

5. Personnel

a. Brueggemann Leave Payout

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Seier, to pay William Brueggemann \$6,859.71 of unused leave time less deductions of retirement, taxes and any supplemental insurance. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

6. Finance

a. Approval of Financial Reports

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

b. Approval of Managers Expenses

Yosten 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.

c. Accounts Over 90 Days - Update Given

d. Budget and Set Property Tax Rate

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve the State Budget that includes total expenditures of \$14,085,234 with a tax levy rate of .025767 for a tax asking of \$3,480,715. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, that the September 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 & HDR

Olson made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to choose Alternative 3 (east auxiliary spillway) for the rehabilitation of Cottonwood 21-A for its 500-year flood protection and for a safer county road design. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

b. FEMA/NEMA Flood Damage - Update Given

c. Wanahoo Basin Investigation for Damage – Update Given

d. Rawhide Ditch 8 Request – Update Given

e. No-Till Grass Drill Schuyler Coop – Update Given

f. Equipment Sold on On-line Auction – Update Given

g. Wanahoo Dam Inspection – Update Given

h. Carol Sousek Water Line Request – 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. Lake Wanahoo Camping

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to move forward with getting electrical bids to upgrade up to 20 camp sites with 50 Amp pedestals. Motion carried on consent agenda.

d. Clint Johannes Education Building Rentals – Update Given

6. INFORMATION & EDUCATION

a. Information

1. Radio and Digital Ads – Update Given

2. Analytics – Update Given

b. Education – None

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

a. Rural Water Operations

b. Colon – Update Given

c. Bruno – Update Given

8. Long Range Plan

Johnson, Jerry, made the motion, seconded by Seier, to approve the Long-Range Plan as attached to the Operations Committee Minutes. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, that the September LPNNRD 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)

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve a conditional variance for 15 acres to Reichmuth Ag in the Center of N½-S18-T18N-R1E, Platte County to improve irrigation efficiency and require a NRCS conservation plan to prevent erosion, and require water flow meter with annual water use reports. Motion carried.

AYE: Bailey, Engel, Hilger, Johnson, D., Johnson, J., Lawrence, Meduna, McKnight, Olson, Saalfeld, Sabatka, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Yosten, Thompson

NAY: Birkel

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Meduna, to approve a conditional variance for 64 acres to Doug Bartek in the E½-SW¼-S23-T16N-R8E, Saunders County with the requirement of a water flow meter and annual water use report. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

3. Variance Request in the Restricted Development Areas

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Meduna, to approve the conditional variance for 64 acres to Vavrina and Sons Inc. in the SW¼-S33-T16N-R4E, Butler County from irrigation well G-064907 S32-T16N-R4E with no increase of the 27-inch 3 year rolling allocation for distribution over the increased acres. If domestic wells interference occurs, then the irrigation well will need to be controlled or shutdown. Motion carried.

AYE: Bailey, Birkel, Engel, Hilger, Johnson, D., Johnson, J., Lawrence, Meduna, McKnight, Olson, Saalfeld, Sabatka, Seier, Tonnie, Yosten,

NAY: Saeger, Thompson

4. Voluntary Integrated Water Management Plan – LPNRRD

5. Well Permit Program - Update Given

6. Expansion of Irrigation Acres Variance – Update Given

7. De-Certification of Irrigated Acres – Update Given

8. Cost-Share Programs

a. Irrigation Well Sample Kits – Update Given

9. Bellwood Phase 2 Area – Update Given

10. Richland – Schuyler Phase 3 Areas – Update Given

11. Nitrate Assessment Project - Update Given

b. Groundwater Management Plan – Update Given

c. Chemigation – Update Given

d. Ground Water Energy Levels – Update Given

e. Ground Water Sampling – Update Given

3. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

a. Decommissioned Well Program

1. Well Estimates – Update Given

2. Plugged Wells

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve paying Dworak Agribusiness LLC for decommissioning of an irrigation well in the amount of \$753.77. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

1. Phase Area Update

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve payment for the flow meter cost share invoices for Erin Petersen \$1,000 and MJM Farms - \$2,000. Motion carried on consent agenda.

