

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
January 12, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Lower Platte North NRD Board of Directors was called to order at 1:30 p.m. at Lowr Platte North NRD Office, Wahoo, NE on Monday, January 12, 2026.

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 12, 2026, board meeting was posted on the Lower Platte North NRD website and posted in the Wahoo Newspaper on January 2, 2026.

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	Hanson	Hilger
Johnson, Duane	Johnson, Jerry	Lawrence
McKnight	Meduna (arrived 3:52)	Olson
Saalfeld	Saeger	Seier
Tonnies	Yosten	Sabatka

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Harders

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Gottschalk	Breunig	Chapman
Lausterer	Heimann	Elliott
Andersen	Maslonka (Zoom)	Fujan
Reece	Shupe	Gerdes
Beethe (Zoom)	Danielle Allen (Zoom)	L. Jha (Zoom)
C. Kelly (Zoom)	O’Brien (Zoom)	Overturf, AMGL
Arnold, AMGL		

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. COMMENTS - ADVISORS/GUESTS/DIRECTORS

a. Guest Comments

b. NRCS Report

Bryan Shupe gave the NRCS Report.

c. NARD Report

Hilger gave the NARD Report.

d. NRC Report – None

e. Manager Report

Gottschalk gave his monthly report.

f. Education Program

Kyle Overturf presented the Annual Audit to the Board.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the minutes from December 8, 2025, 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 Legislative Conference – Update Given

2. NACD Annual Meeting

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to send up to two Directors and two Staff to the NACD Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX February 15-19, 2026. Motion carried on consent agenda.

3. NARD Washington DC Annual Meeting

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to send up to two Directors and two Staff to the NARD Annual Washington DC Conference March 28-April 1, 2026. Motion carried on consent agenda

b. Reports – None

3. Management Items

a. Director Absences

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the following Directors Absence requests: Lawrence from September; Sabatka and Meduna from November board meeting. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Monthly Education Program – taken earlier

c. Morse Bluff Project – Update Given

d. Mike Sotak – Update Given

e. Board and Committee Decorum

Saalfeld made the motion, seconded by Tonnie, to adopt the updated Rules of Conduct Public Participation/Public Decorum at LPNRND Committee and Board meetings as attached to the Executive Committee Minutes. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

f. Amphitheater Update – Will be taken in Operations Committee

e. 2026 Election Certification – Update Given

4. Equipment - None

5. Personnel

a. Kaitlyn Borgen – Update Given

b. Assistant Water Manager Position – Update Given

6. Finance

a. Approval of Financial Reports – Update Given

b. Approval of Managers’ Expenses

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, 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. Annual Audit Report – Taken Earlier

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, that the January 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 – None

3. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS

a. Rehabilitation of Cottonwood 21-A – NRCS & HDR – Update Given

b. Wanahoo Basin Damage & Repair, FEMA & Houston Engineering – Update Given

c. NET Grant for No-Till Grass Drill – Update Given

d. Stanley Keiser Dam Repair Request – Update Given

4. ROCK AND JETTY – Update Given

Olson made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to cost-share 50% up to \$6,000 on repairing the Clear Creek Levee. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

5. LAKE WANAHOO

a. Lake Wanahoo Permit Sales - Update Given

b. Lake Wanahoo Camping Revenue – Update Given

c. Clint Johannes Education Building – Update Given

d. Potential Amphitheater Project

The Chair-appointed Wanahoo Amphitheater sub-committee met in December, and their remarks are as follows:

The subcommittee, while not unanimously in favor of an amphitheater on the Wanahoo property, if built, the subcommittee is unanimously in favor of the new Southeastern location.

This location will be very close to all needed utilities, reduce safety concerns by utilizing round-a-bout, not affect any existing Wanahoo trails or roads, allow for potential separate access off Hwy 109, be further from existing residential and camping and is not currently within any Wanahoo future development areas.

Johnson, D. made the motion, seconded by Engel, to work with and allow Lonny Hansen to proceed with design of an amphitheater at the east side location (generally located on the south side of tree grove, east of existing of road) within the Wanahoo Property. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

6. INFORMATION & EDUCATION

a. Information

1. Radio and Digital Ads – Update Given

2. Analytics – Update Given

b. Education

1. Past Events – Update Given

2. Upcoming Events – Update Given

3. Nebraska Alliance for Conservation & Environmental Education Sponsorship

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to sponsor the Nebraska Alliance for Conservation & Environmental Education Conference at the \$500 Friend Level. Motion carried on consent agenda.

