

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
March 9, 2026**

The regular monthly meeting of the Lower Platte North NRD Board of Directors was called to order at 1:30 p.m. at Lower Platte North NRD Office, Wahoo, NE on Monday, March 9, 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 March 9, 2026, board meeting was posted on the Lower Platte North NRD website and posted in the Wahoo Newspaper on February 27, 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	Harders (arrived 1:39)
Hilger	Johnson, Duane	Johnson, Jerry
McKnight	Meduna	Olson
Saalfeld	Saeger	Seier
Yosten	Sabatka	

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Lawrence	Tonnies
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STAFF AND GUESTS:

Gottschalk	Breunig	Chapman
Lausterer	Heimann	Elliott (Zoom)
Andersen	Shupe	Beethe (Zoom)
Danielle Allen (Zoom)	L. Jha, JEO	Matt McConville, HDR
John Petersen, JEO	Kevin Kruse, JEO	Ross Lawrence, JEO

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

Attached to the Minutes is Tom Mountford's meeting report from the Commission Meeting on February 25, 2026, along with the fund balance reports.

e. Manager Report

Gottschalk gave his monthly report.

f. Education Program

John Petersen, Kevin Kruse, and Ross Lawrence from JEO updated the Board on the Rawhide WFPO and East Fremont Drainage Projects.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve the minutes from February 9, 2026, 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 Washington DC Annual Meeting – Update Given

b. Reports

1. NACD Annual Meeting – Update Given

3. Management Items

a. Director Absences

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve Directors Harders absence from the January meeting and Director Tonnies from the March meeting. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Monthly Education Program – taken earlier

c. 2026 Election – Update Given

d. Annual Audit Proposal

McKnight made the motion, seconded by Hilger, to accept the audit proposal from AMGL, PC for years ending June 30, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029 as attached to the Executive Committee Minutes. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

e. Wanahoo Amphitheater Project – Update Given

f. FEMA 428 Funding – Update Given

g. NRD Open House – Update Given

4. Equipment - None

5. Personnel

a. Assistant Water Manager Position – Update Given

6. Finance

a. Approval of Financial Reports

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve the October, November, December

and January Financial Statements as attached to the Executive Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Approval of Managers' Expenses

Johnson, J., 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. Colfax County Tax Roll Correction – Update Given

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, that the March 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

Meduna made the motion, seconded by Johnson, J., to approve ordering a new No-Till Grass drill if funding is secured from NET. Motion carried.

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

NAY: Harders

d. Tree Cooler – Update Given

e. Diesel and Gas Purchases – Update Given

4. ROCK AND JETTY – Update Given

5. LAKE WANAHOO

a. Lake Wanahoo Permit Sales - Update Given

b. Lake Wanahoo Camping Revenue – Update Given

c. Clint Johannes Education Building – Update Given

6. INFORMATION & EDUCATION

a. Information

1. Radio and Digital Ads – Update Given

2. Analytics – Update Given

3. Winter Viaduct and Annual Report – Update Given

4. Nebraska Public Media

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight to share the recreation video with Nebraska Public Media for the months of March – May at the proposed amount of \$1,065. Motion carried on consent agenda.

5. Water Department/Producer Digital Newsletter – Update Given

b. Education

1. Past Events – Update Given

2. Upcoming Events – Update Given

3. NRD Natural Resources Grant – Update Given

4. Volunteers – Update Given

5. Native Nook – Update Given

6. Watchable Wildlife Grant – Update Given

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

a. Rural Water Operations – Update Given

b. Colon – Update Given

c. Bruno – Update Given

d. Other - None

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, that the March 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. Well Permit Program

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Birkel, to allow an extension for Jeff Scott well permit LPN-

024-1872 for the SE SW 26-17-7E, Saunders County. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

5. Transfer of Irrigated Acres

Hanson made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to allow Juranek Ag LLC to transfer irrigated acres from Butler County Solar LLC NW-S15-16N-1E, Butler County 143.26 acres to a tract in the SW S36-17N-3E for 99.2 acres, Butler County. The replacement well (G-158723) will be drilled in SW-NW-S31-17-4E. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

6. Groundwater Management Plan

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Meduna, to approve the LPNRRD Groundwater Management Plan dated March 2026. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

7. Well Classifications – Update Given

8. Nitrogen Reduction Program

Hilger made the motion seconded by Johnson, J., to approve cost-share payments of \$44,086 to individual producers for the Nitrogen Reduction Program as attached in the Water Committee Minutes. Motion carried.

AYE: Bailey, Engel, Goldsberry, Hanson, Harders, Hilger, Johnson D., Johnson J., McKnight, Meduna, Olson, Saalfeld, Saeger, Seier, Yosten, Sabatka

ABSTAIN: Birkel

9. Special Quantity Subareas – Update Given

10. Cost-Share Programs

a. Longitude 103

Birkel made the motion, seconded by Hilger, to approve our annual subscription (3/2/26 to 3/1/27) payment to Longitude in the amount of \$17,500. It was further recommended to issue payment after staff utilize the software. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

11. LPNRRD Operator Certification – Update Given

12. Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Coalition – 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 McKnight, to approve the following flow meter cost share payments to Thomas Fichthl - \$4,000; Nancy Killham - \$2,000; Kathleen Leimsec - \$1,000; Robert Kluck Jr. - \$11,000. Motion carried on consent agenda.

c. New Monitoring Wells

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to begin RFP process for monitoring wells in

Newman Grove to be constructed by October 1st. Motion carried on consent agenda.

d. Source Water Protection – Update Given

e. Groundwater Quality Discussion – Update Given

4. SURFACE WATER PROGRAM -Update Given

5. OTHER

a. Comments from the Public – None

Johnson, J., made the motion, seconded by McKnight, that the March 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. SWCP FY27 Policy and Cost-Share – Update Given

b. SWCP Dam Policy – Update Given

c. SWCP Application Approvals - None

d. SWCP Payments – None

e. SWCP Cancellations – None

f. Wahoo Creek Cost Share Approvals – None

3. Stan Keiser Dam – Update Given

4. 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

d. Cotterell Diking and Drainage District – Update Given

5. SHELL CREEK WATERSHED

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

6. 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 – this item will be taken at end of meeting**
- 3. Funding – NRCS WFPO and NeDNR JEDI – Update Given**
- c. Water Quality – NWQI & 319 – Update Given**
- 7. Skull and Bone Creek Watershed – Update Given**
- 8. LOWER PLATTE RIVER COOIDOR ALLIANCE – Update Given**
- 9. MORSE BLUFF FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT – Update Given**
- 10. LESHARA DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT – Update Given**
- 11. EROSION AND SEDIMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS - None**
- 12. HAZARD MITIGATION – None**
- 13. OTHER - None**

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

7. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

7a. NRD Office Change Order

Seier made the motion, seconded by Saalfeld, to authorize Manager Gottschalk to sign the change order with Scheele-Kayton with a deduction amount of \$3,005.50 as attached to the Minutes. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

8. BILLS TO BE APPROVED

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

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

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by Johnson D., to go into Executive Session at 3:54 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; and Staff: Gottschalk, Breunig, Elliott and Chapman. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Hanson made the motion, seconded by Engel, to go out of executive session at 4:37 p.m. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Meduna made the motion, seconded by Olson, to authorize Chair Sabatka to sign purchase agreement with

Kenneth L and Paula A Pestal on Wahoo Creek Site 66. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

10. COMMENTS FROM DIRECTORS/GUESTS

11. MEETING ESTABLISHMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

The April Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2026, 6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 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 March 9, 2026, 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