

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
January 13, 2025**

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, January 13, 2025.

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 January 13, 2025, board meeting was posted on the Lower Platte North NRD website and posted in the Wahoo Newspaper on January 3, 2025.

Acting Chair Sabatka informed those present that a copy of the "Open Meetings Act" is posted for public viewing.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prior to the board meeting all newly elected directors took their oath of office.

2. ROLL CALL - INTRODUCTIONS

DIRECTORS PRESENT AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:

Bailey	Birkel	Goldsberry
Harders	Hilger	Johnson, Jerry
Lawrence	Meduna (arrived 1:44)	Olson
McKnight	Saalfeld (left 4:00)	Saeger
Seier	Tonnies	Sabatka

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Engel	Johnson, Duane
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STAFF AND GUESTS:

Gottschalk	Breunig	Chapman
Andersen	Abbott (Zoom)	Elliott
Beethe	Heimann	Lausterer
Bryan Shupe	Sabatka, L. (Zoom)	Cody Gerdes
Moriha Brown	Dr. Moushumi Hazra	Danielle Allen
Justin Gantz	Maslonka	

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a. Report from Nominating Sub-Committee

Director Birkel reported that the Nominating Sub-Committee met and would bring forth one candidate for each of the elected positions.

Acting Chair Sabatka opened the floor for nominations.

Birkel on behalf of the nominating committee nominated Sabatka for Chair, Meduna for Vice-Chair, Saeger for Secretary and Seier for Treasurer.

Acting Chair Sabatka asked if there were any nominations from the floor. With no further nominations Johnson, Jerry made the motion, seconded by Yosten, that nominations cease, and a unanimous ballot be cast for Sabatka, Meduna, Saeger and Seier. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Birkel on behalf of the nominating committee nominated Hilger for NARD Delegate and Saalfeld for NARD Alternate.

5. 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

e. Manager Report

Manager Gottschalk gave his report.

f. Education Program

Moriah Brown and Dr. Moushumi Hazra updated to Board on sampling they have done on Shell Creek.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2024, Board Meeting. Motion carried on consent agenda.

7. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

2. Meetings

a. Pending

1. NARD Legislative Conference – Update Given

2. NARD Washington DC Meeting

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to send two staff and two directors to the NARD Washinton DC meeting, March 29-April 2, 2025. Motion carried on consent agenda.

3. Legislative Reception at NARD Conference – Update Given

b. Reports – None

3. Management Items

a. Director Absences

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to approve Director Meduna’s excuse of absence from the November Board Meeting. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Monthly Education Program – Taken Earlier

c. New Office Update – Update Given

d. Office Appraisal Update – Update Given

e. Nominating Sub-Committee – Item taken earlier

f. Director Vacancy Sub-District 1

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to accept Kelly Thompson’s resignation, declare a vacancy, and proceed with a search committee to find a replacement in Sub-District 1 for two years. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. Equipment – None

5. Personnel

a. Water Quality Program Coordinator Position

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to ratify the hiring of Jacob Maslonka to fill the Water Quality Program Coordinator position. Motion carried on consent agenda.

6. Finance

a. Approval of Financial Reports

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to approve the final November Financial Statements as attached to the Executive Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Approval of Managers’ Expenses

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., 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. Union Bank Line of Credit

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, to sign a 3-year \$400,000 line of credit renewal with Union Bank and Trust as attached to the Executive Committee Minutes. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, that the December LPNDRD 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 Saalfeld, to waive our public bid process and have Houston Engineering and NRD staff contact a number of general contractors and well drilling firms in order to obtain at least three bids to de-water the Wanahoo basin. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

c. Wanahoo Relief Well Cleaning- Update Given

d. Tree Debris Grinding on Wanahoo Area

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Seier, to approve the bid of \$16,600 from Barcel Enterprises to grind the tree piles located on the Wanahoo property from the May 2024 flood. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

e. Hay Harvest on NRD Recreation Areas – Update Given

f. Bellwood Ditch 4 Damage Repair – Update Given

g. Czechland Recreation Revenue – Update Given

h. Wanahoo Dirt/Sand Sales from M.E. Collins – Update Given

i. New Fuel Barrel

Saeger made the motion, seconded by Birkel, to purchase a 500-gallon double-walled fuel barrel with an electric pump from OOP Inc. not to exceed \$6,348.80. Motion carried all member 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. 2024 Wanahoo Recreation Season Review

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, to transfer \$44,266.98 of net income from the NRD General Account to the NPAIT Lake Wanahoo Recreation account. Motion carried.