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

a. Colon – Update Given

b. Bruno – Update Given

c. Other - None

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, 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) 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. Special Quantity Subareas – Update Given

5. Well Permit Program – Update Given

6. Supplemental Well Permit

Hilger made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve the Raikes Farm Enterprises request for a supplemental well permit for the NE SW S30-T13N-9E, Saunders County. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

7. Cost-Share Programs

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve 50% reimbursement up to \$750 of the actual purchase of the soil moisture sensors for Matthew Soukup. Motion carried on consent agenda.

8. LPNNRD Operator Certification – Update Given

3. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

a. Decommissioned Well Program

1. Well Estimates – Update Given

2. Plugged Wells – Update Given

b. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

1. Phase Area Update

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the following flow meter cost share payments to Scott Muhle - \$1,000, Dean Shonka - \$2,000, Garl Grotelueschen - \$1,000, Curt Bohac - \$4,000 and Ellen Still - \$1,000. Motion carried on consent agenda.

c. New Monitoring Wells - Update Given

4. SURFACE WATER PROGRAM -Update Given

a. Source Water Protection – Update Given

5. OTHER

a. Comments from the Public – None

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, 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 – Update Given

a. East Fremont/Elkhorn Township Drainage – EMDA 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 WATERSHED

a. Shell Creek Implementation – 319 and NET

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the listed cost-share payments totaling \$27,582.47 for two cover crop projects and two completed septic system upgrades. Motion carried on consent agenda.

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve Mainelli Wagner’s design and estimate as attached and work with Platte County to proceed with bidding once permits are received on the Christ Lutheran project. Motion carried on consent agenda.

5. WAHOO CREEK WATERSHED

a. Construction – Update Given

b. Dam Site Planning – Update Given

1. Design Olsson – Update Given

2. Real Estate Olsson & Great Plains Appraisal

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve Great Plains Appraisal invoice in the amount of \$3,625 for additional work on Wahoo Creek real estate acquisitions as attached. Motion carried on consent agenda.

3. Funding – NRCS WFPO and NeDNR JEDI – Update Given

c. Water Quality – NWQI & 319 – Update Given

6. LOWER PLATTE RIVER COOIDOR ALLIANCE – Update Given

7. MORSE BLUFF FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT- Update Given

8. LESHARA DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT – Update Given

9. EROSION AND SEDIMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS - None

10. HAZARD MITIGATION – Update Given

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by Yosten, that the January LPNNRD Projects Committee Minutes

be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

7. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

a. SWCP Cover Crop Payments

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, to approve the listed applicants for SWCP payments totaling \$25,304.84. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

S-25-1	Kristen Miller	\$5,086.40	Cover Crop
S-25-2	Eric Pospisil	\$4,959.24	Cover Crop
S-25-3	Paul Polacek	\$5,086.40	Cover Crop
S-25-7	Larry Pospisil	\$5,086.40	Cover Crop
S-25-11	Clayton Kastl	\$5,086.40	Cover Crop

8. BILLS TO BE APPROVED

Yosten made the motion, seconded by Tonnies, 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 Yosten, to approve the January Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

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

ABSTAIN: Sabatka

Item 6.D.5.b.2. - Real Estate – Olsson and Great Plains Appraisal was taken at this time.

Yosten made the motion, seconded by Engel, to go into Executive Session at 2:55 p.m. for the purposes of discussing Upper Wahoo Creek Watershed land rights and authorize the following to stay: Danielle Allen, Olsson; Legal Counsel Lausterer; Cody Gerdes, Great Plains Appraisal and Staff: Gottschalk, Breunig, Elliott and Chapman. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Birkel, to go out of executive session at 3:48 p.m. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to have Danielle Allen reach out to Rezac's Site 85 with final offer reflecting well decommissioning as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Johnson, D., made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to accept site 66 appraisals as presented and have Danielle Allen send offer letters to all parcels impacted by site 66 and begin acquisition negotiations. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

At this time Chair Sabatka recused himself and Secretary Saeger took over the meeting.

Director Meduna arrived at 3:52 p.m.

McKnight made the motion seconded by Tonnies, to go into Executive Session at 3:52 p.m. for the purposes of discussing Upper Wahoo Creek Watershed land rights and authorize the following to stay: Danielle Allen, Olsson; Legal Counsel Lausterer; Cody Gerdes, Great Plains Appraisal; Staff: Gottschalk, Breunig, Elliott and Chapman. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Yosten made the motion, seconded by Birkel, to go out of Executive Session at 4:01 p.m. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Hanson made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to accept site 86 appraisals as presented and to have Danielle Allen send offer letters to all parcels impacted by site 86 and begin acquisition negotiations. Motion carried.

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

ABSTAIN: Sabatka

10. COMMENTS FROM DIRECTORS/GUESTS

11. MEETING ESTABLISHMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

The February Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026, 1:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 4:07 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 12, 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 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