

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Lower Platte North NRD Board of Directors was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Schuyler High School, Schuyler NE on Monday, November 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 November 11, 2024, board meeting was posted on the Lower Platte North NRD website and posted in the Wahoo Newspaper on November 1, 2024.

Acting 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	Birkel	Engel
Goldsberry	Hilger	Johnson, Duane
Johnson, Jerry	Lawrence	McKnight
Olson	Saalfeld	Saeger
Seier	Tonnies	Yosten
Sabatka		

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Meduna

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Gottschalk	Breunig	Chapman
Andersen	Abbott	Elliott (Zoom)
Beethe	Heimann (Zoom)	Lausterer (Zoom)
Bryan Shupe (Zoom)	Rezac (Zoom)	Sabatka, L. (Zoom)
Mountford	Bos	Sabatka, McKenna

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

Mountford gave the NRC report.

e. Manager Report

Manager Gottschalk gave his report.

f. Education Program

Prior to the meeting the Shell Creek Group updated the Board on Shell Creek Sampling project.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve the minutes from the October 14, 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. Legislative Conference – Update Given

b. Reports – None

3. Management Items

a. Director Absences - None

b. Declaration of Director Vacancy

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to declare a vacancy in Subdistrict 1, notify the Secretary of State and follow necessary steps to fill this position. Motion carried on consent agenda.

c. Sale of Current NRD Office Building

Staff is requesting Board input on how to proceed with planning for the sale of our current office building. Saeger made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, to single source for an appraisal from Great Plains Appraisal Inc. on the current NRD office building. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

d. Wahoo Creek Sites 26A, 26B and 27 Construction Contract

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve the agreement between Lower Platte North NRD and Thompson Construction to construct Wahoo Creek Sites 26A, 26B and 27 and authorize Acting Chair Sabatka to sign, and send a notice to proceed to Thompson Construction. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

e. Monthly Education Program – Taken Earlier

f. New Office Update

Olson made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve a bid from Scheele-Kayton on a steel storage building at the new office location not to exceed \$200,000. Motion carried on consent agenda.

g. November Board Meeting Schedule – Update

4. Equipment – None

5. Personnel

a. Assistant Water Manager Position – Update Given

b. Program Coordinator Position – Update Given

c. Oakland Leave Payout

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, to pay Russell Oakland \$22,555.67 of unused leave time less deduction of retirement, taxes and any supplemental insurance. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

d. Staff Responsibility Changes

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve Kaitlyn Barga as Water Specialist with an annual salary increase of \$1,000/year and Jon Speichinger as Recreation Department Head with an annual salary increase of \$8,635/year effective November 2, 2024. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

6. Finance

a. Approval of Financial Reports

Yosten made the motion, seconded by Seier, to approve the final July, August and September Financial Statements as attached to the Executive Minutes. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

b. Approval of Managers' Expenses

Johnson, J. 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

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, that the November 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 – Update Given

b. Wanahoo Basin Investigation for Damage

Johnson J. made the motion, seconded by Engel, to determine that based upon the unique and emergency nature of the spring rain damage to the public structure it is in the public's best interest to sole source the professional services on this project. Motion carried.

AYE: Engel, Goldsberry, Hilger, Johnson J., Lawrence, McKnight, Olson, Saalfeld, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Yosten

NAY: Bailey, Birkel, Johnson D., Sabatka

Olson made the motion, seconded by Engel, to approve hiring Houston Engineering via sole/specialty/emergency source because of their past experience designing & repairing the Wanahoo stilling basin which needs repair in a timely basis and to accept their three-phase proposal that is attached. Motion carried.