AYE: Bailey, Goldsberry, Harders, Hilger, Johnson, J., Lawrence, Meduna, McKnight, Olson, Saalfeld, Saeger, Seier, Tonnie, Yosten, Sabatka

NAY: Birkel

6. INFORMATION & EDUCATION

a. Information

1. Radio and Digital Ads – Update Given

2. Analytics – Update Given

3. Viaduct with Annual Report – Update Given

4. Shell Creek Scholarship – Update Given

b. Education

1. Past Events – Update Given

2. Upcoming Events – Update Given

3. LPNNRD Natural Resources Grant – Update Given

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

a. Colon – Update Given

b. Bruno – Update Given

c. Other

1. DNR Property Buy-out Program

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to decline the option to buy out a piece of property located at 2696 Big Island Road, Fremont, NE. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., that the January 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 the Hydrologically Connected Area (Limited Development Area)

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

Meduna made the motion, seconded by Harders, to allow Doug Bartek Expansion of Acres Variance LPN-024-0635 in the NE SW 23-16-8E, Saunders County to switch from an expansion of acres to new well variance. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

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

4. Well Permit Program

a. Well Permits Approved – Update Given

5. Cost-Share Programs

a. Flow Meter Maintenance Program – Update Given

6. LPNNRD Operator Certification – Update Given

b. Phase Area Update

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve payment to CMC Land Holdings LLC, 1

flow meter for \$1,000; Big Dog's Properties LLC , 1 flow meter for \$1,000; MJM Farms LLC, 2 flow meters for \$2,000; Edwin Slavik, 2 flow meters for \$2,000; Calvin and Karen Nelson Trust, 1 flow meter for \$1,000; Leander Rerucha, 1 flow meter for \$1,000; Lost Creek LLC, 1 flow meter for \$1,000; Daniel Zoucha, 1 flow meter for \$1,000. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

c. Nitrogen Reduction incentive Program – Update Given

3. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

a. Decommissioned Well Program

1. Well Estimates – Update Given

2. Plugged Wells

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to approve well abandonment payment to Nick Schmit irrigation well for \$1,000; Meister Land and Cattle irrigation well for \$1,288.29; and Penny Snader irrigation well for \$1,375.55 and \$458.45 (Shell Creek Grant). Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

1. Water Leaders Academy – Update Given

4. GROUNDWATER MANAGMENT PLAN - Update Given

5. SURFACE WATER PROGRAMS

a. State Lakes – Update Given

6. OTHER

a. Comments from the Public – None

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., that the January 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 - None

b. SWCP Payments - None

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 – None

b. West Fremont – FEMA BRIC – None

c. Rawhide Creek Watershed NRCSA WFPO – None

d. North Bend Drainage District

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to pay North Bend Drainage District \$60,000 for work completed to the Central Cutoff Ditch as outline in our Interlocal agreement. Motion carried on consent agenda.

e. Cotterell Diking and Drainage District – None

f. FEMA Swift Current – Item taken earlier

4. SHELL CREEK WATERSHEDS

a. Shell Creek Implementation – 319 and NET

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to approve payments to cooperators totaling \$36,503.98 which will be reimbursed through Shell Creek NET Grant. August Runge III – Grade Stab/Water Way - \$12,954.51 Don Marking – Grass Waterway - \$5,587.49 and Sharon Barjenbruch – Grade Stab/Seeding - \$17,961.98. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Student Presentation at NACEE

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to cover registration expenses of up to \$320 for Newman Grove students and Director Seier registration of \$170 to present at the Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environmental Education Conference. Motion carried on consent agenda.

5. WAHOO CREEK WATERSHED

a. Design – Olsson Update Given

b. Real Estate – Olsson & Great Plains Appraisal – This item will be taken at the end of the meeting.

c. WCW Construction – Update Given

d. Water Quality – NWQI & 319 – Update Given

6. LOWER PLATTE RIVER COODOR ALLIANCE

Olson made the motion, seconded by Tonnies, to approve up to a five-year proposal if other agencies agree for continuous water quality and data collection at the Leshara site. Motion carried.

AYE: Bailey, Birkel, Goldsberry, Lawrence, McKnight, Olson, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Yosten and Sabatka

NAY: Harders, Hilger, Johnson, J., Meduna, Saalfeld

7. EROSION AND SEDIMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS - Update Given

8. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – UPDATE GIVEN

9. MORSE BLUFF LEVEE – Update Given

10. RECYCLING – Update Given

11. OTHER - None

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

8. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

a. New Office Building Change Order

At the monthly construction update meeting, it was requested to get a price on adding a second urinal in the Men's Restroom on the main floor. This addition would cost \$3,472. Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by McKnight to add an additional urinal in the Men's Restroom on the main floor at a cost of \$3,472. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

9. BILLS TO BE APPROVED

Lawrence 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.

10. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to approve the January Consent Agenda. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Item 7.D.5.b. - Real Estate – Olsson and Great Plains Appraisal was taken at this time.

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to go into Executive Session at 4:07 p.m. for the purposes of discussing Upper Wahoo Creek Watershed land rights and authorize the following staff to stay: Cody Gerdes, Great Plains Appraisal; Danielle Allen, Olsson; Legal Counsel Lausterer; Staff: Gottschalk, Elliott, Breunig and Chapman. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Saeger made the motion, seconded by Goldsberry, to go out of executive session at 4:39 p.m. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Saeger made the motion, seconded by Olson, to accept appraisals as prepared by Great Plains Real Estate for the Upper Wahoo Creek Watershed Site 55 and move forward with offers. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

11. COMMENTS FROM DIRECTORS/GUESTS

12. MEETING ESTABLISHMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

The February Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2025, 1:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 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 January 13, 2025, 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

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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.

Bill Saeger, Secretary