2. Lower Platte River Consortium – Update Given

4. METOS

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, to approve and authorize the Manger Gottschlak's signature on an agreement with METOS as described in the Water Committee Minutes after Legal Counsel review. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

5. Long Range Plan – Update Given

6. SURFACE WATER PROGRAMS – Update Given

a. State Lakes – Update Given

b. Stream Gages and Groundwater Gage

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Birkel, to approve a 5-year contract with USGS for 2 stream gage sites totaling \$89,675 with expiration date of September 30, 2029, and authorize Board Chairman to sign contract. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

5. OTHER

a. Comments from the Public – None

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, that the September 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

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve SWCP applications for Donald Krejci for \$15,000 and JC Acres Partnership for \$12,433.35. 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. North Bend Levee

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to pay North Bend \$13,000 (previously agreed amount) to support the North Bend levee easement project. Motion carried on consent agenda.

f. USGS Joint Funding Agreement – Platte River Camera and Stage Agreement

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to authorize the General Manager to sign a Joint Funding Agreement with USGS for the operation of five cameras and two state-only stream gages for five years after all partners sign interlocal agreement. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

g. Interlocal Agreement – Platte River Cameras and Stage Only Stream Gages

Engel made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to authorize Board Chairman to sign interlocal agreement for operation and maintenance of Platte River Cameras and stage-only stream gages for a period of five years. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

4. SHELL CREEK WATERSHEDS

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

1. Septic System Upgrade Payment Approval

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight to approve septic system upgrade payment to Dawn Schulz \$4,627.20. Motion carried on consent agenda.

5. WAHOO CREEK WATERSHED

a. Dam Site Planning Update – Update Given

1. Olsson Design - Update Given

2. Real Estate – Olsson and Great Plains Appraisal

Johnson, D., made the motion, seconded by Engel, to authorize Projects Committee to approve staff's negotiated agreement for construction, operation and maintenance ingress/egress easements with impacted landowners. Motion carried.

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

ABSTAIN: Thompson

3. Funding NRCS WFPO & NeDNR JEDI – Update Given

b. Water Quality – NWQI & 319 – Update Given

6. LOWER PLATTE RIVER CORRIDOR ALLAINCE – Update Given

7. LINDSAY POND RESTORATION

Yosten made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to pay Village of Lindsay \$25,000 (half of \$50,000 committed) for Pond rehab project. Motion carried on consent agenda.

8. EROSION AND SEDIMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS – Update Given

9. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN - Update Given

10. DRAINAGE ISSUE – UPDATE GIVEN

11. LONG RANGE PLAN – Update Given

12. NEBRASKA BUFFER STRIP PROGRAM – Update Given

13. OTHER

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

7. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

7a. Decommissioned Well Payment

Meduna made the motion, seconded by Engel, to pay BEG LLC \$1,346.25 to decommission well number G-068383. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

7b. Shell Creek 319 Alternate Water Source Payment

Bailey made the motion, seconded by Johnson, D., to approve \$14,353.55 payment to Roger Gehring for a completed alternate water/fence/pipeline project within the Shell Creek Environmental Enhancement Plan. Motion carried all members voting aye.

7c. NRD Financial Agreement with DOT

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to authorize Manager Gottschalk to sign the interlocal agreement with DOT outlining the engineering and construction costs related to drainage mitigation around the Windstream Utilities near the roundabout. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

7d. FNIC Commercial Insurance Renewal Package

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by Olson, to approve the Commercial Insurance package from FNIC in the amount of \$144,962.15 with a renewal date of October 1, 2024. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

8. BILLS TO BE APPROVED

Yosten made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, 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

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

10. COMMENTS FROM DIRECTORS/GUESTS

11. MEETING ESTABLISHMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

The October Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, October 14, 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 September 9, 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