AYE: Engel, Goldsberry, Hilger, Johnson J., McKnight, Olson, Saalfeld, Saeger, Seier, Tonnie,

NAY: Bailey, Birkel, Johnson D., Lawrence, Yosten, Sabatka

c. Wanahoo Breakwater Repairs

Johnson J. made the motion, seconded by Saeger, to declare exigent and emergency conditions exist due to damage from the spring rains that have caused public safety concerns necessitating quick action to address the breakwater damage to the public structure in question. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Olson made the motion, seconded by Saeger, to approve hiring M.E. Collins not to exceed \$120,000 to repair the Wanahoo breakwater structure back to the original design because M.E. Collins is local, available in the short timeframe, and has past experience with the structure and components associated with the structure. It is understood that once repairs are complete, the District will competitively bid out damage repairs to the Wanahoo trails system and fishing jetties which are inconvenient but do not pose the same public safety concerns. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

d. Carl Sousek Water Line Request

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to allow Carl Sousek and his contractor, AWS to install a new water line for his farmstead by passing over the Cottonwood 6-B dam outlet pipe per engineering specifications. Motion carried on consent agenda.

e. Equipment Purchase

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to purchase an 84" snowblade for our ToolCat from Bobcat for \$3,306.94. Motion carried on consent agenda.

f. Bellwood Ditch 4 Flood Damage

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to approve proceeding in repairing Bellwood Ditch 4 and Todd Yindrick's property and tile due to the May flood and to accept the low bid of \$14,075 from Krivanek Construction. 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 Amphitheater Project – Update Given

e. Set Your Sites Video – Update Given

6. INFORMATION & EDUCATION

a. Information

1. Radio and Digital Ads – Update Given

2. Analytics – Update Given

3. Nebraska Public Media

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve Option #1 proposal with Nebraska Public Media airing our Operation and Maintenance video for 11 weeks during December 15, 2024 – March 2, 2025, at a cost of \$1,815. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Education

1. Past Events – Update Given

2. Upcoming Events – Update Given

3. New Office Buddies – Update Given

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

a. Rural Water Operations

b. Colon – Update Given

c. Bruno – Update Given

8. OTHER

a. Wanahoo Memorial Park Benches

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to purchase three park benches for Lake Wanahoo at a cost of \$3,847.00 for future memorial donations. Motion carried on consent agenda.

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, that the November 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)

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Johnson D., to approve two variances for Dan Jarecki - S14-19-3W Platte County and S2-19-2W Platte County and one for John and Rose Wiese S35-21-4 Madison County. Motion carried.

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

ABSTAIN: McKnight

2. Well Permit Program - Update Given

3. Supplemental Well Permit

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve the supplemental well permit for Phil Buhman for NW-NE-S4-18N-1W Platte County. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

4. Request for Well Permit

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, to approve a new well permit for Paul Kettleon for the NW-NW-S7-21-5W Boone County to improve efficiency of the irrigation systems. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

5. Special Quantity Subareas – Update Given

6. Cost-Share Programs

a. Irrigation Well Sample Kits – Update Given

7. Bellwood Phase 2 Area – Update Given

8. Richland – Schuyler Phase 3 Areas – Update Given

9. LPNNRD Operator Certification – Update Given

10. Groundwater Management Plan – Update Given

11. Nitrate Assessment – Update Given

b. Phase Area Update

c. Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA) – Update Given

d. Groundwater Energy Levels – 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. Lower Platte River Consortium

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, that Lower Platte North NRD continue to be part of the Consortium and have Board Chairman sign the 5-year interlocal agreement. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. SURFACE WATER PROGRAMS – Update Given

5. OTHER

a. Comments from the Public – None

Olson made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, 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. SWCP

a. Application Approvals

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve SWCP application to James Wemhoff – Windbreak \$1,350. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. SWCP Payments – 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

4. SHELL CREEK WATERSHEDS

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

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to approve Don Marking’s grass waterway application for \$7,398 and Sharon Barjenbruch grade stabilization and seeding project for \$18,564. Motion carried on consent agenda.

5. WAHOO CREEK WATERSHED

a. Dam Site Planning Update Given

1. Olsson Design - Update Given

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

3. Construction Contract – Taken in Executive Committee

4. Funding – NRCS – WFPO & NeDNR JEDI

b. Water Quality – NWQI & 319 – Update Given

5. LOWER PLATTE RIVER COOIDOR ALLIANCE – Update Given

7. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN - Update Given

8. OTHER – None

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, that the November 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

Yosten made 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 Lawrence, to approve the November 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, December 9, 2024, 1:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 7:32p.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 November 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